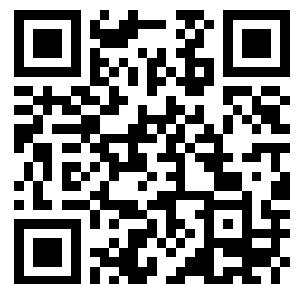

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA

INDEX TO VOLUME XXXVI. July 4—December 26, 1929

REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURES.

Notes of the Week: Personal and
General: Book Reviews: The Week
at Home.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

News in Brief ... 15, 50, 79, 103,
156, 201, 226, 271, 404, 456, 485, 512,
568, 596, 653, 680, 713

SPECIAL LETTERS.

Addis Ababa ... 269, 505
Alexandria ... 101, 125, 151, 172, 196,
221, 245, 269
Athens ... 5, 71, 172, 222, 303, 706
Baghdad ... 534, 616, 617, 676
Belgrade ... 38, 126, 368, 422, 479,
590, 708
Bucharest ... 6, 125, 304, 367, 423,
477, 535, 649, 707
Cairo ... 4, 39, 69, 301, 332,
366, 393, 421, 449, 476, 504, 533, 560,
589, 618, 649, 676, 704
Cyprus ... 71, 127, 173, 198, 270,
333, 394, 450, 505, 562, 652
Damascus ... 8
Istanbul ... 37, 102, 149, 197, 245,
302, 365, 394, 450, 561, 679
Jidda ... 4, 590, 651, 704, 706
Sofia ... 40, 70, 149, 223, 247, 333,
395, 478, 506, 618, 677
Teheran ... 7, 8

SYRIAN PRESS.

Syrian Press ... 180, 203

TOBACCO SUPPLEMENT (September 26, 1929)

Bulgarian Tobacco Industry, The (Sabi
Nenoff) ... 350
Bulgarian Tobaccos ... 349
Cyprus, Tobacco Growing in ... 351
Greece as a Tobacco Producer ... 343
Oriental Tobacco (Dr. Ivan Stanski) ... 342
Tobacco in the Near East ... 342
Turkey's Tobacco Industry ... 352
Yugoslavia: The Importance of Tobacco,
345; The Tobacco Industry ... 347

PRODUCTS OF THE NEAR & MIDDLE EAST SUPPLEMENT (December 5, 1929)

Greek Currants ... 627
Iraq Dates ... 635
Palestine's Economic Position ... 637
Smyrna, The Dried Fruit Trade of ... 631
Sudan Gum ... 633

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

Air Route to India, The (Arthur S.
Merton) ... 81
Al Bu Said Dynasty, The ... 46
Central Asian Society, The ... 48
Chirol, The late Sir Valentine ... 484
Clayton, Sir Gilbert ... 313
Cyprus and Great Britain ... 566
Egypt, Great Britain and (White Paper)
177
Egypt, King Fuad of ... 104
Iraq, British Officials in ... 709
Iraq, The British School of Archaeology in
Iraq, The Woman Movement in (E. S.
Stevens) ... 400
Near East, Libraries in the ... 455
Palestine, The British School of Archæ-
ology in ... 482
Persia, Earthquakes in (An Occasional
Correspondent) ... 280
Persia, Education in ... 252
Perso-Iraqi Frontier on the Shatt al Arab,
The ... 202
Sudan, Some Tribes of the Southern
312, 510, 595
Syria, The Woman Movement in (E. S.
Stevens) ... 428
Wahhabi Arabia, A Survey of ... 133
Wahhabism in Arabia ... 49
"Wailing Wall" Incidents, The ... 228
Zionist Congress, The Sixteenth (Asher
Levitsky) ... 227

LEADING ARTICLES.

Afghan See-Saw, The ... 420
Balkans, Uneasy Democracies in the ... 100
Cyprus, The Problem of ... 559
Egypt and Great Britain ... 675
India, The Outlook of "Greater
Egypt, A Lull in ... 532
Egypt and Great Britain ... 68
Egypt, Crucial Days for ... 392
Egyptian "Proposals," The ... 171
Egypt's Choice ... 268
Greece and Turkey ... 148
India and Dominion Status ... 503
Iraq, The Position of ... 300
Lloyd's Resignation, Lord ... 124
Near East, Economic Progress in the ... 703
Palestine, Britain's Duty in ... 244
Palestine, The Conflict in ... 475
Palestine, The Jewish Agency and ... 195
Persia and Great Britain ... 36
Roumania, A New Session in ... 588
Sudan, Progress in the ... 448
Turkey, Stocktaking in ... 3
Yugoslav-Bulgarian Frontier, The ... 220
Yugoslavia, A Business Government in ... 615
Yugoslavia's Problem ... 331

BOOKS REVIEWED.

Andrews, Edited by C. F.: "Rabin-
dranath Tagore's 'Letters to a
Friend'" ... 403
Andrews, C. F.: "Zaka Ullah of Delhi" ... 431
Buxton, Noel: "Travels and Reflections" ... 431
Byron, Robert: "The Byzantine Achieve-
ment A.D. 320-1453" ... 276
Cardew, Sir Alexander. "The White
Mutiny" ... 403
Childe, V. Gordon: "The Danube in
Prehistory" ... 714
Cust, Sybil: "Jaffa: 'Beauty of the
Seas'" ... 403
Dobie, Translated by M. R.: "The
Private Life of Tutankhamen" (G.
R. Tabouis) ... 459
Gedge, Evelyn and Mithan Chokol, Edited
by: "Women in Modern India" ... 714
Hasluck, The late F. W., Edited by Mar-
garet M. Hasluck: "Christianity and
Islam under the Sultans" ... 658
Hill, Sir Claude: "India—Stepmother" ... 277
Hose, Dr. Charles: "The Field Book of
a Jungle-Wallah" ... 599
Izzedin, B.A., Suleiman Bey A.: "Ibra-
him Pasha in Syria" (In Arabic) ... 515
Kleinwaechter, F. F. G.: "Self-Deter-
mination for Austria" ... 277
Kohn, Hans: "A History of Nationalism
in the East" ... 543
Kyle, Melvyn Grove: "Explorations at
Sodom" ... 12
Machray, Robert: "The Little Entente" ... 311
McClelland, Marion: "The Tin Shawl" ... 12
Moreland, W. H.: "The Agrarian System
of Muslim India" ... 599
Nasir-i-Khusrau: "The Diwan" ... 311
Pasvolsky, Leo: "Economic Nationalism
of the Danubian States" ... 459
Rabino, H. L.: "Mazandaran and
Astarabad" ... 276
Rawlinson, Edited by H. G.: "Oving-
ton's 'Voyage to Surat'" ... 431
Rey, C. F.: "The Romance of the
Portuguese in Abyssinia" ... 571
Robinson, Theodore H., J. W. Hunkin,
and F. C. Burkitt: "Palestine in
General History" ... 205
Roosevelt, Theodore and Kermit Roose-
velt: "Trailing the Giant Panda" ... 599
Runciman, Steven: "The Emperor
Romanus Lecapenus and his Reign" ... 276
Rydh, Hanna. Translated from the
Swedish by Anna Barwell: "The
Land of the Sun-God" ... 687
Said-Ruete, Rudolph: "Said bin Sultan,
1791-1856, Ruler of Oman and Zanz-
ibar. His Place in the History of
Arabia and East Africa" ... 78

Simpson, Translated and Edited by J. Y.: "The Saburov Memoirs" 714	Persian and Afghan Consular Representa- tives in the East (Ardeshtir Edatje Bengali) 715	Iraqis and Palestine 253, 485
Swire, J.: "Albania: The Rise of a Kingdom" 686		Iraqi's Parting, An 253
Turrill, M.Sc., W. R.: "The Plant-Life of the Balkan Peninsula: A Phyto- geographical Study" 253		Islam, The Ideals of 659
Walsh, Sir Cecil: "The Agra Double Murder" 12		League of Nations, Problems for the ... 427
Wigram, Rev. W. A.: "The Assyrians and their Neighbours" 515		Liubliana University 47
	MISCELLANEOUS.	Mediterranean Cruise 13
	Aden Field Force 14	Messenger de Teheran, "Le 335
	Afghan Cabinet, New 511	Moslem World, "The 79
	Air Mails 513	Muhsin Beg as Saadun, Sir Abdul ... 509
	Anglo-Egyptian Association, The ... 72	Najd, Raiding in 373
	Arab Horse Society, The 512	Nashat, The late Sabih Bey ... 103, 130
	Arabs and Palestine, The 680	Near and Middle East Association 451, 653
	"Asiatic Review," The 72	Old Pauline Club, The 72
	Basrah Liwa, The 596	Orient Express, The Elusive Accident to the 623
	Belgrade, Scotswoman's Work in ... 373	Palestine, A Debate on 623
	Bent, Mrs. Theodore 47	Palestine Exploration Fund 156
	Central Asian "Journal" 104, 451	Palestine, A Pamphlet on 647
	Central Asian Society, The 80, 309, 487	Palestine Inquiry, The 309
	Christmas Cards 687	Palestine in Water-Colour 540
	Cyprus 485	Palestine, The Attorney-General of ... 596
	Cyprus Brotherhood, The 597	Palestine, The "Brith Shalom" on ... 401
	Cyprus Delegation, The 419, 621	Persia, Education in 404
	Cyprus, Paintings of 568	Persia, The Situation in Southern ... 130
	Cyprus School, London 335	Persian Minister in London, The ... 157
	Cyprus, The Mission from 487	Promotions, Appointments, etc. ... 99
	Egypt, Lectures on 540	Ross Institute, The 299
	Egyptian Cabinet, The New 401	Roumanian Regent, Death of a ... 404
	Egyptian Prime Minister, The ... 131	Salonika Army, The 14
	English Zionist Federation, The ... 156	School of Oriental Studies, The ... 543
	Ethiopian Legation in London, The ... 568	Sidarouss Bey, C.V.O., H.E. Sesostris ... 251
	Faisal the First, King 225	Sudan Dinner Club, The 14
	Fuad in England, King 131, 156	Syrian Nationalism 50
	Fuad's Accession Day, King 419	Talib Pasha, Saiyid 47
	Greece, Byron Relics for 540	Turkey, Reparations in 77
	Holy Land in Water-Colour, The ... 596	Turks, Traditional Games of the ... 14
	Iraq, British School of Archæology in ... 451, 562, 713	Yugoslav Visit, The 457
	Iraq, Great Britain and 391	Yugoslav Visitors 427
	Iraq, The late High Commissioner for ... 375	Yugoslavia, King Alexander of ... 685
	Iraq, The Overland Mail to 335	Yugoslavia, The Kingdom of ... 404
	Iraqi Cabinet, The New 596	Y.M.C.A. in Yugoslavia, The ... 373

INDIAN SECTION.

INDIAN NOTES.

Indian Notes ... 2, 35, 67, 99, 130, 147, 176, 194, 219, 243, 267, 299, 339, 363, 391, 425, 447, 531, 558, 587, 647, 702
--

CALCUTTA LETTER.

Calcutta Letter ... 9, 41, 73, 105, 128, 153, 174, 199, 223, 248, 272, 305, 337, 370, 396, 424, 452, 480, 507, 536, 563, 592, 619, 654, 681
--

BOOKS REVIEWED.

Andrews, C. F.: "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas" 593
Bevan, Edwyn: "Thoughts on Indian Discontents" 710
Brayne, F. L.: "The Remaking of Village India," 107; "Socrates in an Indian Village" 107
Chudgar, P. L.: "Indian Princes under British Protection" 655
Craddock, Sir Reginald: "The Dilemma in India" 481
Field, H. H.: "After Mother India" ... 710

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

Anglo-Indian Association, London ... 371
Anglo-Indians and the Statutory Com- mission 200
Army Appointments 398
Bengal, The Foreign Trade of 274
Burma as a Mission Field 175
Burma Rice Trade, The 594
Chatterjee, Lady 106
Chittagong, The Port of 509

Churches, The South Indian 711	Indian Rope Trade, The 44
Commander-in-Chief in India, The New 480	Indian States and the Coming Conference, The 711
Darbhangha, The late Maharaja of ... 42	Indian States and the Empire 426
Dominion Status and the Indian States ... 537	Indian Trade, Racial Discrimination in ... 273, 505
East India Association, The ... 11, 106, 426	Indian Women, The Education of ... 453
Education in British India, Review of the Growth of 454	Indians in East Africa 425
Goschen's Appeal, Lord 655	Industrial Disputes in 1929 710
Governor-General's Executive Council ... 593	Irwin's Departure, Lord 426
Income Tax, Liability of Visitors to United Kingdom 371	Irwin's Return, Lord 75, 397
Income Tax, Liability of Non-Residents to Pay 107	Labour in India, Royal Commission on ... 249
India and the League of Nations 200	Legislative Assembly, Powers of the President of the 249
India Society, The 397	Liberal Party in Indian Politics, The Position of the (The Hon. Sir Phiroze Sethna, O.B.E.) 682
India, The Economic Position in 154	Mica, Problem, The 398
India, The Future of 538	Nepal, The late Prime Minister of ... 620
India, The Mind of Modern (The Hon. Sir Phiroze Sethna, O.B.E.) ... 306, 338	O'Dwyer on the Future Government of India 453
India, The True Reformation of (P. R. Cadell, C.S.I., C.I.E.) 107	Royal Empire Society, The 397
India, "The Unknown" 655	Secretary of State for India, The ... 75
India's Waterways 129	Simon Commission, Commerce and the ... 74
Indian Air Mail, The 275, 509	Statutory Commission, The ... 130, 307, 372, 397
Indian Central Committee 11, 175, 453	Statutory Commission and the Provincial Administrations, The 537, 504
Indian Cinema Industry, The 505	Statutory Commission, The Report of the ... 508
Indian Civil Service Open Competition ... 372	United States and India, The 481
Indian Empire Garden Party, The ... 44	Viceroy and the President of the Assembly, The 273
Indian Market, Our Great 683	Viceroy's Declaration, The ... 594, 509
Indian Princes and the Butler Report, The 10	
Indian Railway Progress 11	

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTION.

REGULAR FEATURES.

Notes and News: Cotton and Cotton Goods: Near East Markets: Shipping Intelligence: Special Market Reports: Tenders Invited: Company Notes and News: Foreign Exchanges: Stock and Share Markets: The Week's Finance: Motors and Motor-ing: Engineering Topics.

SMYRNA FRUIT REPORT.

Smyrna Fruit Report ... 359, 440

CYPRUS CROP REPORT.

Cyprus Crop Report ... 58, 141, 294, 414, 548, 668

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

News from all Sources ... 22, 92, 216, 610, 728

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Dried Fruit Market ... 32, 166, 264, 407, 526, 640

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

Economic Conditions in Bulgaria... 56, 209, 293, 323, 325, 496, 550, 722

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN ROUMANIA

Economic Conditions in Roumania 325, 359, 379, 409, 440, 499, 527, 555, 581, 609, 671, 692, 726

BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS

Egypt ... 441, 471, 493, 524
Persian Gulf ... 213, 237
Roumania ... 165, 191, 212
Smyrna ... 59
Syria ... 27

SPECIAL LETTERS.

Addis Ababa ... 520
Bucharest ... 435, 519
Istanbul ... 209, 289, 407, 435
Liubliana ... 25
Sofia ... 85, 137, 410, 519, 606

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Reparations (Briton), 137; (Briton in Turkey) ... 185
Trade and Customs Formalities (C. W. Brett) ... 436

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

Aero Exhibition, The ... 115
Agricultural Research ... 21
Artificial Cotton and Flax Production ... 718
Birmingham Heavy Industries Fair, The 603

Bulgaria, Coal Production in ... 53
Bulgaria, The Economic Situation in ... 293
Bulgaria, The Ports of ... 316
Bulgaria's Tobacco Crop in 1929 ... 354
Commercial Motor Exhibition, The ... 522
Cyprus, The Grape and Wine Industry of 723
Egyptian Postal Administration, The ... 317
Liubliana Samples Fair, The ... 25
Mersin and the Cilician District of Turkey 583
Motor Show, The ... 383, 466
Persia, The Motor in ... 288
Persian Ports, Development of ... 669
Roumanian Monopolies Institute, The ... 719
Roumanian Textile Industry, The ... 322
Sudan, The Economic Advance of the ... 403
Turkey, Commercial Companies in ... 286
Turkey in Reconstruction ... 578
Yugoslavia, The Economic Position in (Joe Mantuani) ... 603
Yugoslavia, The Economic Recovery of ... 575

MISCELLANEOUS.

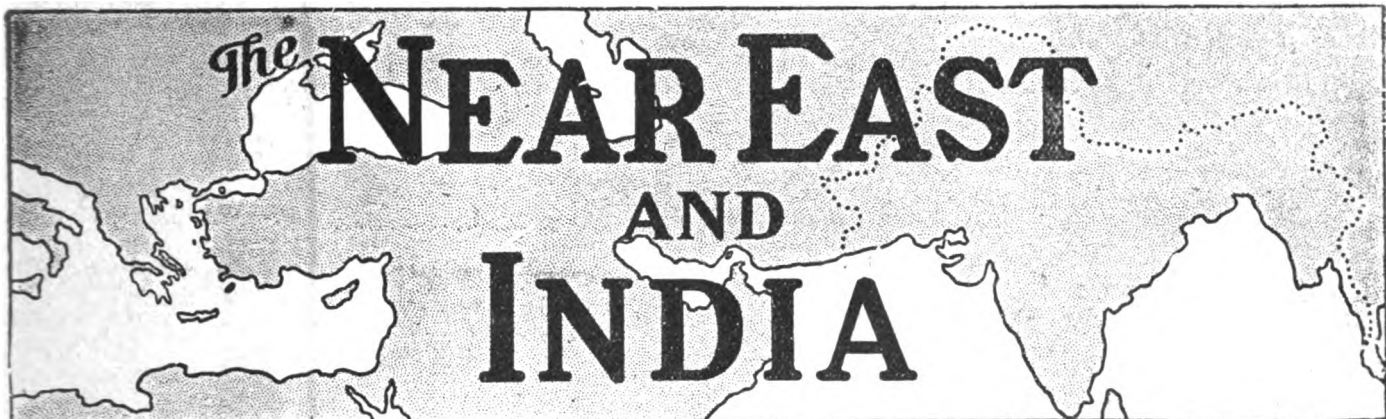
Abyssinia's Mineral Resources, Exploitation of ... 491
Abyssinian Market for Watches and Clocks ... 582
Aden's Growing Importance ... 289
Aircraft's Assistance to Shipping ... 289
Anglo-Polish Amalgamation, An ... 290
Balkan Labour in France ... 294
British Industries Fair, Clothing and Textiles at the ... 668
B.I.F., Sports and Games Display at the 720
Bulgaria, Salt in ... 380
Bulgaria's Tobacco Crop in 1929 ... 354
Bulgarian Film Market, The ... 162
Bulgarian Pre-War Loans ... 168
Bulgarian Products, Marking of ... 404
Cable and Wireless Merger ... 384
Constantinople Municipal Loan ... 318
Constantza, Developments at ... 258
Cyprus, Agricultural Methods in ... 87
Cyprus Imports Increasing... 54, 414, 700
Cyprus, The Trade of ... 581
Cyprus Trade Improvement ... 186
Cyprus Trade Progress ... 548
Directory, A Useful ... 222
Dunlop Rubber Plantations Extension ... 466
Dunlop Tyre, A New ... 380
Egypt, The Cinematograph in ... 409
Greece, Economic Conditions in ... 138, 385, 604
Greece, Reduction of Taxation in ... 663
Greece's Trade Balance Improving ... 87
Greece, The Industries of Northern ... 87
Greek Assigned Revenues ... 578
Heavy Industries Fair, The ... 356
Imperial and Empiradio Telegraph Services ... 354

Indian Customs Tariff, Proposed Revision of ... 118
Indian Market, The ... 260
Jaffa Orange Crop Prospects ... 553
Messageries Maritimes Motor Ship, New 553
Oil for the Empire, New ... 526
Olympia, The New ... 324
Palestine Exhibition in New York ... 469
Palestine Railways, The ... 257
P. and O. Innovation, A ... 114
Persian Finances ... 354
Persian Gulf, Launches in the ... 380
Persian Market for Musical Instruments, The ... 664
Piraeus in 1928, The Trade of the ... 88
Roumania's River Port Traffic ... 60
Roumanian New Oilfield ... 466
Roumanian Oil ... 286
Roumanian Shipping and Ports in 1928 ... 234
Sudan, Silk Industry in the ... 608
Sudan, Tobacco Cultivation in the ... 384
Sudan, Touring in the ... 520
Sudan, Wireless from the ... 644
Sultanas and Figs, High Prices for ... 407
Syria, Economic Outlook in ... 608
Syrian Textile Industry, Development of 415
Tanker Chartering Review ... 92
Turkey, Crop Prospects in ... 289
Turkish Business Profits in 1928 ... 209
Turkish Customs Statistics... 435
Yugoslav-Albanian Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, The ... 94
Yugoslav Market for Tractors, The ... 260
Yugoslav Ports Development ... 30

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Assam Railways and Trading ... 498
Bank of Roumania ... 116
Bengal Dooars Railway ... 553
Bengal-Nagpur Railway ... 611
Constantinople Municipal 5 per cent. Loan, 1909 (Meeting of Bondholders) 30
Cyprus Asbestos Co. ... 210
Eastern and Overseas Products ... 468
Eastern Oil Industries ... 497
Egyptian Delta Light Railways ... 143
Egyptian Hotels ... 61
Furness, Withy and Co. ... 143
Imperial Airways ... 387
Imperial Bank of Persia ... 29
Lake Copais Company ... 467
Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways, H.E.H. the ... 467
P. and O. Banking Corporation, The ... 94
Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation ... 695
South Indian Railway ... 526
Steaua Romana (British) ... 608
Sudan Plantations Syndicate ... 551

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	1	INDIAN NOTES	2	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—				Notes and News	19
Stock-Taking in Turkey	3	SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Agricultural Research	21
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Indian States and the Butler		The Week's Finance	23
The Hijaz	4	Report	10	Motors and Motoring	24
Egypt	4	BOOK REVIEWS	12	The Liubliana Samples Fair	25
Greece	5	PERSONAL AND GENERAL	13	British Consular Reports—	
Roumania	6	CORRESPONDENCE	15	1. Syria	27
Persia	7			Company Meeting—	
Syria	8			Imperial Bank of Persia	29
Calcutta	9			Constantinople Municipal	
				5 per cent. Loan (1909)	29

Notes of the Week.

Yugoslav-Bulgarian Relations.

The situation on the frontier between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria still remains unsatisfactory, and it is difficult to see how it can be otherwise until the Yugoslav Government takes some definite step to clear away what may be only misunderstandings, which, however, are considered by each side as deliberate provocation on the part of the other. It is obvious that the initiative for any settlement of the frontier disputes must come from Belgrade. A few months ago when a joint conference was proposed by the Yugoslav Government and met at Pirot, it seemed as if common sense and good will were at last going to prevail in the Balkans; but for some reason that has not yet been divulged the Yugoslav Government quickly wearied of well doing and has refrained from ratifying the findings of the Conference. To obviate frontier incidents the Conference recommended the setting up of a Mixed Commission to supervise the frontier, and to establish where responsibility lies when any incident occurs. As a result of the delay in giving effect to this proposal, a whole series of incidents has taken place, contradictory reports regarding them are circulated, and Serbs and Bulgarians through the Press of each country are lashing themselves into a state of fury against each other. As almost invariably is the case, the actual course of events is immaterial. Each party accuses the other of having started the trouble, and it is probably too late now to establish which of the two is right. When such a situation arises, responsibility is shifted from the frontier where the shooting takes place to the seat of Government. If the Dictatorship in Yugoslavia made up its mind that frontier incidents ought to be stopped and to this end invited the Bulgarian Government to a joint conference, then it incurs a grave responsibility in delaying to give effect to the findings of that Conference. No doubt Yugoslav opinion has been exasperated by the culpable negligence of the Bulgarian Government in allowing two Croats to demonstrate on

Bulgarian territory against the Dictatorship; but it is the duty of the Belgrade authorities to rise superior to the pin-pricks which may annoy the rank and file, and to insist that, whatever mistakes are committed on the Bulgarian side of the frontier, Yugoslav conduct shall be above reproach. *Noblesse oblige* is an axiom that has not yet, apparently, circulated widely in the Balkans.

The Afghan Tug-of-War.

With the gradual elimination of other factors, the struggle in Afghanistan has now resolved itself into a trial of strength between the Amir Habibullah and General Nadir Khan. The latter still protests that neither he nor any of his brothers will accept the throne, even if it be offered by a united country, but he has not indicated that he would accept the verdict of a *jirgah*, if it went in favour of the Amir Habibullah. Nadir Khan's position, it might be thought, would be stronger if he were to name the claimant who has his support. It must be disheartening for some of his followers to realise that they may prove to have couched a lance in favour of a ruler to whom they might take strong exception. In view of the fact that Afghanistan's obvious need is a strong ruler, it would hardly constitute a satisfactory settlement of the present trouble that the next occupant of the throne should be content to remain in the background, while others snatch the chestnuts out of the fire for him. The Amir Habibullah owes his position to the fact that he struck a shrewd blow for it and that the reigning Sovereign ingloriously turned tail and fled the country. Nadir Khan would be carrying his disinterestedness to a logical conclusion, if he contemplated the possibility of the Amir Habibullah's proving a suitable ruler, despite his humble antecedents. It cannot be regarded as a service to the country to keep it plunged in civil war for the rather vague object that Nadir Khan has in view. He would himself, presumably, be acclaimed as a suitable Sovereign, and no one could deny him the right to appear as a claimant before the country, but the negative attitude that he has adopted is not in keeping

with Afghan tradition. In the meantime the struggle between the two forces continues with varying success. Nadir Khan and his brothers gained what was represented as a victory near Gardez, but were unable to follow up their advantage, and now this town has passed into the possession of tribes supporting the Amir Habibullah. For the moment, therefore, the latter's star is in the ascendant, while the ex-King Amanullah is on his way to Italy.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Princes and the Report.

The Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes discussed the Report of the Butler Committee with the Viceroy and Lord Goschen—who is now acting for Lord Irwin—at Bombay on June 28. The proceedings were informal, but the Princes' views, it is understood, were communicated to Lord Irwin by means of a series of resolutions, a detailed summary of which is given on another page. These expressed satisfaction at the acceptance by the Committee of the contention of the Princes that their relationship with the Crown; and that the Viceroy, and not the Governor-General in Council, should be the agent for the Crown in all its dealings with the States. The resolutions also welcomed the recommendation of the Committee that the relationship in question ought not to be transferred to a third party without the consent of the Princes. For the latter recognise that, by this recommendation, a door is left open for negotiations between themselves and British India with a view to an equitable arrangement on honourable terms. Further, the resolutions approved of the recognition by the Committee of the claim which some of the States make, for relief in respect of existing financial arrangements. And they likewise expressed a hope that the *personnel* and procedure of the proposed independent expert Committee to examine fiscal and financial questions should be decided upon in consultation with all concerned. While the Princes thus expressed their satisfaction with some of the recommendations made by the Committee they apparently did not hesitate to criticise certain others. We anticipated that such would be their attitude, as they clearly could not be satisfied with the position taken up by the Committee on the question of Paramountcy. And we notice that in one of the Bombay resolutions they expressed their disappointment at the failure of the Committee—after admitting that sovereignty is divided—to draw a dividing line which

would place the rights of the Crown regarding the States upon a definite, as opposed to a discretionary basis. The Princes are also disappointed with the assertion of the Committee that intervention by the Paramount Power which is not justified by the spirit and letter of subsisting engagements may be justified on the score of Imperial necessity and the shifting circumstances of the time. Likewise they regret that the Committee should have failed to recommend that the existing machinery should be made satisfactory and effective for the adjudication of matters affecting the treaties and other engagements including disputes between the States and the British Government, or British India, or between the States themselves. Other matters of less importance were also dealt with in the resolutions, as was the question of future procedure. Regarding this latter the Princes agreed that the various points at issue could best be solved in personal discussion with the Viceroy, and by recourse to frank and friendly negotiations. In coming to this wise resolve the Princes were, we think, entirely right, and it is greatly to be hoped that substantial progress will have been made with the negotiations before the Chamber of Princes meets again in February next.

Corruption in Sind.

In a recent article in an Indian daily paper, Mr. A. V. Thakkar, a member of the Servants of India Society, draws attention to the petty exactions extorted from the Sind Zamindars by the subordinate Revenue Officials, and particularly by the Tapadar, or village Revenue accountant. Mr. Thakkar seems to be occasionally misled by the application to Sind of conditions prevailing in his own Presidency of Bombay. He speaks, for example, of the Patel; but the village headman known by that name belongs to Bombay, and is practically unknown in Sind. When Mr. Thakkar, again, refers to a Revenue official of real importance as "one of the Collector's confidants known as the Mukhtyarkar," he is probably merely trying to be nasty. Mr. Thakkar must know perfectly well that he corresponds to the Mamlatdar of the Presidency, an official with whose status Mr. Thakkar is doubtless well acquainted. There can, however, be no doubt as to the existence and wide extent of the evil to which Mr. Thakkar refers. Where he is wrong is in his exaggeration of its universality, and his ignoring of the efforts to stop the evil, which have certainly reduced, though they have equally certainly failed to eradicate it. Probably the comparative resignation with which it is accepted is due partly to historical causes. "Lapo," as the system is called, was originally a charge levied by the big Zamindar, or overlord, as an admission of his suzerainty, and to some extent as a return for his protection. It has naturally been adopted by the petty officials, who represent, however unworthily, that protection or overlordship. But, as Mr. Thakkar himself admits, two Commissions have been appointed to examine into the abuse; and, what he does not state, stringent orders have been issued as a result of these Commissions, which have reduced the evil in a large part of the Province. The real remedy is a growth of independent spirit among the small Zamindars, and an increase of education among the rural classes, which will teach them that the demands of the petty subordinate need not be fulfilled. Another remedy, to which Mr. Thakkar does not refer, is a wider and better selection of these subordinates, and thus recruitment from the people at large, and particularly from among the Muhammadans. Mr. Thakkar's article shows that he has been working principally in Thar Parkar, the most backward part of Sind. In other parts, and particularly in the north of the province, there is more independence, and a better educated class of Zamindars. There, it is believed, considerable improvement as regards "Lapo" and "Rasai" has taken place. If Mr. Thakkar can suggest better methods for stopping the evil than those ordered by Government, we feel sure that the Commissioner in Sind will be grateful. But only the co-operation of the people can really stop the evil.

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THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1929.

STOCK-TAKING IN TURKEY.

Since the lead given by Ghazi Mustapha Kemal in devoting the greater part of a week to a speech reviewing the history of Turkey, national stock-taking has become a frequent indulgence on the part of Turkish statesmen and others. A recent occasion for one of these summaries of the political situation was provided for the Prime Minister by the close of a session of the Grand National Assembly, which had extended over seven months. History is being made these days in Turkey, and there must be a strong temptation for those who are responsible for the destinies of the country to linger on the contemplation of their handiwork. It remains true, however, that the onlooker generally sees most of the game, and the more sincere Turkey's rulers are in carrying out their important task, the more anxious they must be to check their own views by the impressions formed by those who are able to examine the country's achievement from outside. Quite rightly Ismet Pasha laid stress on the evidence that the Turkish Republic has given of its devotion to the cause of peace. An aggressive Turkey at the present time would be an international nuisance of the first order. There can be no doubt that the Ghazi and his Government have made up their minds that Turkey needs a period of external peace for her internal organisation. That this conviction does not make the Turks pleasanter or more accommodating negotiators is well shown by the history of their relations with France and Greece. In the art of exasperation and dilatoriness they remain supreme, and the concessions that they succeed finally in extracting are more prejudicial than advantageous to Turkey, as they are given for the most part in a contemptuous spirit and tend to confirm the other contracting party in the opinion that it has to do with a people who are still low down in the scale of civilisation or international comity. Another point on which the Prime Minister could congratulate himself and the country was the degree of public security that now prevails. Here again, however, the lack of any breadth of vision is manifested, and the Angora Government contrives to stultify its own achievement by conveying the impression that Turkey is honey-combed with dissatisfaction against the existing régime, through its tendency to discover a plot in every personal grievance. For a year now the Government has been at pains to read a conspiracy into a woman's action in seeking redress at the Ghazi's hands for a supposed private wrong. The first Court exonerated her from all criminal intent; but Angora would seem to be unhappy with no plot to expose, and for six months the woman has been under arrest to enable the authorities to carry out a persecution to which the judiciary would not lend itself.

In passing to internal affairs, Ismet Pasha showed still more plainly to what an extent "Couéism" has become a recognised factor in the Government's policy. The Turkish Republic, he declared, gains every day in strength and power, and makes incessant progress. The State finances enter upon the new fiscal year "full of confidence and with redoubled strength;" each of the last few years "had registered an improvement and had been marked by a success on the credit side of the financial situation." Whether this official assurance, in the

absence of any statement of revenue and expenditure for a completed year, which the Government withholds, will console the Deputies and the people at large for the heavy burden of taxation and the high cost of living, remains to be seen. If it does it will be because Turkey lacks the requisite knowledge for an appreciation of sound finance as well as for the adjustment of her finances on really sound lines. In no direction does she appear more to suffer from the lack of expert knowledge than in regard to her fiscal policy. To take one small illustration. The conviction of both the Grand National Assembly and the Government was probably reflected in the statement made two months ago by a newspaper in close touch with official circles that "great rejoicings will mark, during the first week of August, the important date of Turkey's taking possession of her own Customs, free from all fetters." As the date of "economic independence" approaches, however, Turkish exchange has been subjected to a heavy fall; it is discovered that the new tariff, which was to be the subject of national rejoicing, cannot be introduced during the first week of August; yet it has already had the effect of seriously embarrassing the Government's finances. Again, at the beginning of last year it was confidently announced and these announcements invariably emanate from official sources in Turkey—that the Government had arranged to establish at an early date a State Bank. This Bank has not yet materialized, and it has to be inferred from the silence on the subject of the German expert called in to advise the Government, and from his insistence upon the agricultural character of Turkey, that there are still serious obstacles in the way of realisation of the project. Accordingly, in regard to finance as in the sphere of economic development Turkey continues to live from hand to mouth.

There are some countries in the world whose material progress is a matter of comparative indifference to all except themselves. Turkey, however, has such resources and potentialities that it is cause for regret if she should lag behind when a little more expert knowledge might launch her on the flowing tide of prosperity. The achievements of those who have brought the Republic into existence are fully appreciated, and are, indeed striking enough to suggest how easy it would be to add to them just what is still lacking. Turkey presents the spectacle of a country eager to forge ahead, but ignorant of the road that it should take and repeatedly making false starts in different directions. Thus, the Government is conscious of the need of education, but it sets out to multiply primary schools before it has sufficient teachers to staff them. The whole nation has been put to school to learn the Latin characters, and the daily routine of the country has been disorganized in the process. It is discovered, however, that as soon as a perfunctory and compulsory acquaintance with the new alphabet has been acquired, the thirst for and inculcation of knowledge abruptly cease. Newspapers have had their circulations cut down by half, books printed in Arabic script have had to be scrapped. Yet a nation does not become educated by merely learning the alphabet, and the value of the educational spasm remains problematical. If freedom of speech were allowed in the country, the more intelligent section of the population must have pointed out that the disadvantages of an immediate change over to the new alphabet would inevitably outweigh the advantages that it was hoped to derive from the writing of Turkish in Latin script. From the earliest days of the Republic official emphasis has been laid on the need for the improvement of agricultural methods. Some sort of policy to this end has been introduced, but the stress that the German financial expert has been constrained to put upon the necessity of fostering Turkish agriculture suggests that little has been achieved compared with what might have been done, if foreign experts had been engaged to draw up and direct an agricultural policy suited to the country's requirements and limitations. Thus Turkey continues to pay dearly for experience that she might acquire more cheaply and more effectually from abroad.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Jidda, June 8.

Relations with Persia.

The satisfactory settlement of outstanding disputes with Iraq and the recognition of the Iraq Government by the Government of Persia have now been followed by the dispatch of a Persian mission to conduct negotiations with the Wahhabi King. The Persian plenipotentiary, who arrived at Jidda on June 6, is no stranger to this country, as he is the same Ain al-Mulk, formerly Persian Consul-General at Damascus, who came to the Hijaz in the autumn of 1925, during the Wahhabi invasion of the country, together with Ghaffar Khan Jalal al Saltana, then and still Persian Minister in Egypt, to discuss with Ibn Saoud certain questions in connexion with the alleged destruction of certain historic buildings at Mecca and Madina. He will find conditions in the Hijaz greatly changed for the better since his last visit, and it is to be hoped that his mission will result in the clearing away of all difficulties which have until now militated against the formal recognition of this country by the Shah's Government. It is understood that Ain ul-Mulk has recently been in Teheran to discuss the scope of his mission with his own Government.

Soviet Russia and the Yaman.

Another interesting event in the local political world is the recent passage through Jidda of Karim Khan Hakimoff, formerly Consul-General and representative of the Soviet Union here, *en route* for the Yaman, to take up the post of Manager of a Russian trading venture (a branch of the Sovtorgflot) recently launched in that country. His post, though not official in the technical sense, doubtless envisages his semi-official representation of his country at the Court of the Imam, who has not yet yielded to the temptation of encouraging the establishment of European Agencies or Consulates at his capital. News from the Yaman is scanty and not altogether satisfactory. There is room for an attempt to place Anglo-Yamani relations on a proper basis; the settlement of any conflict of interests between the two countries should not prove very difficult.

The King's Complaint Box.

The King is still at Mecca, and it is not known when he will be visiting Jidda again. Meanwhile he appears to be very busy overhauling the administration of the country. In the last issue of the Mecca paper appears a proclamation calling upon all persons with genuine grievances to make their complaints to His Majesty personally through the medium of a complaint-box, which has been installed in the Palace, and of which His Majesty personally keeps the key. At the same time people are warned against the abuse of the privilege of personal appeal, and anonymous complaints are ruled out.

A representative committee of eight persons, presided over by the Amir Faisal, has also been set up to overhaul

and examine all branches of the administration and to report any reforms likely to conduce to better government.

Miscellaneous News.

It is a matter of satisfaction to his many friends here that the services of Mr. H. Stonehewer Bird as British Agent and Consul at Jidda have been recognised in the Birthday Honours list.

The health of the French Consul, M. Maigret, has somewhat improved, but he will be leaving Jidda about the middle of this month with the idea of returning in August.

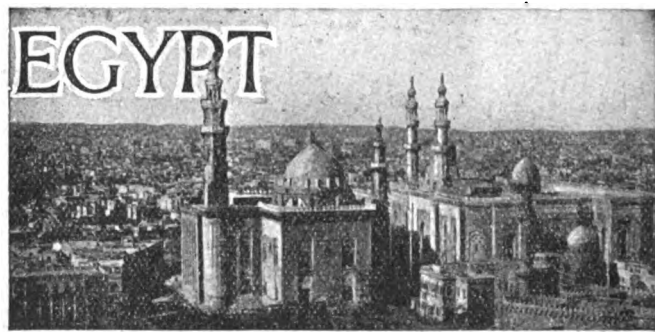
The postal department announces that letters for the Air Mail to all destinations *via* Egypt will henceforth be accepted at a surcharge of 4 Qarsh Miri (about 8d.).

The death is announced of the Amir Mishari ibn Jiluwi, Governor of Buraida, after a long spell of illness. The deceased Amir was a cousin of the King and of the same branch of the royal family as Abdullah ibn Jiluwi, the well-known Governor of the Hasa, whose eldest son, Fahad, recently lost his life in the operations leading up to the death of Dhaidan ibn Hithlain, the Ajman chief.

Much interest has been evinced here in the parliamentary election in Great Britain, the King and his Government having been kept informed of the results, as they became known, by special telegrams from London.

Motor Traffic.

With regard to the interesting article on motor traffic in Arabia in your issue of May 23, it should be said that the number of automotive units in the Hijaz and Najd must be well over 1,000 already, and it does not seem that the recent rapid rate of increase is likely to be checked. There are about 25 units or more in the Hasa and all Palace supplies for Riyadh are conveyed from the east coast ports by camel over the sand-dunes to Hufuf, thence by car to the edge of the Dahna, thence across the sands again by camel, and finally from the western edge of the Dahna by car to Riyadh itself. Roughly speaking, there may be 50 cars in the Hasa area altogether, and the King's fleet cannot number much less than 100 cars, while the Government, transport companies, and private owners of the Hijaz have between them certainly not less than 1,000 cars in more or less serviceable condition. Most of the transport companies have made good profits this year out of the pilgrim traffic, and the coming year is likely to see a steady development in the import of motor-cars.



Cairo, June 22.

Lord Lloyd's Tour.

The High Commissioner left yesterday for a short tour in Syria, in the course of which he will visit Beyrout, where he will be the guest for one night of the French High Commissioner, M. Ponsot, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Damascus. Lord Lloyd returned earlier in the week from the Western Desert, where he made a tour of some seven days. The journey was made by train to Dabaa, which is now the railhead of the Mariut line, thence by

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

car via Mersa-Matruh to Siwa and back to Sollum, Barrani and Dabaa, whence the return journey to Cairo was made by railway.

At Mersa-Matruh Lord Lloyd was received by the cousin of the Grand Senussi, El Sayed Seifeddin. At Siwa, where the principal stop was made, the population turned out in full force to greet him on arrival. The first evening the local Zigaga gave a display of their characteristic dances. Next morning before breakfast the party rode over to Ain Tamusi, one of the natural wells of the Oasis, where Siwan brides bathe on the eve of their marriage. An inspection of a section of the Camel Corps followed, and then came a reception of the principal notables and Sheikhs, who appeared with all their followers and their religious banners. Lord Lloyd paid a short visit to the garden of Sheikh Mishri, situated in the eastern section of the town, where he partook of a light meal and then, so that no jealousy should be aroused by his visit, he went to the western end of the city to call on the Gabboum family, which for years has been in feud with the Mishri family.

After lunch and an inspection of the new hospital, which is being run by a graduate from Kasr El Aini, the party drove to Aghourmi, where the Sheikh gave them tea, and a visit was paid to the temple of Ammon, the sunset being viewed from the top of the Hill of the Thousand Dead, which is the old burial place of the Siwan population. After dinner the Siwans and the inhabitants of the Oasis of Kufra gave a fantasia and torchlight dance.

On the return journey the High Commissioner held a reception of the Sheikhs and notables and merchants at Sollum, where he also received the Italian Consular representative and dined on the Egyptian cruiser Abdel Moneim. Next day, after a reception at the Officers' Mess of the 8th Egyptian Army Battalion, the party left for Barrani, where the local Arab horsemen turned out and gave them an enthusiastic reception. Mersa-Matruh was reached in time for lunch, and the night was spent at Dabaa. Next morning the train proceeded on its return journey to Cairo. On the way a stop was made at Burg El Arab, converted, thanks to the ingenuity, energy and persistence of Mr. Jennings Bramley, into an Arab townlet of attractive medieval appearance, which it is hoped will some day be used as a place of conference for the desert tribes. Cairo was reached on the seventh evening and thus was concluded a most interesting and enjoyable trip which, contrary to predictions, was carried out in quite cool weather and over quite good roads.

Nile Waters.

An earnest of the good will of the Egyptian Government and of its desire for the efficient working of the recent Nile Waters Agreement is afforded by a decision of the Ministry of Public Works appointing Mr. Arthur Deane Butcher to direct the special office which will implement that agreement. Mr. Butcher's official title will be Director-General of Egyptian Irrigation in the Sudan and on the upper reaches of the Nile, to control the distribution of the waters of the river in accordance with the agreement and to supervise the execution of the Egyptian Irrigation Projects in the Sudan. Mr. Butcher,

who is at present Director of the Hydraulic Section of the Ministry of Public Works, has seen long service in Egyptian irrigation and has had a great deal to do with the elaboration of the various schemes and the investigations on which the distribution of the water as between Egypt and the Sudan has been based.

The Special Agricultural Reserve.

The decision of the Egyptian Government to detach the sum of £E4,000,000 from the General Reserve and create therewith a special agricultural reserve has more in it than meets the eye. Its immediate object is to ensure the existence of a fund for assisting cultivators and the local market in time of crises. But its ultimate end is to collect sufficient capital to found all over the country agricultural banks which will assist the agricultural element, not only in the matter of cotton, but also in regard to all the other crops. As a matter of fact, in making its decision, the Council of Ministers laid down that the money should be available for cultivators of other crops, viz., rice, maize, wheat, barley, etc., and not be restricted to the growers of cotton. The capital will be procured by crediting every year to the Fund the proceeds, about £E1,300,000, of the ginned cotton tax, which it is proposed to maintain for another ten years.

Bank Misr.

The Board of the Bank Misr were entertained last week at the San Stefano Casino to a dinner organised in their honour by leading Alexandria notables to celebrate the opening of the bank's new premises in Alexandria. Under the direction of Midhat Yeghen Pasha, its Chairman, and Talaat Bey Harb and Dr. Fuad Bey Sultan, its Managing-Directors, Bank Misr has made great strides and now counts among the banking institutions of the country. It has amongst its deposits about a million and a quarter belonging to the municipalities, while the Government has placed at its disposal at low interest some quarter of a million to be utilised in advances to deserving industrial enterprises and co-operative agricultural societies, of which some £E182,000 has been utilised. It has opened a branch in Paris, where it transacts business for a large number of the Egyptians who visit Europe annually and for the Egyptian Government, while it has founded companies for ginning, paper-making, and river transport, also cinema, fishing and weaving companies, some of which are already giving good results. Latterly the Chairman and Managing-Directors visited Syria and Palestine with a view to ascertaining whether it would be possible to start business in those countries, which are in many ways, and particularly economically, so closely connected with Egypt. It is understood that they have arranged to create a subsidiary company in each country.

GREECE.

Athens, June 24.

The Shipping Strike.

The quarrel between shipowners and stevedores, which led to a strike of the latter on Wednesday, June 12, and passed through an acute phase on Friday, June 14, during

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which day troops had to be called out and several strikers and a few police were wounded), was brought to an end on Wednesday, June 19, when an agreement between the parties was reached. By the agreement the strikers obtain a slight increase in wages and a re-adjustment of the hours of work. The settlement is generally regarded as provisional only. Good will come out of evil, if the decision of the Government to regulate once for all the questions of the Port of Piræus, by the creation of an autonomous organization, becomes effective. The organization of the port has not kept pace with its rapid growth; the cupidity of the shipowners on the one hand and of the dockers, boatmen, etc., on the other, owing to inadequate control, have reduced the place to chaos at the expense of the ordinary citizen.

As a result of the formation of the new Shipping Combine, which now issues a weekly list of sailings, it may well be that greater regularity and punctuality will be secured. But that is not enough. Seeing that the sea is the principal means of communication in Greece, a state of things should not be tolerated which would not be tolerated on railways. Passenger coaches on trains are not utilized for goods, and the passenger decks on ships should not be monopolized for cargo, to the discomfort and danger of the passengers. The personnel on Greek railways are noticeably smart-looking and civil. The crews on Greek coasting steamers are usually dressed in rags, and have a particularly slovenly appearance; the captain seldom wears a uniform and generally has his family and friends on the bridge with him.

It should not be impossible, even though it might require a State subvention, to run a service of fast, exclusively passenger boats to the larger islands and places of importance during some seasons. In this respect the example of Jadranska Plovidba, with its admirable service of passenger boats along the Dalmatian coast, might be imitated. Considering the high merits of Greek seamen, it is a pity that the standard in the shipping world (in spite of individual exceptions) has not kept pace with the enormous improvement of recent years in the railways.

The Death of M. Benachi.

The death of M. Emmanuel Benachi has removed one of the most remarkable among many remarkable Greeks who have used their wealth for the benefit of their country. The benefactions of Syngros, of Averoff, of Zappas were great: those of Benachi surpassed them all. A list of those made within the last four years is imposing. To the Greek Red Cross, £20,000; to the Academy of Athens, £20,000; to the Greek-Armenian College, £42,000; to the Evangelismos Hospital, £4,000; to the Refugees, 30 million drachmæ; to the Library of the Chamber, 4 million drachmæ; to the Orphanage at Kephissia, 2½ million drachmæ are among his principal gifts but are far from exhausting the list. All this too is apart from the numerous charitable foundations which he made in Egypt before removing to Athens. The special honours accorded at his funeral, at which the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and the members of the Cabinet, the heads of political parties, the chief military and civil authorities were present were no more than the due of a man who understood so thoroughly the responsibilities of great wealth, and to whom the wise distribution of that wealth was a joy.

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The Reopening of the Old Feud.

The inclusion of MM. Gonatas and Carapaniotis in the new Government has provoked a protest from the Monarchist party, an exchange of letters between their leader, M. Tsaldaris and the Prime Minister, as well as a long discussion in the Chamber. One can sympathise to a certain extent with the feelings of the Monarchists, and it seems a pity that old wounds, thought to be closed, should be reopened by the appointment of two prominent members of the Revolutionary Government of 1922. The policy of abstention from the Chamber, however, which has been adopted by the Monarchists, obtains little sympathy in the country and must, in the end, injure only those who adopt it.

Foreign Doctors in Greece.

Among Bills that either have been or will shortly be laid before the Chamber are; one to prevent foreign doctors from practising in Greece, a modification of the Law by which they have been hitherto permitted to practise under certain conditions; another (also emanating from the Ministry of Health), by which it is proposed to create a Sanitary Centre for Athens. The former Bill appears to an outsider to be hardly worth the trouble of bringing forward, since the number of foreign doctors practising in Greece must be, owing to the regulations already in existence, negligible. The latter, which is the immediate result of the Sanitary Programme elaborated by the Committee which at the request of the Greek Government was sent by the League of Nations to study conditions after the dengue epidemic, is very welcome. For the first year a credit of 21 million drachmæ will be granted.

The Greco-Turk Negotiations.

The apparent failure of the long drawn-out Greco-Turk negotiations, with reference to the position of the 180,000 Greeks still left in Constantinople, has created doubts in some quarters as to the ability of the Greek representatives who are conducting the negotiations. The Prime Minister has, therefore, consented to make a statement to the Special Commission of Foreign Affairs (a body composed of former Prime Ministers, Party leaders and others). The desire to exchange the 180,000 Greeks of Constantinople for the 100,000 Turks of Western Thrace, which lies at the back of the Turkish attitude, is naturally resisted by the Greeks, to whom such an exchange would be a disaster. Greece is quite incapable of assimilating a large increase of her urban population, already excessive, where in Turkey room could easily be found and to spare for the 100,000 agriculturists of Western Thrace.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, June 25.

The Agricultural Congress.

During the last fortnight a series of congresses have been held in Bucharest, among them the Anti-Alcohol Congress and the International Agricultural Congress, both of which still continue their meetings.

After a long series of meetings, at which very interesting papers were read, the delegates of the Agricultural Congress started on a tour of Roumania; they visited the agricultural, industrial and mining centres, and were able to convince themselves of the immense natural wealth of this country and of the tranquil nature, intelligence and industry of the peasant population.

Work in Parliament.

In spite of the intolerable heat and of the unusually long duration of the summer session, Parliament is getting through an immense amount of work. Both Chambers have discussed carefully the Police Law, the Bill on Judicial Instances and the Bill on Administrative Reform. The Senate passed the Law introducing the *Concordat Préventif Commercial*—a form of moratorium, which is

intended to assist merchants over the present period of trade depression by facilitating credits and establishing their foreign commercial relations. Both Houses have passed the Law relative to the dyking and draining of the lakes and marshes along the Danube, and also the Agrarian Law introduced by M. Mihalache, Minister of Agriculture, in a very illuminating speech.

At the end of last week Parliament in solemn session discussed and criticised the campaign of the Hungarian Government for the revision of the Peace Treaties and the recent speech of the Hungarian Prime Minister, Count Bethlen. M. Duca, one of the principal leaders of the Liberal Party, and M. Goga, a prominent member of the Averescu Party, made important interpellations and requested the Government to take certain measures in regard to the Optants question, pending the reply of the Hungarian Government to the Note to the Little Entente. M. Iorga expressed the hope that the conciliatory spirit of the Hungarian people would lead to an understanding on all those delicate questions and held out the olive branch to the Magyar Government. M. Mironescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, replying for the Government, stated that the measures to be taken would be most carefully considered, but the reply of the Hungarian Government to the Note of the Little Entente would be awaited before proceeding further with the Optants question. He added that he was glad to see by the present attitude of the House that all parties were united on the question of foreign policy, and the only controversy to be anticipated was in regard to matters of form.

A Financial Crisis.

One of the secondary banks in Bucharest, the Banca Franco-Romana, was obliged to cease payments last week, it is hoped temporarily, owing to the reduction of discount facilities by the Banca Nationala. The Banca Franco-Romana made small advances of capital to agriculturists and, owing to the agricultural depression resulting from last year's bad harvests, found itself without sufficient free cash to continue business, pending the gathering in of this year's crops. The Bank, therefore, applied for a moratorium. The large banks of Bucharest offered their assistance and proposed to cover the deficit by a loan from the National Bank guaranteed by their securities. But the National Bank refused to carry out this operation, as being contrary to the terms of its new statutes. Other measures were then adopted to enable the Banca Franco-Romana to continue its operations; but the Press and financial circles have expressed their dissatisfaction, and with a view to preventing a similar occurrence in the future the ten large banks of Bucharest have formed a Union to protect their common interests and to guard against such manifestations of a money crisis, in order to ensure the stability of the market.

That a financial crisis exists there is no doubt, and the Government is taking further economic measures to meet the situation. Its economic policy is still governed by the desire to balance the Budget without having recourse to fresh taxation. It is hoped to effect an economy of three milliard lei, which would cover the present deficit, by a series of restrictions in the staff of Government Departments and by ensuring returns on a commercial basis from some of the State properties—by letting out the State fisheries, for example, and by the sale of the petroleum royalties.

With the same end in view the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has temporarily recalled some diplomatic officers from their foreign posts, thus effecting an economy of 60 million lei up to the end of the year. This is only a temporary measure, however.

Free Zones.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, M. Madgearu, is introducing a new industrial and commercial policy by radical modifications in the administration of the Danube ports of Giurgiu, Galatz, Braila, and also of Constantza. In these ports free zones are to be established, by which it is hoped to intensify the activities of the docks and quays,

which the policy of recent Governments had completely paralysed.

Agriculture.

So far the harvest prospects are very good, and the crops are reported to be abundant and in good condition. Sufficient rains, alternating with great heat, have favoured their growth, and a cheerful optimism reigns among agriculturists, which, if it proves to be justified, will go a long way towards re-establishing the financial situation of the country.



Teheran, June 16.

The Summer Migration.

The first fortnight in June sees the annual move of the greater part of the inhabitants of Teheran to the small country villages, going about 600 feet high and to the north of Teheran. Practically the whole town moves up—the Court, headed by the Shah, the Legations, the Government officials, the cafés, shops—all who can possibly do so leave the heat (102 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade at the moment) and dust of Teheran for the cooler regions nearer the mountains.

This year the difficulties of moving every single article in the house to the up-country house ten miles away have been accentuated by the unexpected commandeering of all lorries and motor trucks to convey troops from Teheran to the neighbourhood of Shiraz, where the Kashgai tribe is in open revolt.

The Kashgai Revolt.

The cause of the trouble is due to the imposition of new taxes, to the passing of the law for compulsory military service for all Persians, and to the order to wear the famous Pahlavi hat.

The road to Shiraz has been closed for three weeks; the city is invested by the Kashgais and the trouble is serious; for, as a result of the closing of the road, owing to attacks on and robbery of travellers, and to the confiscation of lorry loads of merchandise on the way up to Teheran, no goods are reaching this city by the Bushire-Teheran route.

Rumour is rife; but it is difficult to obtain accurate news, as the telegraph lines are cut.

Should the Bakhtiari tribes, who have the same reason for discontent, join their neighbours, the Kashgais, then the Government will indeed be confronted with a difficult task; for the restoration of order amongst these hardy mountaineers in their own mountain fastnesses is no easy task.

Muharram.

All devout Muhammadans of the Shiah sect are celebrating the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussain of Karbala. For two months all must wear mourning of unrelieved black. Processions are organised of 200 to 300 men with bare backs and in their hands heavy chains, with which they vigorously belabour their backs by throwing the chains first over the left and then the right shoulder. In the bazaars, a large chair or throne is installed high above the people's heads, and from this seat a favourite Mullah recites the story of the agony and death of Hussain, whilst cries of bitterest agony and sorrow are heard and tears stream from the eyes of the faithful gathered to hear the tale. Even the prisoners

in the prisons are allowed to gather in an inner court and with chains and groans and tears of sorrow, take part in the universal mourning.

An Anglo-Persian Marriage.

The cause of good relations between the English and the Persians has been furthered, it will be hoped, by the marriage of the Teheran accountant of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Mr. R. C. Parrett, in Teheran, to a Persian lady. The happy couple have gone on leave to England, accompanied by the good wishes of all, and they are expected back in the autumn.

Teheran, June 23.

The Kashgais' Revolt.

The revolt of the Kashgais still continues, and the road from Teheran to the South is still closed. Newspapers comment on the fact that the Kashgais are well supplied with rifles and machine guns, reported to be of British manufacture and of the latest pattern, and Persians generally in Teheran believe the rebellion to be fomented and helped by England—which does not tend towards English popularity at the moment. What is certain is that, whether the backing power be English or Russian or Persian, the Kashgais are well supplied with arms and ammunition.

Three lorry loads of young recruits sent to Shiraz were ambushed by the tribesmen, and only ten survived. Rocks were placed across the roads and when the lorries had perforce to stop, the troops were subject to machine gun fire. The road, so carefully built by Messrs. Lynch Bros., will take both time and money to put in order again, for trenches have been dug across it, bridges destroyed, and parts of the road blown up.

Arrest of the Minister of Finance.

Prince Firuz, Minister of Finance, has been arrested by order of the Shah. His father, Prince Farmin Farma, and his brother, the Governor of Shiraz, are also reported to be detained. Whether these facts have any direct bearing on the situation in the South is unknown, for no reason has been assigned for the arrest.

One thing is certain, however: the present Shah is to some extent unpopular. This is because he is a severe disciplinarian and a reformer, and all reformers are heartily disliked. He suppressed one-third of the annual Persian holidays last year; he has introduced compulsory military service to his country; he insists on officials being in their offices for certain regular hours each day; he has prescribed the wearing by all Persians of the famous *Pahlavi* hat. These reforms, with new taxation for roads, the army, education and the rebuilding of cities, have created a feeling of unrest and dislike for one who changes the old habits.

There are always reactionaries who long for "the good old days" of sloth, indifference, and *laissez aller*, and these turn their thoughts to the ex-Shah.

Whether the revolt in the South is the beginning of an attempt to foment a general revolution remains to be proved.

Certainly the family of Prince Firuz is one of the richest and most powerful of Persian families, and he is credited with boundless ambition.

The danger lies in the possible union of the Kashgais with the Lurs and the Bahktiari; then anything may happen. At the moment guerilla warfare continues, to the detriment of trade and prosperity, and it is to be hoped that the troops of the Shah will succeed in swiftly putting an end to the present situation and that peace may once more enable travellers and merchants to continue on their way.

SYRIA.

Damascus, June 21.

Summer Days.

We are more than half-way through June. The calendar tells us that summer is only just begun, but the fellahin and the market-gardeners (for most of them raise their

own supply of wheat to be ground by the local water-mills) are finishing harvesting operations. The apricots are fully ripe. Those who own an orchard are crushing them and spreading out a huge line of red paste on wooden planks to make the *Qamar al-din*, sweet to the Egyptian palate and perhaps the improper source, in certain brands at least, of what, with strawberry, used to be the English schoolboys' favourite jam. The calendar says it is the end of spring, but one's own feelings, the thermometer in sympathy, point rather to midsummer.

The Lebanese Elections.

The Lebanese elections are over. They took place on June 16. The Opposition candidates fared ill. The new Parliament meets, I believe, in July. There was some liveliness at Baabda, once the capital, near Beyrouth, but precautions had been taken. At Tripoli the villagers came down from the mountains in armed support of their candidate, since their votes were not numerous enough to turn the scale. Three were killed in the ensuing affray, and perhaps twice that number wounded, but the authorities were strong enough to prevent anything worse. The excitement is over now. Some of the more independent Opposition candidates will be missed. Among them Shaikh Ibrahim al-Mundhir, a celebrated Arabic scholar, and the Druze Amir, Fuad Arslan, whose seat is taken by his brother. Like the Jacobite families of the Highlands years ago, the great Druze families do not always hold the same political views.

Egyptian Visitors.

Damascus has had two more Egyptian visits. The Banque Misr officials have been succeeded, first by the well-known theatrical troupe presided over by Yusuf Bey Wahba, next by the equally well-known poets, one a Christian, Khalil Bey Mutran, styled the "poet of the two lands" (for he was born in this country, not in Egypt), the other an Egyptian Muslim, Hafiz Bey Ibrahim, the "poet of the Nile." They came to Beyrouth to deliver odes at the invitation of the American University. Naturally they were invited to Damascus, where, after attending in state a school prize-giving, they were honoured with a public welcome at the Majmaa al-Ilmy. Naturally too there were private banquets. It is curious what influence a poet may still have—and Hafiz is undoubtedly a poet—with an Arabic-speaking audience. Hafiz has the power of melting into tears himself and causing his hearers to melt into tears with him. The Director of the theatrical company was struck with the warmth of national feeling at Damascus. This was expressed emphatically during the performance of a stirring drama, "The Maharaja's Revenge."

The Jabal Druze.

Politics have been dull, but the independence of the Jabal Druze is now assured, its independence of the rest of Syria. A Decree was issued lately giving the Jabal an independent judicature under the presidency of a Frenchman assisted by a French inspector. This week another Decree has been published ordering the institution of a National Ministry. The Ministry of the Interior is entrusted to a *watany* (whether a nationalist or a native is not quite clear). The Ministries of Education, Public Works, Health, and Justice are to be presided over by Frenchmen. The Jabal Druze has now an independence of its own. Such is the information published in the *Shaab* of June 21.

The action of the Mandatory Power, which is also constructing, it is said, an important road from Bosra Eski Sham through Sueida to Shuhba between Jabal Druze and the desert, arouses some indignant comment in the Damascus Press. But politics are dull. The politicians wonder what may happen at Geneva, and what the Labour Party may think fit to do. The weather is hot, but their hopes are cold.

Lord Lloyd, British High Commissioner for Egypt, has returned to Cairo from his visit to Syria and Palestine.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, June 13.

The Boycott of the Legislatures.

Considerable dissatisfaction continues to be expressed, more especially in the United Provinces, with the All-India Congress Committee's resolution calling upon all Congress members of the Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Councils to attend no more meetings, as a protest against the acts of the Viceroy, and those Governors who followed his lead, in not dissolving the Assembly or Council. Pandit Motilal Nehru has now issued the following: "The Congress resolution demanding abstention from legislatures is not an isolated move; it is in pursuance of the Madras and Calcutta resolutions on independence and non-co-operation from 1930 and a corollary to Gandhi's resolution for re-organising the Congress. The Government decision is intended to check normal developments and is the first step of a scheme to defeat the Congress. But the worst that can happen will prove the best for the Congress, bringing the inevitable conflict nearer. Now that things have reached a crisis and time for action arrived, all available forces have to be directed to the main goal, for which Councils are of no use."

The Pandit's Argument.

Besides the above, which appeared in the newspapers over the Pandit's signature, a long statement has been published. Of it I propose not to quote more than this: "The extension of the lives of the present legislatures beyond the normal span allotted to them is evidently the first step of a carefully thought out scheme to defeat the activities of the Congress." One would say first that, if the Government of India does want to defeat the activities of the Congress, it has taken a very long time to think out the first step. Next one would say that no one can know better than Pandit Motilal Nehru that to extend the lives of a few legislative bodies, bodies that sooner or later must be dissolved, cannot make the least difference in the world to the Congress, it being a body that meets as often and where it pleases, mostly to talk in the air. The fact is that very many of the non-official members of the Assembly, including all or nearly all the Muslim members, did not desire an early dissolution, one that should precede the publication of the Statutory Commission's Report by a bare few months, and the Viceroy yielded to them. He cares not a straw for the activities of the Congress, except in so far as they may tend to foment sedition and bloodshed (not that the leaders of the Congress will any such thing): the Viceroy cares not a straw, nor does anyone else in India with any depth of sense in him, unless it be those politicians whose chance of getting the power under the new Constitution will depend on the backing of the Congress. The two things that are of moment in the immediate field of Indian politics are not the activities of the Congress, but the Statutory Commission's Report on the one hand, and on the other those efforts that are proceeding behind the scenes to bring Indian leaders and the British Cabinet together to discuss the Nehru Report, or a substitute that would command still more support. The Muslim opposition to the Nehru Report has not been smoothed away, and does not seem likely to be.

Race Feeling and Unreason.

There is a great deal of unreason in the public utterances of Indians (not in their private), due to race feeling, and account should be taken of it. An example was given the other day in a document, the work of two Indians, appointed with a third, a Scotsman, to inquire into and report on jail administration in one of the Provinces. The Scotsman, discussing the question of differentiation in matters of diet, etc., between Indian and European convicts, said that it was "justified by the fact that the diet of an Indian prisoner would disagree with the health of a European and that a diminution below a certain point in the amenities of life granted to him will operate too harshly

on him." Indian public opinion expects Indians not to say "yes" to such things as that; accordingly, what we got from the two Indian members of this Jail Committee was: "If they are equally morally degraded, then why should one get only *chapatis* and *dal* and the other get sugar, tea, butter, cutlets and potatoes?" Now those of us who are familiar with the ways of living of wealthy Indians know that, given their choice between Indian dishes and European, they prefer the Indian; they prefer *chapatis* and *dal*. I frequently sit at table with Indians. They begin with a dish or two prepared in the English way, and then pass to Indian dishes; they quite obviously prefer the last. I bring this matter up only for its value as an illustration. Those who follow Indian public affairs from your side must be prepared to find Indians often saying in public, because Indian public opinion expects it of them, what their private talk would contradict. I have known many instances of it. An Indian, a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, once volunteered an opinion to me about Indians generally and the running of joint stock companies. Shortly afterwards he said exactly the opposite as a witness before some Commission. His private opinion, expressed to me, was his true opinion.

The Indian States.

In a letter that deals with the current affairs of the whole of India not much space can be devoted to those of the Indian States. To those specially interested in their affairs one would recommend the perusal in its entirety of the letter which the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes has this week addressed to his brother-Princes as a preparation for the meeting of the Viceroy and a deputation of the Princes in Bombay. All the really important outstanding points are raised in this letter. There is, for instance, the "definition and limitation of paramountcy within its proper legal orbit," to use the wording of the Chancellor's letter. The Butler Committee, it is pointed out, "have failed to define this relationship, but they remark that it depends on the treaties, engagements, and *sanads*, supplemented by usage or sufferance and 'by the decisions of the Government of India and the Secretary of State' embodied in political practice. The words quoted are a novel addition to the sources of paramountcy, and I am advised that it is not supported by the Privy Council ruling which the Committee cite as an authority for this new enunciation." The letter, I may add, will bring little comfort to those British Indian politicians who want the whole of India to form one political unit. The Princes seem determined to have none of that.

Medical Research in India.

The Report of the Fletcher Committee, appointed in December, 1927, to consider the organisation of medical research in India, is now before the public. The recommendations include the establishment of an Imperial Medical Research Institute at Dehra Dun, the abolition of the existing Central Institute at Kasauli, the enlargement of the provincial institutes, and the strengthening of the Medical Research Department. Already there has been a protest against the choice of Dehra Dun for the location of the Imperial Institute. The existing Central Institute, it may be argued, should never have been located at Kasauli, and that it was so was very largely the work of one man, its first Director, who at the time that it was proposed that he should be the Director was in charge of the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli. I have said that the Fletcher Committee's Report is before the public. As extracts from it have appeared in the Press, it must be to some extent; but a letter of protest, addressed to the Government of India from Bombay, has this:—"My Committee regret that though the Fletcher Committee signed their Report in March, 1928, and that though the All-India Medical Congress held at Calcutta urged the circulation of this Report last December, . . . Government have not yet published this Report and the evidence collected by the Fletcher Committee. Such an attitude on the part of the Government can only serve to increase the suspicion which the independent medical profession is

driven to entertain as to the reasons why the medical advisers of Government are pressing for locating the Central Medical Research Institute at Dehra Dun and rushing this plan through." Perhaps this protest from Bombay and the Report, on its way to the public, crossed each other, to put it so. Certainly the doctors are entitled to ask for the Report to read.

The Bombay Stock Exchange.

A very grave situation having arisen in the Bombay stock and share market owing to the frequent strikes in the textile industry having given a great advantage to those operating for a fall, the authorities have been compelled to suspend dealings. That was part of last week's news. The news this week has been of meetings between a committee of the Stock Exchange and the mill owners, not very fruitful meetings apparently, and that the Girni Kamgar Union, in accordance with its declared policy of not allowing a third party to mediate in the dispute, has declined an invitation made by the Stock and Share-brokers' Association to attend a conference with a view to ending the strike. Bombay seems over-full of stiff-necked folk. What I would add as a last word has nothing to do with the share market of Bombay. It is that I saw the other day a commercial letter, dated Calcutta, headed: "Exceptional Stagnation in General Trade." Another word is that the Government of India are receiving praises for appointing a large and "thoroughly representative" committee to conduct the banking inquiry. What was wanted was an inquiry by three or four men who understand that most difficult subject, no matter whom they represented or what. India is mad about representative committees.

THE INDIAN PRINCES AND THE BUTLER REPORT.

As foreshadowed in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes met the Viceroy on June 28 at Poona and communicated to Lord Irwin the text of the resolutions adopted at the Bombay Conference, outlining the Princes' preliminary impressions of the Butler Committee's report. The Conference, which was held in Bombay earlier in the week, authorised the Committee to convey to the Viceroy, without prejudice to any future action, the provisional conclusions of the Princes respecting the Butler report, which, as the resolutions given below make clear, are both favourable and unfavourable, and also to indicate to the Viceroy the remedial measures which the Princes intend to adopt with reference to the other findings in the Report.

The proceedings were private and informal. Lord Irwin was accompanied by Lord Goschen, who is Viceroy and Acting-Governor-General during Lord Irwin's absence on leave. In the absence of the Maharaja of Patiala, Chancellor, and the Maharaja of Kashmir, pro-Chancellor, the duties of Chancellor were performed by the Maharaja of Bikaner. Other members of the Standing Committee present were the Nawab of Bhopal, the Maharao of Cutch, the Maharaja Rana of Dholpur, the Maharaja Rana Sahib of Porbandar, the Rajah of Sitamamau and the Chief of Sangli.

The resolutions submitted on behalf of the Princes recorded the satisfaction of the Indian States at the Butler Committee's recognition in certain important respects of the correct position of the States, notably that of the direct relationship of the States with the Crown and that the Viceroy and not the Governor-General in Council should be the agent for the Crown in all its dealings with the Indian States. While welcoming the admission of British India to its due place among the British Dominions, the Princes expressed gratification at the Butler Committee's recommendation that the relationship between the Paramount Power and the Princes should not be transferred without the agreement of the Princes to a third party. This recognition left the door

open for negotiations between the States and British India, with a view to arriving at an equitable and satisfactory arrangement on fair and honourable terms. The Princes also expressed their appreciation of the recognition of the claims of some of the States to be relieved of the existing financial arrangements which adversely affected the States, and expressed the hope that the *personnel* and procedure of the independent expert committee, which it is proposed should explore the financial and fiscal problems, should be settled in consultation with all the parties concerned.

The fourth resolution expressed the disappointment of the conference at certain unsatisfactory aspects of the Butler Committee's report which were prejudicial to the interests of the States of India and of the Empire. These aspects included the failure of the Committee, after the admission that sovereignty was divided between the Crown and the States, to draw a dividing line which would place the rights of the Crown in regard to the States upon a definite as opposed to a discretionary basis. Disappointment was also expressed with the assertion of the Committee that intervention by the Paramount Power which was not justified by the spirit and letter of subsisting engagements might be justified on the score of Imperial necessities and the shifting circumstances of time. The Princes regret the omission of the Committee to recommend that the existing machinery should be made satisfactory and effective for the purposes of adjudicating upon matters affecting subsisting engagements, such as the internal autonomy of the States and disputes between the States and the British Government or British India or between the States themselves. Disappointment was also expressed at the failure of the Committee to distinguish between *sanads* [charters or grants] in the nature of agreements and those that were imposed upon the States, at the implied opinion of the Committee that usage based upon cases of individual States is the source of Paramountcy applicable to the States as a whole, in spite of the admission that the treaties cannot be read as a whole, and at the failure of the Committee to provide an effective means of securing to the States their rights in matters of common concern to India as a whole.

The fifth resolution states:—

"This conference believes that these and other questions now at issue between the British authorities and the States and between the States and British India can, at the present stage, best be solved in personal discussion with his Excellency the Viceroy and by recourse to frank and friendly negotiations, and authorizes the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes to take such necessary action between the present day and the meeting of the Chamber of Princes in February, 1930, as would facilitate this task."

The final resolutions reaffirm the Princes' previous decision to devote to the moral and material progress of the subjects of the States the advantages resulting from the removal of the inequitable financial burdens under which the States at present labour, and, while appreciating the response already made in certain directions, invites the attention of States Governments to the resolution regarding essential reforms passed by the Chamber of Princes in February, 1928, and emphasizes once again the supreme importance of giving full effect to it.

It is understood that Lord Irwin promised careful consideration of the resolutions and said that a communiqué would be issued by the Political Secretary of the Government of India on the important points raised by the resolutions.

Mr. Arthur Joseph Cargenven, I.C.S., has been appointed Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Madras in the vacancy which will be created by the retirement of Sir William Watkin Phillips.

Major-General Reginald Henry Mahon, C.B., C.S.I., R.A., of Barton Holt, Kintbury, Berks, chairman of Research Engineers, Ltd., and deputy chairman of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, who died on February 22, aged 60, left estate of the gross value of £20,755, with net personality £18,796.

INDIAN RAILWAY PROGRESS.

The history and future of Indian railway development was the subject of an interesting and instructive lecture delivered by Sir Clement Hindley, late Chief Commissioner of Railways in India, before the East India Association on June 24.

Lord Reading, who presided, said that everyone who had lived in India or who had interests there was interested in a record of which we had every reason to be proud. After describing the events leading up to the appointment of the lecturer as Chief Commissioner in the reorganised Railway Board, he paid a notable tribute to Sir Clement Hindley's work, an outstanding feature of which was the effect which they were able to give to the proposal, which had been made some years before, for the separation of the railway budget from the general finances of the country. The scheme, which had been accepted by the Legislative Assembly with some minor alterations at a time when rejection of Government proposals by that body was by no means unknown, had been in operation now for nearly five years and had worked for the benefit of the country.

Sir Clement Hindley said that the present railway system, which comprised over 41,000 miles, represented a capital value of some £687,000,000 and carried more than 600,000,000 passengers and nearly 90,000,000 tons of goods yearly, was one of the greatest monuments to the British connexion with India. The lecturer also described its early history, since the first line was opened 75 years ago, the construction of the trunk lines, the practical consequences of the separation of railways from general finance, and the progress made since the War, including the workshop reorganisation, the reduction of rates and fares, the improvement in amenities provided and the work of the publicity department.

Concluding his address, Sir Clement proceeded: "What is going to happen to this great national asset of India? Among the countries of the world India occupies the third place in respect of railway mileage. Nearly 9 per cent. of it is State property and necessarily under Government financial control, while nearly half, both as regards mileage and personnel, is already under direct State management. The present Government is committed to a policy of transfer of management to India as the companies' contracts fall in, and present national sentiment, in so far as it is articulate, is in favour of complete nationalisation.

"The old controversy of State versus company management in India is as dead as the Great Moghul, and the main argument of the opponents to State management—namely, that it spells inefficiency and insolvency—has been exploded by the obvious, visible and tangible success of the experiment in India.

"Let it be granted that the circumstances were exceptional, that a Government in a permanent minority in the elected Legislature has to have exceptional powers, such as are not found in other countries where nationalisation of railways has been tried. Admit, further, that the Railway Department of the Government of India has been protected against political intrigue and the pressure of vested interests. But give the Legislature its due, and remember that its adherence was secured to each succeeding step of reorganisation of the railways and to the grants of funds by which that reorganisation was effected, even if it chose, for the annual exigencies of party politics and as a demonstration against an alien form of government, to refuse the grant for the Railway Board itself.

"How is the organisation to function in the future? In formulating the coming constitutional changes will any consideration be paid to the difficulty that must inevitably arise from the growth of a Department of Government to dimensions of financial and administrative importance rivalling those of the Central Government itself? There are parallels in other countries where solutions have been

found to the problem of nationalisation which appear to be free from objection.

"In Canada, Germany and Belgium State railway administration has been commercialised and made a separate authority subordinated by statute to Parliament. But whether such a solution is likely to be found by the makers of India's future constitution remains to be seen. From all appearance neither the Statutory Commission nor the political parties in India have recognised the importance of the problem."

Sir Basil Blackett, the Maharaja of Burdwan, Sir Campbell Rhodes, Colonel J. B. Crawford, Sir Philip Sheridan, Sir Walter Willson, and Mr. J. M. Chartres also spoke. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sir Harcourt Butler.

INDIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

His Majesty's Government entertained at dinner at the Carlton Hotel on June 27 the members of the Indian Central Committee, who are collaborating with the Indian Statutory Commission.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, presided, and proposed the toast of the Committee, the chairman of which, Sir Sankaran Nair, responded.

Sir John Simon replied to the toast of the Indian Statutory Commission, which was proposed by the Secretary of State for India, Mr. W. Wedgwood Benn. It is understood that the speeches were of a complimentary character and no statements of political significance or importance were made.

The company, which numbered over 80, included the following:—

The Marquis of Reading, Nawab Sir Zulfikar Ali Khan, Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., Dr. A. Suhrawardy, the Earl of Lytton, General Sir Havelock Hudson, the Marquis of Zetland, Lord Strathcona, Mr. W. Adamson, M.P., Sardar Bahadur Shivdev Singh Uberoi, Mr. F. C. Goodenough, Raja Nawab Ali Khan, Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., Viscount Burnham, the Marquis of Linlithgow, Sir William Vincent, Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge, K.C.B., Sir Hari Singh Gour, Mr. Tom Shaw, M.P., Col. G. R. Lane-Fox, M.P., Sir Reginald Mant, Mr. W. T. Layton, Lord Thomson, Lord Olivier, Mr. S. N. Mallik, Sir Harcourt Butler, Lieut.-Col. G. F. Stanley, Mr. Kikabhai Premchand, Dr. R. P. Paranjpye, Major the Hon. E. Cadogan, Sir C. P. Trevelyan, M.P., Sir Arthur Froom, Lord Sankey, Lieut.-Col. Sir Leslie Wilson, Lord Passfield, Sir Robert Holland, Earl Winterton, M.P., Major C. R. Attlee, M.P., Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., Sir Arthur Hirtzel, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, M.P., the High Commissioner for India, Dr. Drummond Shiels, M.P., Rao Bahadur, M.C., Raja, Mr. S. F. Stewart, Col. Sir Umar Hayat Khan, Mr. R. H. A. Carter, Mr. H. H. F. M. Tyler, Mr. Rama Rau, Sir Malcolm Seton, Major E. N. S. Crankshaw, Mr. J. W. Bhole, Esq., Mr. D. T. Monteath, Captain R. A. R. Neville, R.M., and Sir Campbell Rhodes.

THE EAST INDIA ASSOCIATION.

In the absence of the President, Lord Lamington, who has undergone an operation, Sir Louis Dane, Chairman of Council, presided at the 62nd annual meeting of the East India Association on June 25. He said the association had lived up to its leading object of promoting by all legitimate means the public interest and the welfare of the inhabitants of India. The widening of the scope of their lectures in the past two years so as to include present pressing Indian questions had been wholly good. Lady Procter expressed her gratification that the problems of women's education and welfare were now receiving some attention in the lecture programme, and asked that more should be done in this connexion.

A telegram from the Government of India, Education, Health and Lands Department, to the Secretary of State for India, dated June 27, 1929, states:—"Rainfall, week ending June 26.—Excess: Punjab (East and North), Kashmir, Rajputana (East), Hyderabad, Madras (South-East) and Madras Coast (North). Normal: Bay Islands, Burma, Punjab (South-West), North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and Bombay Deccan. Fair: Orissa, United Provinces (West), Pajputana (West), Gujarat, Central India (West), Berar, Central Provinces (East), Konkan and Malabar. Scanty elsewhere. Monsoon strengthening central parts of country, weak elsewhere.

Book Reviews

AN AMAZING CHRONICLE.

"**THE AGRA DOUBLE MURDER.**" By Sir Cecil Walsh. (London: Benn. 7s. 6d.)

The interest which we feel in reading a detective story is of quite a different kind from that which we feel in reading a story of real crime. In the first case we deliberately enter a world of unreality. We do not go to it, as to most novels, for a reflexion of some aspect of intelligible human experience, but with a desire to forget reality. For a detective story to succeed, while the plot must be well knit and coherent and the characters credible in their conversation, it is essential that there should be an air of detachment from real life. In a story of real crime we are also concerned with the motive and plotting of the criminal and with the ingenuity and the coincidences which lead to detection, but in it the interest lies in the fact that we know, and keep reminding ourselves, that these things did really happen and in the consequent astonishment and horror which we feel.

The Agra double murder really took place in 1911 and 1912, and the details of it are so amazing that, if they made up the plot of a work of detective fiction, we should dismiss them as being too far-fetched.

Mrs. Fulham slowly poisoned her husband with poisons sent to her by post by her Eurasian lover, Clark, who belonged to the Indian Subordinate Medical Department. Clark, after some unsuccessful attempts to poison his wife, finally had her murdered by hired assassins. The murders were carried out, although several people, including the unfortunate victims themselves, realised that some attempt was being made on their lives. Afterwards, when suspicions were thoroughly aroused, proof was forthcoming in the shape of a box containing four hundred letters from Mrs. Fulham to Clark, which was found under Mrs. Fulham's bed. In these letters details of the plot were fully discussed.

It is the strangeness of the personality revealed through them which have chiefly made it worth while for Sir Cecil Walsh to retell the story, which he does very cleverly and clearly. When one reads these documents with their impatient complaints that the arsenic, which Clark was sending, was doing her "hubby" more good than harm, with their pious exhortations to Heaven, their chatty descriptions of society amongst the subordinate officials of an Indian Plains station, their passionate endearments combined with a kind of coy flirtatiousness, one can only remain lost in wonder at this fresh revelation of the inexhaustible variations of human nature.

J. B. A.

BY THE DEAD SEA.

"**EXPLORATIONS AT SODOM.**" By Melvyn Grove Kyle. (London: The Religious Tract Society. 5s.)

Dr. Kyle, who offered to Biblical scholarship works on "The Problem of the Pentateuch," "Moses and the Monuments" describes in his "Explorations at Sodom" his travels from New York to the Dead Sea. We follow him to Bible Lands, visit with him the Latin Parish House, Kerak and Moab and stay with him in various places of Moab and in the shade of the thorn tree, at

Sodom, on the Dead Sea, till we arrive at the Port of Jericho. Dr. Kyle gives a charming account in eleven letters of his travels, which are full of interest and information.

Apart from keen observations on the present conditions of the country traversed, the chief aim of the book, and also of the archeological mission, is to establish that the great catastrophe of Sodom, as described in the Bible, did actually take place. Dr. Kyle achieved much. He is happy in, and must be congratulated on, his great success, in having been able to confirm the account of Genesis, and to depict the civilisation of the Days of Abraham as represented by the Biblical narrative. The plain was "like the Garden of God before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah." Will the old curse resting on these cities ever be removed, and the ground produce its long hidden treasures?

THE DESERT AND LOVE.

"**THE TIN SHAWL.**" By Marion McClelland. (London: Hurst and Blackett. 7s. 6d.)

A large part of the action in this novel takes place in Paris. There the heroine, having contracted leprosy, through wearing a dirty but beautiful shawl which she had bought in Cairo from an Arab, lives for three years, until she is cured, in a house built for her on her husband's roof. This, however, is really a novel of Egypt, with the descriptions of Cairo and the desert which one expects, and which are, in this case, graphic and competent. The heroine is married to a French artist, to whom his art is more important than she is. In the first chapter she meets in the desert an English Colonel, a strong, silent hero. By the last chapter the artist is dead and they are back in the desert, married and ready to live happily ever after.

J. B. A.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Tamerlane the Earth Shaker." By Harold Lamb. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Egypt in Silhouette." By Trowbridge Hall. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 15s. net.)

"Dreiser Looks at Russia." By Theodore Dreiser. (London: Constable. 5s. net.)

"Town Planning in India." By Linton Bogle. (London: Oxford University Press. 4s. net.)

"Delhi. Its Story and Buildings." By Sir Henry Sharp. (London: Oxford University Press. 4s. net.)

"Some Aspects of the Earliest Social History of India (Pre-Buddhist Ages)." By S. C. Sarkar. (London: Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Nursery Years." By Susan Isaacs. "From Monkey to Man." By L. H. Dudley Buxton. "The Savage as He Really Is." By J. H. Driberg. "Europe Throughout the Ages." By Norman H. Baynes and Eileen Power. Introduction to Modern Knowledge, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4. (George Routledge and Sons. 6d. each net.)

"A Woman of India. Being the Life of Saroj Nalini." By G. S. Dutt. (London: Hogarth Press. 2s. net.)

"A Wild Bird." By Maud Diver. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Legion of the Damned." By Bennett J. Doty. (London: Jonathan Cape. 7s. 6d. net.)

"British Documents on the Origins of the War. 1899-1914. Vol. IV." Edited by G. P. Gooch, D.Litt., F.B.A., and Harold Temperley, Litt.D., F.B.A. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 12s. 6d. net.)

"An Adventurous Journey." By Mrs. Alec-Tweedie. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Cook's Traveller's Handbook, Palestine and Syria. Revised Edition. By Roy Elston. (London: Simkin, Marshall, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"King of the Khorkans." By Hugh Tuite. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Express to Hindustan." By M. H. Ellis. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The History of Government." By Sir Charles Petrie, Bart. (London: Methuen and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"On the Anvil." By L. I. Crawford. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Byzantine Achievement, A.D. 330-1453." By Robert Byron. (London: George Routledge and Sons. 15s. net.)

"The Road to Damascus." By Henrietta Leslie. (London: Messrs. Jarrolds, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 4, 1929 (New Style).

June 21, 1929 (Old Style).

Muharram 26, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Sivan, 20, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Mazloun Pasha, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs in Egypt, left London on June 29 for Paris.

Prince Ali Khan, who has been staying at the Ritz Hotel, left London last week for the country.

The Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, left Bombay on June 29 for England on four months' leave.

Sir Robert and Lady Waley Cohen sailed for New York on June 27. They will be away from London for a month.

Madame Hadji-Mischew had the honour of being received by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on June 26.

Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Strickland returned to the Old Hall, Snettisham, Norfolk, from Gezira, Cairo, on July 1.

The Viscounty conferred on Lord Plumer is gazetted by the title of Viscount Plumer of Messines and of Bilton in the County of York.

The Rev. E. A. B. Royds, recently Civil Chaplain in Baghdad, has been appointed clerical Assistant-Secretary of the Church Pastoral-Aid Society.

Sir John Chancellor, High Commissioner for Palestine, with Lady Chancellor and Miss Rosemary Chancellor, arrived in London last week from Palestine, and are staying at 19, Portman Square.

Dr. Harry Reginald Holland Hall, M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A., Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in the British Museum and formerly Scholar of St. John's College, Oxford, has been elected to an honorary Fellowship at the College.

The Prince of Wales received at St. James's Palace on June 26, on behalf of the King, Sir Reginald Glancy (upon relinquishing his appointment as Agent to the Governor-General in Central India). His Royal Highness subsequently received the Maharaja of Rajpipla.

It was announced in the *London Gazette* that the King has conferred the dignities of Viscount and Earl of the United Kingdom on James Lyle, Viscount Inchcape, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the names, styles and titles of Viscount Glenapp, of Strathnaver in the County of Sutherland, and Earl of Inchcape.

H. E. Shaikh Hafidh Wahba, Minister for Education to the King of the Hijaz, will deliver a lecture on "Wahhabism in Arabia," on Friday, July 5, at 5 p.m., at 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1. (by kind permission of the Royal Asiatic Society). Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby will be in the Chair. The lecture will be delivered in Arabic, but it will be translated and followed by a discussion.

At the University College, Gower Street, W.C., tomorrow afternoon (Friday), at 2.45 p.m., the Petrie Medal for Distinguished Work in Archaeology will be presented by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, on behalf of the Senate, to Sir Aurel Stein, K.C.I.E., (Indian Archaeological Survey), in recognition of his work in Central Asia and Western China. After the presentation, guests will be invited to visit the annual exhibition of the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, showing the antiquities of the Hyksos and Philistine Ages recently discovered by Sir Flinders Petrie and his students at Beth-Pelet, Palestine.

The fourth annual Anglo-Egyptian Students' conference will be opened at 4.30 p.m., on July 5, at Digswell Park, Welwyn North, Hertfordshire. The opening address will be delivered by Abdel Malek Hamza Bey, who succeeds Sesostris Sidarouss Bey as Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires.

Nagadeas Makonnen, Minister of Commerce in the Abyssinian Government, has left Addis Ababa for London, where he will act temporarily as Abyssinian Minister. He is accompanied by a Secretary, M. Hirni, who has recently been studying at Cambridge University.

Prior to the Court held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on June 27, her Majesty received his Highness the Maharaja of Rewa and Colonel his Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala. Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart Patterson, Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India, was in attendance.

At the Honorary and Higher Degrees Graduation Ceremony at the University of Glasgow on June 19, the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the Faculty of Engineering was conferred upon Mr. William Hannah McLean, A.R.T.C., M.Inst.C.E., Drimard, Dunoon, Argyllshire, for a Thesis on "The Wider Applications of the Principles of Town Planning (Regional, National and International Development Planning)." Mr. McLean is the late Engineer-in-Chief of the Alexandria Municipality, Egypt.

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE.

The Mediterranean Fleet left Malta on June 26 for its summer cruise in the Levant, which will last until August 21. As is customary, according to *The Times*, whenever the Fleet puts to sea nowadays, exercises will be held, and while one half of the ships will form the "Red" Fleet under the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir Frederick Field, the others will constitute a "Blue" Fleet under the Second-in-Command, Vice-Admiral W. A. Howard Kelly. The Fleet will afterwards go to the Gulf of Patras until Monday next, when it proceeds to Dragonesti Bay for a week. It will afterwards divide up for visits to various places, and will reassemble off Argostoli from August 10 to 19, where the regattas will be held.

The vessels to take part include Queen Elizabeth, Revenge, Barham, Warspite, Malaya, Royal Oak, Royal Sovereign, and Resolution; the cruisers London, Frobisher, Sussex, Cardiff, Calliope, and Cairo; the aircraft-carrier Courageous, attended by the destroyers Whitehall and Worcester; the Second, Third, and Fourth Destroyer Flotillas; the First Submarine Flotilla; the depot-ship Sandhurst and repair ship Assistance; the Admiral's yacht Bryony, and the hospital ship Maine. The aircraft-carrier Eagle, after refit and recommissioning, is at Gibraltar, and will not leave until July 20 to join in the cruise.

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ADEN FIELD FORCE.

The eleventh annual dinner of the Aden Field Force was held at the Trocadero Restaurant on June 15. Major-General Sir James Stewart presided, and others present were:—

Vice-Admiral W. D. Boyle, Vice-Admiral P. H. Hall-Thompson, Rear-Admiral L. R. Oliphant, Brigadier-General L. N. Beatty, Brigadier-General W. C. Walton, Captain R. Fitzmaurice, R.N., Captain K. A. F. Guy, R.N., Captain A. W. Lewis, R.N., Colonel W. B. Douglas, Colonel A. P. Drayson, Colonel C. V. Ommanney, Colonel A. E. Scott, Colonel R. de Verdon Williams, Paymaster-Commander T. A. Woolf, R.N., Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Arnold, Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Chambers, Lieutenant-Colonel E. P. Cudlip, Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Hills, Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Parkin, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Sealy, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Le F. Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Strong, Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. P. Wood, Major J. B. Andras, Major B. F. Beatson, Major H. Berridge, Major P. T. Blanford, Major J. K. Douglas, Major F. Golding, Major A. W. Nias, Major G. C. Pullman, Major D. T. Richardson, Major W. L. Sandover, Major F. E. Wood, Squadron-Leader C. H. Moore, Captain C. Blamey, Captain G. F. Elmslie, Captain P. B. Hambrow, Captain A. B. Joyce, Lieutenant G. H. Landon, R.N.V.R., Captain P. Lyle, Captain A. G. Matthey, Captain L. C. Pearson, Captain J. Pike, Captain J. A. Prescott, Captain R. V. Proudlock, Captain H. D. Taylor, Captain E. G. Venning, Lieutenant H. A. de Bourcier, Lieutenant F. S. A. Dobson, Lieutenant D. S. Grainger, Lieutenant A. V. Golding, Mr. R. W. C. Dobson, and Mr. G. A. Wright.

TRADITIONAL GAMES OF THE TURKS.

On May 28, Professor J. L. Myres presided over a meeting of the Anthropological Society, at which Mrs. Hasluck read a paper entitled "Traditional Games of the Turks."

The Turks in question are all peasants, and have lived in Asia Minor since the agreement for the Exchange of Populations between Greece and Turkey came into force in 1924 as a sequel to the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, but previously their home was in Western Macedonia. Descended from Asiatic Turks who were imported into Macedonia, with their wives and children, in the early years of the Turkish conquest, they formed an isolated, compact, and homogeneous group of Turkish-speaking peasants whose characteristics could be trusted to be fundamentally Turkish.

Whereas their Christian neighbours were true Continentals in their preference for café life, these agricultural Turks were rather English in their tastes. Cafés, indeed, did not exist in any of their villages until some were built by the Greek refugees who came there in the autumn of 1922. When the Turks were prevented by the rigours of winter from working in their fields, they betook themselves to the village green and engaged in manly sports and amusing games. Of these Mrs. Hasluck had observed thirty-three varieties, which she now classified as athletic, amusing, athletic-cum-amusing, parlour, and children's games. They included wrestling, the long jump (but not the high jump), putting the stone, the "sweir-tree" of Scotland, leap-frog, saddle-my-nag, French-and-English, drop the handkerchief, and various ball games. Wrestling was the prime favourite among the Turks, but the athletic-cum-amusing games also appealed strongly to them by requiring both skill and strength, leaving room for ridiculous accidents, and giving scope for pranks.

Acknowledged *pehlivan*s (champions) wrestled naked except for a pair of breeches specially made from the hide of the humped buffalo and decoratively set with brass nails with large round heads to prevent gripping. Perhaps only a professional wrestler could describe the various twists and turns employed in a match, but nobody English could fail to be struck by the immense amount of time spent by wrestlers on the ground. This was due to the fact that the laws of Turkish wrestling (like those of our own Devon, as Lady Gomme subsequently remarked) require both shoulders to be touched down for a throw. Time and again the under Turk will break away and renew the struggle after an English champion would have been defeated. The Turkish spectators took a breathless interest in matches, but never betted on the result, for Turks of the old school like these ex-Macedonians are faithful to the Prophet's command to abstain from betting.

In conclusion, Mrs. Hasluck recalled the peasant origin of the cricket, hockey, tennis, and baseball on which the English and

American base their claims to be the great sporting nations of the world, and then asked whether the unspoiled Turks whose games she had described were not as truly a sporting people as the English or the Americans.

THE SALONIKA ARMY.

The eighth annual dinner of the Salonika Army and Black Sea Forces was held on June 21 at the Hotel Cecil. Field-Marshal Sir George Milne, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, presided. Among the officers present were:—

Vice-Admiral C. M. Staveley, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Wilson, Lieutenant-General Sir Webb Gillman, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Briggs, Major-General Sir Henry Croker, Major-General Sir John Duncan, Major-General Sir Henry Everett, Major-General Sir George Forestier-Walker, Major-General Sir Maurice Holt, Major-General Sir Charles Mathew, Major-General W. H. S. Nickerson, V.C., Major-General G. Walker, Major-General G. A. Weir; Brigadier-Generals: Thomas Bruce, R. H. Hare, T. N. Howard, C. G. Hunter, E. M. Paul, R. E. Solly-Flood, and B. F. Widdrington; Brigadiers: W. A. Blake and J. L. Furney; Commander H. W. Adams, R.N.; Colonels: W. H. Barrell, R. E. Bickerton, E. T. Birrell, R. W. Bourchier, A. Brough, D. C. Cameron, O. S. Cameron, J. Dewar, R. B. Dutton, Sir Crisp English, R. H. Eustace, J. G. Fleming, A. H. Grubb, P. L. Hanbury, H. E. Joicey, F. S. Montague-Bates, S. F. Newcombe, W. J. Ottley, Sir James Purves-Stewart, A. F. Pery-Knox-Gore, C. F. Sankey, C. A. Smith, F. Stanley, A. Striedinger, H. E. Webb-Bowen, H. C. Wortham, and A. H. Yatman; Lieutenant-Colonels: F. J. Agg, L. S. Amery, M.P., H. F. Byrne, L. Chenevix-Trench, F. P. Dunlop, V. C. Egerton, J. J. Fox, H. P. Garwood, A. B. Hall, J. G. Henderson, J. N. Horlick, T. J. Hutton, W. R. Izat, B. A. Jackson, G. R. Levenson, H. Gordon Mackenzie, R. K. Morcom, A. S. Morgan, K. A. Plimpton, J. A. Rule, W. L. Sorel, H. R. Stevens, E. L. Strutt, E. S. Tidswell, A. C. Vicary, C. B. Walker, G. Guy Waterhouse, and S. G. Willis; and Major Elliot Bell (hon. secretary).

THE SUDAN DINNER CLUB.

The annual dinner of the Sudan Dinner Club was held at the Hotel Victoria on June 25. Those present were:—

General Sir Reginald Wingate; Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Sir K. Cornwallis, Sir James Currie, Sir E. C. Midwinter; Engineer Rear-Admiral W. Scott-Hill Colonels C. R. K. Bacon, M. H. Logan, W. E. Longfield, W. H. McCowan, J. P. Moir, J. K. Watson, R. S. Wilson; Captain E. M. Palmer, R.N. Majors R. B. Black, J. J. Bramble, the Hon. T. P. P. Butler, L. A. Deane, A. G. Lamb, W. St. J. Macartney, G. K. Maurice, R. Micklem, C. S. Northcote, O. H. Warne, M. Wheatley, N. T. Whitehead; Captains L. Bousfield, G. A. H. Buxton, J. Chrystall, J. Goings, C. Maydon, G. McKay, H. C. E. Routh; Messrs. L. E. Bolland, L. Bolton, W. R. C. Bond, C. P. Browne, G. Bramall, G. B. Bridgeman, S. G. Budgett, E. Campbell, W. I. Cheesman, F. H. Cobb, W. P. Cochrane, A. P. Coote, E. N. Corbyn, R. Couldrey, J. D. Craig, N. G. Davidson, R. H. Dun, A. Eastwood, B. W. Echlin, R. E. F. Fawkes, N. Field, A. W. Fraser, H. Fraser, C. Havercroft, H. V. Hawkins, H. P. Hewins, R. Hewison, S. Hillelson, C. G. Hodgson, A. J. C. Huddleston, C. J. Hunter, E. R. Hussey, D. H. Kitchin, J. M. Lee, C. E. Lyall, G. E. Mason, P. Munro, L. F. Nalder, the Hon. H. G. G. Pelham, C. H. J. Piercey, F. G. A. Pinckney, A. S. Redfern, A. E. Robinson, H. B. Sayer, A. W. Skrine, G. R. Storrar, H. Walmsley, H. Wynne; Doctors W. Byam, J. B. Christopherson, E. S. Crispin, G. R. Footner, J. C. N. Harris, V. S. Hodson, and N. E. Waterfield.

A Persian newspaper, *Taraghi*, points out that the commonest expression to be heard in Persia is: "I am overwhelmed with work." This expression, the paper adds, is "the most brazen-faced lie," as it merely entails sitting comfortably before a desk, drinking tea, sipping coffee, and smoking peacefully, while drawing a long bow and occasionally writing a few words. "For this reason ten Persians working for ten days do less work than a single American or Englishman in one day. We are, unfortunately, obliged to admit that we do not yet know what work is and often confuse it with repose, and this in spite of the vigorous incentive constantly administered by our indefatigable and august Sovereign."

Dr. Alan Gardiner and the British School of Archaeology in Egypt have jointly presented to the British Museum the remarkable and unique XIIIth Dynasty Enthronement Ritual papyrus known to Egyptologists as the "Dramatic Papyrus." From the Ostasiatiska Samlingarna at Stockholm comes a gift of Chinese neolithic urns, of the 3rd millennium B.C., excavated by the Director in Kansu, a find of great importance for the relations it suggests between the neolithic culture of North-West China and the contemporary arts of the Near East. There is also a chalcolithic vase from the same district, perhaps a millennium later in date, which has also been acquired.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Yugoslav Minister to Sofia, M. Neshitch, returned to Belgrade at the end of last week from the leave he has been spending abroad.

King Zogu of Albania arrived for a stay in Durazzo on June 26 from Tirana, accompanied by his military and civil staff.

The newly-enthroned Coptic Archbishop of Abyssinia and the recently consecrated Abyssinian Bishops left Cairo on June 18 for Port Said, where they embarked for Jibouti *en route* for Addis Ababa.

The Order of St. John of Jerusalem, headed by the Duke of Connaught as Grand Prior, held its annual festival in London on June 24.

Negotiations for a settlement of the long-drawn Greco-Turkish dispute on the subject of the exchange of populations prescribed by the Treaty of Lausanne are to be resumed in Angora.

M. Diamantopoulos, the Greek delegate on the Mixed Commission, left Athens on June 23 for Angora carrying the Greek Government's instruction to M. Papas, the Minister, for the resumption of negotiations.

Shaikh Abdel Aziz el Bishiri has been appointed Director of the Egyptian Press Bureau in succession to Farid Rifari Bey, who, at his own request, has been transferred to his former post of inspector in the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior.

An exhibition of antiquities recently discovered at Beth-Pelet, Palestine, by the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, under the direction of Professor Sir Flinders Petrie, will be opened at University College, London (Gower Street, W.C.1), from July 8 to 27.

The Air Ministry regrets to announce that as the result of an accident near Luqait, Iraq, to a Wapiti machine of No. 30 Bombing Squadron, Hinaidi, on June 28, Flight-Lieut. Christopher George Halliday, the pilot of the aircraft, was killed. Aircraftsman John Laverty was slightly injured.

According to a Constantinople message the Turkish Public Prosecutor has demanded the death sentence for 35 of the Communists who are being tried at Smyrna. The Communists are accused of having distributed Communist propaganda and having tried to undermine the existing régime.

A boulevard leading from Krassnoselo, a suburb of Sofia, to the village of Boyana has been named "Buxton Brothers Boulevard," in honour of Mr. Noel Buxton, Minister for Agriculture in Mr. MacDonald's Cabinet, Mr. Charles Buxton, the Rev. Harold Buxton, and Mr. Leland Buxton, whose past services to Bulgaria are thus recognised.

It is reported from Cairo that an agreement between the Yaman and Egypt, as well as an agreement between the Yaman and Great Britain, is expected to follow the present visit to Cairo of an official delegation from the Arab kingdom. The delegation is understood to be in touch both with the Egyptian Foreign Office and with Lord Lloyd, the British High Commissioner.

H.E. Sir Abdul Hamid Suliman Pasha, Egyptian Minister of Communications, expects to leave Egypt for Europe on July 22.

The Air Ministry has made a grant of £500 towards the new Y.M.C.A. building serving British airmen in Baghdad.

"The Sands of Egypt," the Newdigate Prize Poem which was won by Miss Phyllis Hartnoll, has been published by Messrs. Basil Blackwell.

A mission for the delimitation of the Perso-Turkish frontier left Teheran for the frontier on June 29. The Turkish mission is reported to have left Angora on the previous day.

Sir Donald Ross was on June 21 presented, at Kensington Town Hall, with the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society's triennial gold medal for his valuable research work in connexion with malaria.

According to Berlin message storms in Yugoslavia last week ruined the harvest in the Sarajevo neighbourhood, in Herzegovina, and in Northern Dalmatia. The railway between Sarajevo and Mostar was destroyed. The damage is estimated at 40,000,000 dinars (£145,000).

A well-known Deputy of the Yugoslav Independent Democrat Party, M. Zeryav, has died in a sanatorium in Slovenia. M. Zeryav was working at the draft of a new Constitution for Yugoslavia, and was trying to bring together Zagreb and Belgrade.

Several important persons were arrested last week in Teheran in connexion with the rising in the Province of Fars. The Minister of Finance, Prince Firooz Mirza, the Nusret-ed-Dowleh, has also been arrested.

The Bulgarian Chamber has adopted by 139 votes to 90 the second reading of the first article of the Amnesty Bill granting an amnesty to the former Liberal Ministers, MM. Radoslavoff and Tontcheff. There is a further proposal to grant an amnesty to the former Minister of Finance in the Agrarian Cabinet, M. Tourlakoff.

King Fuad of Egypt, attended by Hafez Bey Affi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, arrived in Prague on June 26. In the afternoon King Fuad laid a wreath on the Unknown Soldier's grave, and in the evening attended a State banquet given in his honour. The following day he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University. King Fuad left Prague on June 29 for Pilsen.

A third son was born at the Royal Palace, Bled, to the King and Queen of Yugoslavia on June 28. According to Serbian custom, the baby Prince has received the provisional name of Paul, which will be changed for a permanent name when he is officially christened. Like his elder brothers, the new Prince will be a godson of the Duke of York.

On June 24, the Feast of St. Paul, an open-air service was held in Athens on the Areopagus commemorating the Apostle's preaching there. The Archbishop of Athens and numerous bishops officiated. An address was delivered and the cathedral choir sang Byzantine hymns.

For the first time in the history of the American University of Beyrout, the Rector of the Jesuit Faculty attended the "commencement exercises." It is announced that £30,000 has been raised in the United States in response to the recent appeal for funds for the University.

Yugoslav Consulates in Vienna, Budapest, Berlin, Rome, Paris, Bucharest, Prague, Buenos Aires, and Corfu are to be abolished, and new Consulates are to be opened in Hamburg, Bordeaux, Genoa, Pittsburg, and San Paulo, and a new Legation under a *Chargé d'Affaires* in Riga.

The Sultan of Zanzibar, Prince Abdulla, Shaikh Seif bin Suleiman and suite made an extensive tour of Harrods Stores on June 28. Among their many purchases were suit-cases, sticks and umbrellas, boots, shirts, and boating requisites. His Highness has arranged to visit Portsmouth to-day (July 4), motoring from London, accompanied by his son, Seyyid Abdulla and the members of his staff. He will be received with a salute of 21 guns, and will be shown over H.M.S. Victory by the Admiral Superintendent (Rear-Admiral L. A. B. Donaldson). This afternoon the Sultan and party will embark on board H.M. Submarine L5. The submarine will proceed to sea, escorted by the destroyers Wrestler, Tilbury, and Tribune. On arriving in Spithead the submarine will dive and make an attack upon the Wrestler, and will fire torpedoes at her. This evening the Sultan will inspect the Cunard liner Berengaria, and will then motor back to London.

The second secretary of the Turkish Embassy at Washington and the private secretary to the Ambassador are plaintiffs at Camden, New Jersey, in a \$5,000 dollar suite for damages for injuries sustained in a motor-car accident last August.



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The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

NON-ARAB REMAINDERS IN SOUTH ARABIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—In the light of his preconceived view of a single ethnographical framework of Arabia uniform in racial origin and language, Mr. Philby's attempt to explain away the considerable *bloc* of anthropologically and culturally peculiar tribes inhabiting the southern borderlands of Ruba al Khali, is intelligible, but unconvincing.

In his letter of April 16 he witnesses the corrupt races of the Hijaz littoral (the result of a continuous process of contamination which he states to be due to the Pilgrimage, and in the case of Jidda to be largely of recent origin) as a presumptive argument for similar corruptness in South Arabia.

I hold that there is no analogy. The non-Arabs of the Central South have been there from a dim antiquity, the masters of the land, maintaining their physical identity and their own languages. Two of them, the Shahara and Mahra, are mentioned by the earliest Arab writers; the Mahra, in fact, are specifically equated with the Himyarites by Al Autabi, an Omani historian writing nearly a thousand years ago. The Bautahara, maintaining their own language and with whom there is no intermarriage, have a local origin anterior to the Mahra, for the two tribes share a common tradition that the Bautahara were originally driven east from the habitat thereupon, and still, occupied by the Mahra.

Hear also what Burton says:—

"I was desirous . . . to try, by actual observation, the truth of a theory proposed by Colonel W. Sykes, namely, that if tradition be true, in the population of the vast peninsula there must exist certain physiological differences sufficient to warrant our questioning the common origin of the Arab family;" and on the very next page of "The Pilgrimage" (Vol. I pp. 4) Burton states with emphasis, "Finally, I have found proof, to be produced in a future part of this publication, for believing in three distinct races (1) the aborigines of the country, driven like the Bhils and other autochthonic Indians, into the eastern and south-eastern wilds, bordering upon the Ocean (II) etc. (III) etc."

Now when I wrote of "uncontaminated survivals" I was not consciously aware of Burton's conclusions, and had in mind only what I had observed on my journey, namely

- I. indications of a great local antiquity for the *bloc* of unusual tribes,
- II. their palpably different physiological type and distinct dress, betraying no sign of Arab assimilation,
- III. a consciousness shared with the Arab of racial distinctness between them, though in no sense of the word implying that they were foreigners in the land,
- IV. their four several languages, not understood by Arabs, three of them belonging to the Himyaritic group,
- V. their observance of weird customs, different from the Arab ones, throughout an area exactly coinciding with a distribution of an archæological remain, a trilith monument and probably Sabæan relic, which, where inscribed, bore early Himyaritic and not Arabic characters.

Mr. Philby suggests that the racially corrupt Hijaz presents a precisely similar phenomenon.

Does it?

And he hazards a speculation that a common non-Arab influx still going on in the Hijaz has merely come to a stop here in the Central South, in quite modern times, for economic reasons.

But what of the alternative view of Burton, who, incidentally, also knew his Hijaz, the view that the early inhabitants of Arabia were driven to the shores of the south eastern wilds before the wave of Arab invasion from the north? And if Burton held this, Glaser taught it. And now my own slight discoveries, made independently of this knowledge, fulfil the implications of their theories. Dr. Rathjens would appear to be in good company.

Mr. Philby's letter takes me to task for two suggestions in the field of identification:—

- | | | | |
|------|---------------|---|----------|
| (I) | Ahl al Hadara | = | HADORAM |
| (II) | Dhufar | = | DHU AFAR |

As regards No. 1, Mr. Philby rightly observes that HADARA has the meaning, in Arabic, of "downwardness" or "belowness." This is a commonplace; but why limit the significance of the word to a narrow topographical sense, especially when the term here applies exclusively to the inhabitants of a really mountainous part of Arabia? In Mr. Philby's narrow sense of the word almost any other of the low coasts of south and east Arabia have a better right to it e.g., the Jaalan of the Persian Gulf, yet Ahl al Hadara is applied by Omani Arabs exclusively to the inhabitants of the mountainous central south. How comes it, too, that the Qara—later comers—who live in the heart of Ahl al Hadara, are excluded from the group? And finally the Arabs of the low coastal town of Murbat refer to the Mahra inhabitants of the upland steppes as Ahl al Hadara, a negation of that literal definition of the world demanded by Mr. Philby.

Then says Mr. Philby, "Hazarmaveth was the country of the Hadoram from Genesis onwards"—with, I venture to think, some hardihood. But first, à propos of Mr. Philby's conception of Hazarmaveth as a geographical region corresponding with Hadhramaut as we have it to-day, Bent, the most celebrated English traveller to that country has this to say on the subject:—

In the proper acceptance of that term, the . . . Hadhramaut is not a district running along the . . . south-east coast, but is simply a broad valley . . . running for 100 miles to discharge its water . . . into the sea at Saihut. There is every reason to believe that anciently too, the Hadhramaut meant this valley: we learnt from Himyaritic inscriptions that five centuries B.C. the name meant in that tongue the "enclosure or valley of death," a name which in Hebrew form corresponds exactly to that of Hazarmaveth of Chapter 10 of Genesis.

Genesis, Chapter 10, verses 26, 27 show Hazarmaveth and Hadoram to be brothers, the third and fifth sons of Joktan. It is really beside the point whether these names are the names (I) of the generations of the sons of Noah (II) of ancient tribes, or (III) of geographical regions. They may be one or other, but they cannot, in fairness, be an arbitrary two of them, or all three at will. The Genesis version that they were brothers must mean that they were essentially of the same nature, and yet two separate entities. When, therefore, Mr. Philby states that Hazarmaveth is the land, and Hadoram the people who dwelt in it, he is taking leave of Genesis. On the other hand, my discovery of the tribal group called Ahl al Hadara (the "m" is a known form of plural) contiguous with the Hadharim of Hadhramaut seems to me to afford a parallel for the brothers Hazarmaveth and Hadoram placed in close juxtaposition in Genesis. The kinship with Joktan, i.e., Qahtan, need not worry us unduly, as the writer also makes Canaan a son of Ham.

As regards derivation No. 2, Dhufar from Dhu Afar. Mr. Philby has three complaints.

(I) He complains that I have ignored Sephar of Genesis.

As Sephar has been mentioned by Ptolemy, located by Forster, and laboured by every writer since Bent, it is perhaps time that valuable space should not be wasted in continued iteration. Albeit, it no more invalidates any other name for the same region, than the term Iraq is invalidated by Sumer, Akkad, Shinar, Chaldaea, Babylonia or Mesopotamia.

(III) He complains that I ignored the disparity between the letter "dhal" of Dhu and the letter "dha" of Dhufar.

Mr. Philby is mistaken. I pointed this out in my paper to the Oxford Congress as a possible snag, as it seemed to me, in the suggested derivation, only to learn from a celebrated scholar of Semitic languages that this initial letter in this sense is not necessarily so "unfortunate" as Mr. Philby would seem to think.

(III) Mr. Philby's third complaint is that I ignored what he terms an abstruse point, namely that the word on the bases of my derivation would be written DHU'L AFAR not DHU AFAR.

Where is the definite article "AL," asks Mr. Philby. But vain is the net spread in the sight of the bird. There is no article "AL" in these South Arabian languages.

And while I deplore trespassing any longer on your valuable space, Sir, there is yet one other of Mr. Philby's small points which calls for comment. It states that I was never, in the course of my long journey, thirty miles distance from the sea. This is cutting it a little fine by one whose reputation for photographic detail is unrivalled amongst Arabian travellers. Such limitations as that referred to were honourable ones imposed upon me by the physical conditions of Ruba al Khali, whose borderlands Mr. Philby will remember I was hugging. But a man must have water; and even thirty miles—incidentally it was more like 50 miles longitudinally measured from Murbat—involved a six days' stretch without water; and there were no Arab or any other tribes inland of my line of march during this stage of my journey.—I am, etc.,

May 22, Muscat, Arabia.

BERTRAM THOMAS.

IRAQ AND THE WAHHABIS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Your Baghdad Correspondent, writing in your issue of May 16, is rightly furious with me. He is "privileged to have first-hand information of the recent occurrences on the Iraqi-Najd frontier." I wonder what he means, but in any case it is sheer impertinence on the part of your Jidda Correspondent to challenge the accuracy of his first-hand information. Nevertheless, after carefully considering the version he now gives of the affair in question I repeat (and I claim to have the best of reasons for repeating) what I wrote on February 7: "So far as can be gathered there is no reason whatever to connect the recent attack on a motor convoy . . . with the Wahhabis." That is the official attitude of the Hijaz Government, and the British Government appears to have dropped its claim for the punishment of the criminals whose identity cannot now be established owing to the failure of "all the King's aeroplanes and armoured cars and Intelligence Officers to track them down." An accused person is to be presumed innocent until his guilt is proved. It is a pity in these circumstances that your Baghdad Correspondent has not seen fit to place his first-hand information at the disposal of the British authorities when they needed definite facts to go on in bringing the guilty to justice.

His explanation of the long delay in the mobilisation of the Air Force is interesting; but one wonders whether he has ever been in the desert or studied a map thereof when he gaily tells us that the wicked raiders got away over the 70 odd miles that separated the scene of their enormities from the safe refuge of the Najd frontier with 4,500 sheep and 500 donkeys with a start of only 48 hours on the aeroplanes. Some sheep and some donkeys! There can be little doubt of the gullibility of the British newspaper-reading public when it swallows stuff of this kind and seems to like it.

The problem is capable of a much simpler solution than that which appears to commend itself to the Iraqi authorities, and it is to be hoped that the new régime in Iraq (the admirable combination of Sir Gilbert Clayton and Taufiq al Suwaidi, both of whom gave ample evidence of their

good will last August) will give it a trial. The Iraq Government should discourage the immigration into its territories of disgruntled elements from Najd instead of encouraging it, and it should make up its mind finally to send back to Najd those tribal elements which appear to prefer the unsettled conditions of the Iraq frontier-tract to the stricter discipline of Najd where shepherd tribes are safe from all molestation.

Your Baghdad Correspondent represents the tribes as "fighting for their lives against overwhelming odds." He does not tell us exactly what the odds were. But the attackers were about 200 men!

So much for him; and now a word in season for yourself, Sir, in connexion with your "Notes of the Week" of May 9. You say: "From this last fact alone it appears to be abundantly clear that those were absolutely in error who sought, in justifying the hostile attitude of Faisal al Duwish . . . , to lay the blame for the trouble on those officials of the Iraq Government whose one (and whole-time) duty is to preserve peace on the frontier." That to me looks like begging the whole question at issue. As far as the question of the forts is concerned the attitude of Faisal al Duwish was in no way different from the attitude of his King and Government; and whether their attitude was sound or not will presumably be decided when the matter is submitted to arbitration. While continuing to justify that attitude, I am content to await and abide by the result of the proposed arbitration which will decide whether the Iraq Government were justified in building the forts or not. The action taken by King Ibn Saoud against Faisal was in no way intended as a punishment for holding the same views of a particular matter as the King himself, but was due to the fact that Faisal considered himself at liberty to take direct action in spite of the King's decision that the matter should await arbitration. Your Note seems completely to misjudge the real facts of the situation, and it is surely obvious that none of all this trouble would ever have arisen, if the wretched forts (whose practical value is demonstrably nil) had never been built.

I would venture to quote certain remarks made in a very different connexion in the House of Lords recently by Lord Reading, who said: "The reputation of this country for carrying out its obligations in good faith must beyond question be maintained." No one will challenge such a sentiment, but it is of universal application, which is sometimes forgotten.—I am, etc.,

Jidda, May 30.

YOUR JIDDA CORRESPONDENT.

[We are unrepentant. The forts having been built, it is still the patent duty of all British officers in the desert area, even were they to disapprove of the construction of the forts, to work for peace. We have never suggested that there was a difference of opinion between King Ibn Saoud and Faisal al Duwish on the actual forts, but the King's recent treatment of Faisal seems to exonerate us entirely from the charge of begging the question. The forts are one issue; the conduct of Faisal was another. Had it not been Faisal al Duwish who was the main danger to peace, why should he have been punished?—Ed.]

DOCTORS IN GREECE.

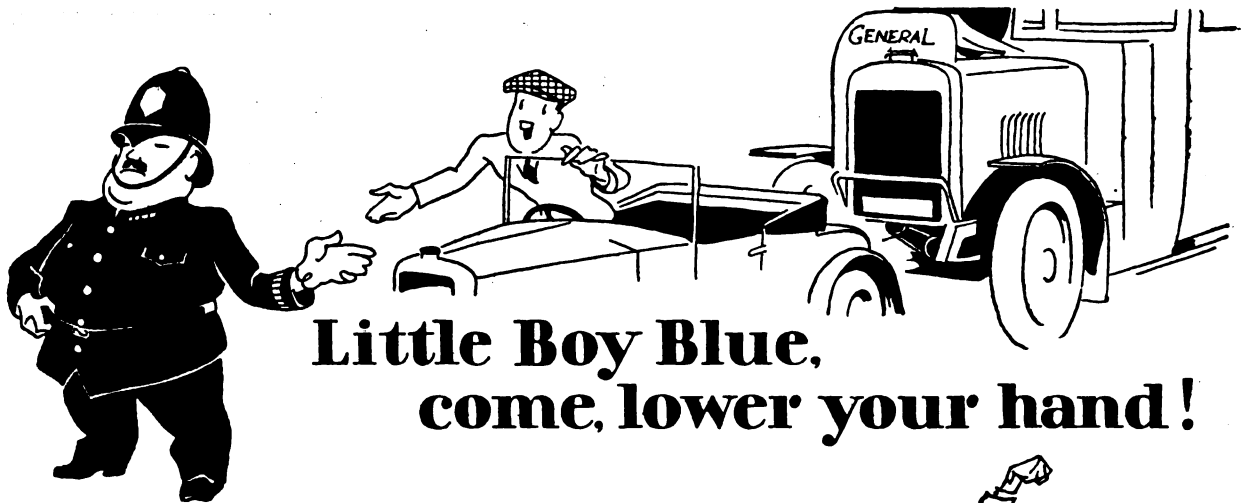
To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—With reference to the remarks contained in your Athens letter in the issue of May 30 about doctors in Greece, you may find the following interesting.

A Vlach friend of mine, who is a *cherlingas*, or sheep-farmer in Greece, was talking to me about the future of his two adolescent sons. "The younger," said he, "is really clever. I think I'll put him into my own job. The other one's a duffer. I think I'll make a doctor of him." And he is doing so.—I am, etc.,

MARGARET HASLUCK.

A Postgraduate Travelling Studentship has been awarded by London University to Mr. Raymond T. Butlin, who proposes to make a phonetic study of the chief dialects of spoken Arabic, and will visit Egypt, Syria, Palestine and possibly Iraq.

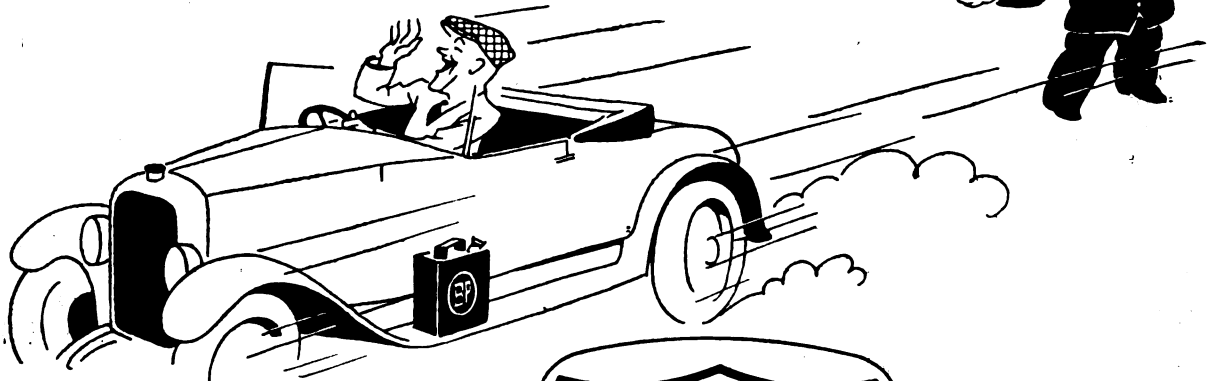


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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Liubliana Samples Fair.

We publish this week two very interesting articles on the recent Liubliana Samples Fair which, as our Liubliana Correspondent shows, was an extremely successful affair and has once again demonstrated that in the Near East the Fair is still an extremely important medium of trade development. This point is evidently in danger of being lost sight of by British firms, as regards the Near East at any rate, for Mr. Mantuani, in a review of the Machine Section of the Fair stresses the extremely poor representation of this country. An outstanding feature was the predominance of German exhibits, while American motor cars, as usual, were well represented. The development of German enterprise in Yugoslavia is very significant, suggesting as it does a determined effort to regain the pre-War position in the Near East. Mr. Mantuani, it may be noted, points out that British goods are favoured in Yugoslavia, and as that is the case it will be a thousand pities if our manufacturers do not take the necessary measures to obtain a satisfactory footing in that market. With the intense international competition which exists at the present time our manufacturers cannot afford to ignore an outlet as promising as Yugoslavia undoubtedly is, and it is nothing less than sheer folly to leave the field to Germany and America.

Conditions in Syria.

The position in Syria during the past year, as in other Near Eastern countries, was dominated by the adverse effect on the crops of the climatic conditions which resulted in the country having to import wheat and flour on a large scale to make good the shortage of the wheat harvest. This was the second bad harvest in succession, and much will naturally depend on the outcome of the current year's crop. In the report of the British Consul-General at Beyrout on conditions in Syria in 1928-29 the remark is made that agriculture in the country merits much more assistance than it has received, but of course no amount of attention to agricultural development will overcome climatic difficulties. It is Syria's great handicap that it is not, and is never likely to be, an important industrial region, though the efforts that the French are making to establish various industries will go some way to placing the country in a stronger economic position. But as the country will always be predominantly agricultural, so there will always be the liability to those recurrent crises which are inevitable in the case of countries which are mainly dependent on the soil. It is interesting to note from the report that, despite the crisis, a great deal of building has been going on in Beyrout, Damascus, and Aleppo, and it is pointed out that there is a danger that this may be overdone with the sequel of a slump in urban real estate.

The Position in Persia.

The trans-Persian railway which is now under construction, was, of course, the subject of reference at the general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia, a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns. Work on the line, Sir Hugh Barnes pointed out, is now proceeding surely, if somewhat slowly. It is reported that a few miles have been opened to traffic in the north, while in the south the line is being completed between Ahwaz and the new port of Khor Musa, which is to be known as Bandar Shapur. In this port it is believed that the Persians have at last acquired a sheltered deep-water harbour, and if this proves to be the case, Bandar Shapur's part in the future trade of the country is likely to be of the greatest importance. Apart from the railway Sir Hugh Barnes was able to point to progress in regard to other means of communication. Thus steady attention has been given to the question of the improvement of the roads which is, of course, one of the great problems to be solved in the development of the country. As regards the outlook, Sir Hugh Barnes stated that the prospects for the current year are not unfavourable, and that the wheat crop in the south is reported to be very good. The promise of the outlook is qualified, however, by the proviso that the disturbances at Shiraz are speedily quelled and order and security restored.

The B.I.F.'s New Home.

The London Section of the British Industries Fair is to be held at Olympia next spring instead of the White City, which has been its home now for a number of years. To provide adequate accommodation for the Fair Olympia is being specially enlarged by the addition of a new four-storey building which will provide as much space as was available at the White City. The whole building will not be completed, however, in time for the next Fair, and there will thus be a temporary reduction of space. It may be pointed out that the 1929 Fair beat all records as regards the number of exhibitors, the space occupied, and the number of buyers from home and abroad. It is satisfactory to know that it will be possible in future years to provide at Olympia whatever accommodation may be required.

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

The Activities of Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited.

The new agricultural research station of Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited, at Jealott's Hill, Warfield, near Maidenhead, was opened on June 28 by Mr. J. H. Thomas, Lord Privy Seal, who is in charge of the Government's measures for dealing with unemployment. The station comprises a farm of 360 acres, of which 160 acres are under cultivation, and a grass holding of 76 acres. Here are the headquarters of the research organization maintained by Imperial Chemical Industries in connexion with the fertilizers which form an important branch of their activities. Laboratories are provided for analytical work of all kinds and for research into such subjects as bear upon the application of fertilizers. The influence of these on crop production is affected by all the many soil and climatic factors on which the growth of plants depends, and a proper understanding of the uses of fertilizers necessitates a study of all these factors. Accordingly the Research Station will be responsible for the investigation of soil fertility in all its aspects both in temperate and in tropical countries, and in relation to all crops of economic importance. Although primarily intended to serve the scientific development of agriculture in Great Britain, and, secondly, to assist the agricultural needs of the British Empire, the sphere of Imperial Chemical Industries is world-wide, and its products as well as the scientific knowledge derived from its investigations are at the disposal of agriculture throughout the world.

As in the case of experimental work in the British Isles, much of the experimental work which is also being conducted under the Company's auspices overseas, both in the British Empire and in foreign countries, is carried out with the active assistance and co-operation of Government agricultural authorities, and educational and research institutions. In India and all the overseas Dominions, as well as in several foreign countries, subsidiary or associated companies of Imperial Chemical Industries are established, whilst branch offices have been opened in some other countries. In most cases technical agricultural officers are employed on the staffs of these subsidiary or associated companies. Working in close association with the Jealott's Hill staff, they are responsible for the conduct of experimental work in the countries in which they are operating. Thus in the Near and Middle East Imperial Chemical Industries are represented in India (covering Burma and Ceylon), where they are in close touch with the official agricultural departments in regard to experiments on the principal crops, and in particular on rice, cotton, sugar and tobacco. The headquarters of the Company in Palestine are at Haifa, and it is engaged in experiments on bananas, citrus fruits, tobacco, vines, tomatoes, olives, wheat, barley, clover and grassland. In Cyprus experiments are being

arranged on cereals, forage crops, vines and citrus fruits; in Iraq experiments are being conducted on wheat, cotton and date palm, partly in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture; in the Sudan the experiments in progress, again partly in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, concern cotton and dura. Finally, in Egypt there is a branch of Imperial Chemical Industries in Cairo, which is responsible for experiments, partly in co-operation with the Egyptian agricultural officials dealing with cotton, wheat, maize and bersim.

It was, therefore, not without significance that among the guests at the opening ceremony on June 28 should be Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud, Prime Minister of Egypt, and Hamza Bey, the new Chargé d'Affaires, and the Staff of the Royal Egyptian Legation. At the luncheon which was the central feature of the opening ceremony, Lord Melchett, Chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, proposing the toast of "Agricultural Research" pointed out that science and research knew no boundaries. They were world-wide, international, interchangeable and co-operative among nations over the entire world and for all humanity. Agricultural skill was the foundation of human prosperity, and Jealott's Hill was intended to be a nerve centre for competent observers all over the world. Mr. J. H. Thomas emphasized the fact that the new Government could be relied upon to be as proud of their heritage as any party that had ever held office. To-day they were prepared to place at the disposal of agricultural interests, not only in this country but also in the Empire, knowledge and science, not alone for mere material gain, but because they knew that ultimately it would benefit the Empire as a whole. Because the laboratories and scientific resources of the Imperial Chemical Industries, with its world-wide ramifications, were doing good work in this direction he was glad to be present.

Speeches of a more technical nature were subsequently given by Sir David Milne-Watson, Sir Frederick Keeble, Mr. John Garton and Sir David Hall. After the luncheon the large gathering dispersed for a detailed inspection of the Research Station, with its laboratories, greenhouses, gardens and orchard. Special demonstrations were given during the afternoon in connexion with grass preservation, grassland management and deep cultivation.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended June 28 amounted to 5,004 tons.

The Roumanian Treasury receipts during May amounted to 2,637,929,688 lei, as against 2,557,989,106 lei for the corresponding month of the previous year.

The total crude oil production of the Roumanian oilfields during May was about 375,000 tons, as compared with 350,000 tons in the previous month and 358,000 tons in May, 1928. The production of the principal companies during the month was as follows (in tons):—Steaua Romana, 68,957; Astra Romana, 56,669; Creditul Minier, 39,765; Rom.-Americana, 38,256; Phoenix Oil, 36,029; Sirius, 33,168; Concordia, 21,361; I.R.D.P., 18,866; Colombia, 15,569; and Petrolul Romanese, 10,718.

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(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

BULGARIA.

Briquetting Factory.—The Administrative Council of State Coal Mines at Pernik, Sofia, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a complete briquetting factory with washing plant, for an output of 30 metric tons of briquettes per hour. August 30. (D.O.T.)

GREECE.

Turntable.—The Hellenic State Railways invite tenders for a railway turntable. Firms interested may obtain further particulars from La Direction, Depot General du Matériel, Chemin de Fer de l'Etat Hellénique, Athenes. July 11.

EGYPT.

Fishery Research Vessel.—The Director-General, Coastguards and Fisheries Administration, Governorate Building, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of a fishery research vessel. September 14.

Filter Chamber, Etc.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the construction of a filter chamber, filters, clean water reservoir and its supplementary works at Giza and Gezira Water Works, Giza. August 3.

Cooling Tower, Etc.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a cooling tower for Seru Pumping and Power Station, August 10; and for the supply and erection of two Diesel pumping units at Bousseli Pumping Station. August 10.

Diesel Engine Alternator.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of an additional Diesel engine alternator for the Zagazig Power Station. August 15. (D.O.T.)

Timber, Etc.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of timber, August 6; mallets, wood and pins, wood, August 10; and paints, resin, tar coal, glue, glass or sand paper and liquid for polishing brass, etc., August 14, for the Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo.

Electric Articles and Lamps.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, No. 2, Sharia El Maleka Nazli, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of electric articles and lamps required during 1929-1930. July 13.

Miscellaneous.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of pipes, cocks, wire, etc., to the Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo (July 22); metal brass, metal copper, metal bronze scrap, tin solder, zinc, etc., to the Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo (August 7); metal iron, cotton waste, white, etc., to the Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo. August 12.

Water Meters.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of rotary and French water meters. July 13. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Bridge.—The Ministry of Public Works, Belgrade invites tenders for the construction of a bridge across the Sava river. July 15. (D.O.T.)

Gas Tubes.—H.M. Consul at Sarayevo (Mr. C. A. Greig) reports that a local firm are desirous of receiving quotations from British manufacturers for the supply of some 15 tons of butt welded (Stumpf geschweisst) black and galvanised gas tubes in sizes ranging from ½ in. to 2 in. (D.O.T.)

A recent Roumanian Royal Decree increased the Customs duty on imported wheat from 60 to 160 paper lei per 100 kilograms. The increased duty is to remain in force until further notice.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

In January last 4,104 private cars and 2,174 trucks and omnibuses were in use in Persia.

Sir Alexander R. Murray, of Tummers, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks, has been elected to a seat on the Board of Lloyds Bank.

By virtue of a recent Decision of the Council of Ministers the export of wine from Roumania is only permitted under a special authorisation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Domains. Moreover, each parcel of wine exported must be accompanied by an analysis and a sealed sample of each wine contained.

The numbers are announced of the scrip certificates of the Roumanian Stabilisation and Development Loan Monopolies Institute Seven per Cent. Guaranteed Sterling Bonds, amounting to £10,100, which have been drawn at the Roumanian Legation, London, for repayment at par on August 1.

The Sudan Plantations Syndicate announces an interim dividend of 10 per cent. (2s. per share), less Sudan business profits tax and subject to British income tax, payable to shareholders registered at the close of July 13. Sudan business profits tax at the rate of 1s. 5½d. in the £ takes 1.7375d. per share, and British income tax at the rate of 2s. 6½d. in the £ 2.8408d. per share, leaving a net payment of 1s. 7.4217d. per share.

The new Customs Agreement between Palestine and Syria, which came into force in June, provides that foreign goods (with certain exceptions) which have paid duty in one country and are exported to the other, unused, within twelve months shall (a) be admitted free when the duty is the same in both countries; (b) pay the difference when the duty is higher in the country of destination; or (c) receive a refund of the difference when the duty is lower in the country of destination. Goods which are wholly produced or manufactured in one country or are wholly manufactured in that country from foreign materials, or partly from foreign materials and partly from local produce, are to be admitted into one other country free of duty. The above provisions do not apply to tobacco and tombac, pure alcohol, spirituous liquors, salt and matches, and any other goods which may be agreed upon between the contracting parties.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Birkenhead, July 19); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matheran for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 9); s.s. Markhor for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 10).

British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 13); s.s. Mundra for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool July 6, Swansea July 9); s.s. Brescia for Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, July 27); s.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool August 3, Swansea August 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 9); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Behar for Calcutta (London, July 19); s.s. Razmak for Bombay (London, July 19).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 3); s.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 13); s.s. Sicilian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus (London, July 20).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Destro for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Swansea July 6, Liverpool July 10, Glasgow July 10); s.s. Mardinian for Gibraltar, Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool July 20, Swansea* July 20); s.s. Oporto for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool July 20, Swansea July 25); s.s. Voluturno for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, July 31); s.s. Algerian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Malta*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 10). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta, Syra and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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LARGE STEAMSHIPS, UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.

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*MASSILIA	...	July 23	†CASTALIA	...	Sept. 10
*ELYSIA	...	Aug. 9	†ASSYRIA	...	Sept. 27

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.

† First and Third class passengers.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLES, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, July 2.

Events in the Stock Markets have been largely dominated by the monetary situation which has been of an abnormal character. The heavy outflow of gold, which has raised fears of an early increase in Bank Rate, has produced weakness in gilt-edged stocks which show substantial declines on the week. The Consol market was also affected by the semi-official issue of £5 millions debentures for the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation and by money requirements for the turn of the half-year. Events in the gilt-edged market set the tone for other sections, where apart from some of the American favourites, which benefited from renewed activity in Wall Street, the general tone was dull. As the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament draws near political uncertainties showed themselves in the markets, though they reflected general uncertainty rather than any fear of what the Government's programme may contain.

Defaulting Underwriters.

Cases have occurred recently of companies being forced into liquidation within a few months of their flotation through the underwriters failing to take up their engagements. The unfortunate investors who subscribed to these concerns find themselves faced with the loss of a substantial proportion of their capital, for the company must necessarily make a forced sale of its assets and the preliminary expenses have to be met. When issues are made by reputable issuing houses the underwriting arrangements are made with some of a small group of well-known institutions who can be implicitly relied upon to honour their obligations. During the boom period, however, the easy profits to be made out of underwriting when things go well and public support is secured, tempted other institutions to enter the field, and it is some of these houses which have been unable to face their commitments when public support is lacking and are causing the present trouble. In many cases, indeed, these underwriters have been very closely connected with the numerous issuing houses which were also formed in the boom period. Although these cases of defaulting underwriters are legacies of the boom period, the severe losses incurred emphasise the importance of investors paying attention to

the name of the house responsible for an issue, for a sound issuing house will have a connexion of reputable underwriters.

A New Trustee Security.

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Ltd., recently made an issue of £5,000,000 5 per cent. debentures, which is an attractive offer in the category of trustee stock. The Corporation was formed a year ago, under the Agricultural Credits Act, 1928, not for the purpose of profit making, but to set up a machinery principally for providing long-term credit to farmers. Ordinary commercial banks are primarily concerned with short-term credit business, hence the creation of this bank to meet the farmers' special requirements. The share capital of £650,000 was subscribed at par by the leading joint stock banks and the Bank of England, and the new institution began properly to function at the beginning of this year. Already applications for loans amounting to £5,000,000 have been made, of which about £2,500,000 have been granted. The Government is intimately associated with the scheme and provides a guarantee fund equal to the capital of the company and also £10,000 a year for ten years towards management expenses. The 5 per cent. debenture stocks were issued at 100, but as the subscription is payable in instalments, the last of which is due on September 4, and a half-yearly dividend is payable on January 1, 1930, the issue price was equivalent to 99½. A sinking fund of ½ per cent. is provided for redemptions, which will be by purchases at par. Final redemption will be on July 1, 1989, but outstanding stock may be redeemed on three months' notice after July, 1959. The stock is a Scottish as well as English Trustee security and the yield of a full £5 per cent. on the issue price is therefore attractive.

Brewery Shares.

The announcement of the fusion of two Brighton breweries serves to draw attention to a market which has been neglected of late. Some investors avoid brewery shares because they fear political interference with the industry. While it is true that the breweries are more likely to be subject to such interference in the shape of restrictions or heavy taxation than most industrial concerns, these shares have attractions for investors prepared to take this risk. In any case, any legislation by the new Government is likely to be preceded by a lengthy inquiry. The well-managed breweries have a good record of maintained or gradually increasing profits in recent years, in spite of the falling off in the consumption of beer, and with an improvement in the industrial situation their earnings should increase. As a general rule, however, recent tendencies in the industry have favoured the larger concerns at the expense of the small breweries relying mainly on their local connexions. The big brewers have dealt with their profits conservatively and have spent large sums on reconditioning or improving their public-houses, which their smaller competitors could not afford. As a result, substantial reserve funds have been built up, in the case of Bass, Ratcliffe and Gretton, for example, amounting to 66 per cent. of the ordinary capital, and 36 per cent. of the deferred in that of Watney's, to quote two examples. Bass ordinary shares return £7 per cent., while on the deferred ordinary of Watney's a return of £6 4s. is obtained. Several breweries have well-secured prior charge stocks, Watney's 3½ per cent. perpetual debentures and Bass 5½ per cent. debentures both yielding £5 9s. per cent.

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To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
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Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
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Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.	MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.	Searle & Co.
COLOMBO—Shrine & Co.	CAPE TOWN—Thomson,
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.	Watson & Co.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Sons.	HONG KONG—The Bank Line,
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.	Ltd.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dann	BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co.,
& Co.	Ltd.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dann	SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros.
& Co.	& Co.
	MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.8.

The interim report of the Assam-Bengal Railway states that the surplus profits for the six months ended September 30, 1928, after allowing for Indian taxation, were £8,985, enabling the Board to declare an interim dividend for the half-year at the rate of 10s. per cent., less tax (after deduction of Dominion income-tax relief) at 2s. in the £. This interim dividend was paid on June 30, together with the guaranteed interest, less income-tax at 4s. in the £, due at that date. The balance at the credit of the surplus profits, after making the above payment, will be £8,845.

Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

Care of Cars.

The result of the great endurance test at Brooklands ended as most engineers expected and every patriotic Englishman wished, in a victory for the Bentleys, although the foreign car made a magnificent bid for success. Of course, those racing cars are kept tuned up to the nines, as the saying is, which is more than can be said about most private cars. Were a competent repair engineer asked in what respect the average motor owner chiefly neglected his car, he would certainly answer that it was in regard to attention to minor parts, under which heading he would include all bolts, nuts, screws, shackles, etc. These are allowed to work loose, or rust into position, with the inevitable result that trouble is bound to occur, sooner or later. Oil, vaseline, or gear-box grease can be used to advantage on all such parts to prevent corrosion, and the use of a spanner, after a run, to replace or tighten up any nuts, adds a great deal to the life of any car.

Sometimes workmen themselves pay insufficient attention to these matters. Personally, I have found nuts far from tight on new cars and motor cycles, and it has often struck me that a more generous use of spring washers might be made. Speaking with regard to shackles in particular, there is no doubt that this was a, perhaps minor, part of car design which did not receive that degree of attention merited by its importance, but so far as I can judge, matters have changed considerably for the better of late, and more particularly is this the case in connexion with the small car. Of course, on the face of it, a shackle is a shackle, and one not accustomed to engineering details would imagine that one design is just about as good as another. Probably their very simplicity has caused them to be neglected. In principle, and, unfortunately, very often in practice, the design of the spring shackle is exactly where it was in the days of the horse-drawn vehicle.

That is so in a large number of cases of car design. But there are signs that the more important functions which the spring shackle has to perform on the automatic vehicle as compared with its function on the horse-drawn vehicle are now being more generally appreciated. Further, I would go as far as to say that these signs are now most marked. Since the springs of a motor-vehicle are subjected to many strains which were never contemplated in the case of the ordinary road vehicle, it seems reasonable that they should be carefully designed to suit exactly its functions. Shackles and spring anchorages have other strains upon them additional to the mere support of the weight of the chassis. Side-sway on corners, unequal rise and fall of the springs, twisting of the spring under some conditions, and, in the case of anchorages, the actual propulsive effort—all these have to be resisted by the shackles or other attachments. All the more reason, therefore, that these should be properly designed in the first place and given during use thorough attention on the part of the motor owner.

Efficiency.

In the motor trades, as in perhaps every other branch of industry, perhaps the most difficult of the many problems which confront the manufacturer to-day is that of still further increasing output without at the same time

increasing labour costs to a disproportionate extent and adding to the overheads.

A good deal has already been accomplished in that direction by decreasing the percentage—always high—of spoiled products, and the simplification and better co-ordination of processes of manufacture has also been the subject of much thought. But it is generally agreed in engineering circles that a complete solution of the problem is only to be found in laying down larger plants of bigger and improved machines.

The output of machines may be increased by adopting higher working speeds, but that is seldom sufficient to meet the case. To make a machine do a greater amount of work in a given time, or the same amount of work in a less time, is to increase the efficiency of that machine. In a number of trades, many machines might be run at a higher speed without incurring the risk of breakdown, and the majority of engineers have long since realised that speeding up must be brought about. Already in our engineering shops we have tools which will work at a far higher speed, and which will remove far more metal at that speed, than would have been thought possible a few years ago. That improvement in working conditions has been brought about by the use of improved steels and steel alloys. An instance may be given in the operation of cold-rolling tin-plate which may be hastened by speeding up the rolls or by increasing the diameter of the rolls, or by both. Getting additional speed out of the stands of cold rolls on the day turn and stopping a few mills on the night turn may effect a saving of both labour and fuel. Every engineer will admit that many machines are running at speeds which practice has determined to be fairly satisfactory, but which are not the most suitable for increased output. Each machine must be known to be operating at its maximum—doing its best. Before all things, constant and uninterrupted operation must be aimed at. A machine is productive only while it is in action. The advantages to be derived from large power units, cranes, conveyers and by-products installation point to larger plants as the way to higher efficiency, even though these may mean more heads of departments and an executive with a wide outlook.

Motor Ships.

The subject of motors and motoring naturally brings up that of motor boats and, secondarily, motor ships. For out-board motors there is no room to spare, but space may be found to say something regarding motor ships. It is generally thought that Britain, relatively, is not progressing so quickly in the production of motor vessels as she should. This statement may be true so far as cargo vessels are concerned, but it does not apply to passenger liners or tankers. Of these vessels there are as many under construction in this country as in the rest of the world combined. According to the *Motor Ship*, there are now 27 motor passenger liners of over 10,000 tons gross being built, and of these 13, totalling nearly 200,000 tons gross, are on the stocks in British yards. During the past two months a considerable number of orders have been placed, totalling well over 200,000 tons deadweight capacity, and of these again, rather more than half, or well over 100,000 tons d.w.c., are building in British yards. Incidentally, they include an order for one of the biggest tankers ever built, a 16,000 ton ship for Scandinavian owners.

MICA AND ALL ELECTRICAL INSULATING MATERIALS

Contractors to the British, American, French and Italian Admiralty and War Office.

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The report of the Egyptian Agricultural Company for the year to March 31, 1929, states that the profit on the agricultural estate amounts to £275, as against £304 last year. The area under cotton was greater than last year, and the yield per feddan heavier, in spite of the crop having suffered from drought and from the attacks of boll worm, but as against this the prices realised were lower. Most of the other crops turned out well. Sales of land during the year amounted to £534.

THE LIUBLIANA SAMPLES FAIR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liubliana, June 12.

The Ninth Liubliana International Samples Fair has turned out to be the most lively, the best attended, and the most picturesque that this little Alpine capital has seen so far. Every stall was taken, the weather was as perfect as late spring (or early summer) can make it, and good business was done. I had the pleasure of taking a few countrymen over the Fair, and my Slovene friends were astonished and delighted when they saw the genuine interest of their visitors. What did they, accustomed to the exhibitions of great cities, see in our little show? For one thing, a bit of the Near East Brought Very Near. Never before have we had so many gay and gorgeous carpet stalls, with every variety of Eastern and Balkan carpet or rug displayed by solemn, fez-wearing "Turks" (i.e., Serbian Muslims) who squatted beside their goods, smoking and absorbing black coffees over their deals. There was an unusually large stock of well-made Bosnian filigree, inexpensive and pretty. There were Croatian and Bosnian embroideries—lots of them and beautiful—and there was Slovene lace. There were Turkish-coffee men and *cevapacici* (small pieces of meat grilled on a spit) stalls—all combining to provide brilliant touches of colour and exotic interest. The military band played very musically, the radio harangued—less so. The deep-toned bronze bells of the Liubliana Machine Works and Foundry boomed a soothing and solemn *basso continuo*, the counterpart in sound to the dark green of the chestnut trees all about the grounds, both of them in a sort of humorous contrast to the clash and clatter and chatter of the Fair.

Apart from the Machine Section (which is dealt with in a separate article), the Furniture Section was by far the most important. It seems incredible that such finished and admirably designed work could be turned out in the small private factories and workshops in and around the chief towns of Slovenia. A great attraction was the Exhibition of the Intermediate Schools of Slovenia. All Yugoslavs have a natural gift for artistic design, and this is carefully fostered by the tradition of Yugoslav home industry, and judicious instruction, or rather encouragement, at school. The poultry and rabbit shows were only small collections of good prize specimens, but of great importance for the development of the national economy of Slovenia. That beautiful province is passing through a slow process of economic reorganisation. There are great possibilities about Slovene industry, but its full development will take time. Each year sees new factories spring up beside her rivers whose reserves of power have so far been scarcely tapped, but much water will run under the bridges before the country's industrial resources can be fully realised. Among its immediate assets there are the important timber industry, cattle breeding, bee-keeping, smallhold farming, dairy farming (Alpine), and the tourist traffic. The first three are old-established and merely keeping up-to-date. But for the rest much remains to be done. The efforts of the Farmers' Association to promote poultry-keeping on modern expert lines and to induce the Slovene small-holder to look upon rabbit-breeding as a lucrative side line, and not merely a hobby for children, are only part of a large general scheme. The material is there. Styrian native poultry breeds compare well with others; but far too little attention is paid to breed by the average farmer. Very much has been done for Slovene dairy farming since 1921. It is too big a chapter for me to do more than refer to it here.

A Summer Resort.

As regards the tourist traffic, the Slovenes are scarcely aware as yet of the real advantages of their country as a holiday resort. It is not a miniature Switzerland, but an Alpine region with a character of its own; even the

three principal mountain groups—the Julian Alps, the Karavanke, and the Stone (Kamnik) or Savinja Alps—have distinct characteristics. The spas and watering places have their own use and attraction, one of them at least (Rimske Toplice) was as well known to the Romans as our own Bath, and Rogashka Slatina (Roitzsch) provides the mineral water with which you are served as a matter of course if you express a doubt in regard to the local ordinary supply. It is prescribed for diseases of the stomach. But as a holiday playground, the mountainous region, most conveniently accessible from Celje or Liubliana, would be very hard to beat. The climate is temperate to cool, and very bracing, except locally in deep valleys. Mountain walks and tramps in all degrees of ease or difficulty are within reach, and for the expert there is first-class rock climbing. Well-appointed Alpine huts of the Slovene Alpine Society and its branches provide cheap and clean accommodation.

The Upper Sava Valley with its many summer resorts rises to just under 900 metres (3,000 feet) above the Adriatic. Unlike a Swiss valley at that altitude, it is open to sun and air, never unpleasantly hot in summer (not even in the sun, as a rule) and pleasantly cold enough for winter sports in winter, but again without touching the extremes of temperature recorded further inland. The Lakes of Bled and Bohinj are too well known for more than mention in this place. So are the fishing and shooting facilities of Slovenia.

Quite the best centre for Alpine Slovenia is Liubliana, the chief town of the province. Liubliana stands in a wide plain, on the Liublianitz, and not far from the Sava. The town itself is a thousand feet above the level of the Adriatic, the park and Castle Hill rise a good three hundred feet above it. Tentacles of the great Slovene pine forests which clothe most of the Inner Carniola and swathe her mountains up to the timber line (somewhere between 1,600 and 1,900 metres, or 5,000 to 7,000 feet) reach down to the ends of the street. In summer the temperature in Liubliana itself is always lower than in Zagreb or in the Dalmatian towns, the difference being anything from five to twelve degrees Celsius. When the average temperature of the day reaches 25 degrees C. we consider ourselves ill-used, and those who can make a bolt of it for the hills or the riverside. But the nights are fresh, and on hot days there is always a cool breeze from the mountains to the north. Other advantages of Liubliana are good hotels, good inexpensive restaurants and "kavarnas" with open air concerts, and convenient

CABLES AND WIRELESS LIMITED.

PLAN dated 14th May, 1929, for merger of interests in Ordinary Stock in The Eastern Telegraph Company Limited, Ordinary Shares in The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company Limited, Ordinary Shares in The Western Telegraph Company Limited, and 7 per Cent. Cumulative Participating Preference Shares, Ordinary Shares of £1 each and Ordinary Shares of 10s. each in Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company Limited.

In Pursuance of the provisions of the above Plan and the Deposit Agreement therein referred to Cables and Wireless Limited hereby certify that the above Plan has become operative and that on and after the evening of the 15th day of July, 1929, the Special Register referred to in such Plan and Deposit Agreement will be closed.

Dated this 26th day of June, 1929.

The Common Seal of Cables and Wireless Limited was hereto affixed in the presence of—

J. C. DENISON-PENDER,

Governor.

EDWARD WILSHAW,

General Manager and Secretary.

Electra House, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.

Note.—The Plan and Deposit Agreement provide that after the 28th day of June, 1929, no one will be entitled to make a deposit under such Deposit Agreement or in any other way to accept the offer of exchange contained in the Plan unless the Company agrees to his so doing. Persons who are desirous of accepting the offer after that date should apply in writing to the Company, who will give them permission to accept subject to such adjustments as may be necessary with regard to dividends. Notice will be given by advertisement in *The Times* and two other newspapers published in London when this permission is withdrawn.

connexion by train or motor omnibus with every part of the mountainous country all around. Until this year the absence of a swimming bath was a real drawback, as far as foreign visitors were concerned. We who live in Liubliana would patronise a pet spot on the Liublianitza or Sava. But this year the Sports Club Ilirija has opened a large and absolutely first class swimming and sun bath close under the woods of Tivoli Park and within ten minutes easy walking of any central point in the town. The bath is large enough for races under international rules. Any one who wishes to sample Alpine Slovenia for a summer holiday resort I should warmly recommend to begin by coming to Liubliana and prospect from there, or even to use it as a headquarters from which to make excursions in all directions.

The Machine Section of the Fair.

By JOE MANTUANI.

Undoubtedly the Liubliana Samples Fair is of greater significance for the development of Yugoslavia's import trade than it is for the country's export abroad. The great majority of the more important exhibits of the machine industry—which was well represented and can always count on good custom in Yugoslavia—were of foreign origin. At first sight the Fair almost gave the impression of being a machine exhibition with interesting side-shows. Good business was done in agricultural machinery, motors and dynamos, mainly from Germany, Austria, and Bohemia; but the beginnings of a native machine industry were also well in evidence. Textile machinery was equally in demand. A considerable number of firms, mostly large works in Austria, Belgium, or (above all) Germany, which was represented by well-known old firms like Kirchner's, exhibited machinery for working up wood. Beside these foreign firms, the Liubliana Machine Works and Foundry showed saws, etc., sufficiently low-priced to compete successfully with foreign saws.

Machinery for the dairy and provision industries was poorly represented. I saw only a few separators and mechanical churns. As a matter of fact, such goods would do better at the Liubliana Autumn Fair early in September, which is more of an agricultural and dairy show. Motor vehicles filled a relatively large section by themselves. Again German makes of all types and kinds. This predominance of German goods is something new, not to say amazing, especially in view of the fact that one would have thought it impossible to oppose anything like successful competition to American automobiles. I ought to point out that in Yugoslavia cars are not taxed according to cylinder capacity, but simply as cars, be they large or small. The price of petrol is steadily going down. At the present moment it is down to 6 dinars (about 5½d.) the litre. And this is what closes the European market to American cars. Higher cylinder capacity tells for higher taxation and more fuel. During the ten years that Yugoslavia has existed various countries have tried in turn to monopolise her automobile market. In this rivalry Italy, France, and Austria were America's most powerful and most serious competitors. Until two years ago Germany was practically an unknown factor. At this last fair Germany, represented by permanent local agencies, exhibited 6 Mercedes cars, 4 Adler, 7 Opel, 1 Audi. Other German makes on view were Brennabor, Hanomag, Wanderer, etc. The motor cycle works of Opel,

"B.M.W.," "D.K.W." were also represented and have their established agencies in Yugoslavia. Of American makes, also represented by various agencies, we saw all types of General Motors, Ltd., vehicles, De Soto-Chrysler cars, Studebaker, Overland, Essex, and finally—of course—Fords. It was interesting to note that the body of a Ford omnibus was made entirely in Yugoslavia. The workmanship was, indeed, quite excellent as regards both carriage building and upholstery. Very interesting and instructive was the bisected model of a 350 c.c.m. Harley-Davidson motor-cycle, exhibited by that firm. British industry was represented by two motor works, "James," Birmingham, and "A.J.S." I have repeatedly referred to the well-deserved popularity of these makes in Yugoslavia. They have proved their merit over the heavy roads of the Banat, where the alluvial soil becomes almost impassable in wet weather, no less than on the hilly roads of Alpine Slovenia. This is the first time we have seen a James car at the Liubliana Fair, but I understand that several good orders were taken. It was a pity that neither B.S.A. nor Rudge-Whitworth exhibited this year. Both makes are very popular over here. Take all in all, the British motor industry was none too well represented at the Fair. I failed to find even a Swift, though the firm has a regular agent in Liubliana. Italian cars were conspicuous by their complete absence. I can suggest no reason for this indifference to the Yugoslav market. Nor were there many French cars. After repeated visits to the fair I discovered two little Renaults, and a Terrot motor cycle with a Jap engine. The Austrian section was large—Daimler, Saurer, Steyr, Puck, and Austro-Fiat all showed very handsome cars, and Steyr had some bicycles as well, which are manufactured in the firm's Yugoslav workshops. F. N. (Belgium) showed a few motor cycles. The Czechoslovak firm of Skoda exhibited models of cars, motor lorries, etc., and incidentally a steam-driven lorry. Skoda is the firm that used to manufacture the guns for the Austro-Hungarian Army during the War. They also turned out the famous motor mortars that demolished the walls of the Belgian fortresses in 1914. To-day the firm produces engines of a more peaceful kind. Its automobiles are very handsome, especially an agricultural tractor, a powerful machine and not too complicated in the working.

As regards the general categories of machines and the shifting of numerical proportions in comparison with past years, I am compelled to report a further falling-off in British imports, the total absence of Italian goods, and a decrease in French. German industry has gained ground enormously; in motor lorries she practically predominates—which means the end of American monopoly in this line. It is clear that she intends to reconquer, commercially, the territory she controlled before the War. Yugoslavia only represents the first stage—and a highly successful one, we must admit—in this campaign. This expansion towards the south-east is all the more intelligible as the west is closed by Italy's powerful native industry and protective tariffs as by a wall. It would be a good thing if British exporters were to keep an eye on this movement. Yugoslavia appreciates British goods and is open to receive them. Internally, the country is now so far consolidated that German industry is venturing freely. I repeat what I have already said, in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA and elsewhere, that the Yugoslav market still offers excellent opportunities and that there is no reason why British firms should not, like those of other countries, establish their own workshops and permanent direct agencies in Yugoslavia.

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The Croat-Slavonian Sugar Company, of Osek, made a net profit last year of 7,067,732 dinars, as against 6,280,300 dinars in 1927. A dividend of 16 per cent. has been declared.

The Secretariat of the European Danube Commission has asked the Governments of Roumania, England, France, and Italy to ratify the issue of a loan of 400,000 gold francs to meet the cost of dredging operations up to July, 1930, and of a loan of 8,500,000 gold francs for extending the dam north of Sulina.

British Consular Reports

I.—SYRIA.

The report of the British Consul-General at Beyrout on the economic situation in Syria in 1928-29 states :—

So far as Beyrout is concerned, the twelve months ended April 30, 1929, may roughly be divided into three periods. Up to the end of August, 1928, there was a distinct crisis which resulted in a number of failures. From that date to the end of 1928 there were no more failures of any importance, but the utmost caution was observed and little business was done. Finally, during the early months of 1929 business was fairly brisk, and the situation seemed to be becoming more normal. This period of recovery was marked by two failures of some importance, but these were not followed by a crop of smaller ones, as had previously happened in similar conditions. There is thus reason to hope that the crisis may have eliminated the weaker firms, leaving those which are better able to encounter difficulties.

As regards the present situation, although money is still short in Beyrout itself, there seems to be a fair amount in other parts of the country, but everything really depends on this year's harvest. If it is a good one, and the indications are that it may be, then conditions should become much more stable. The 1928 harvest was a disastrous one, and that of 1927 was bad. Agriculture is the mainstay of the country, and merits much more assistance than it has hitherto received.

The Aleppo district, being pre-eminently agricultural and pastoral, was badly affected. Crops were reduced by one-half and flocks were decimated. Credit was restricted, and the situation, bad in July, 1928, was at its worst in September, when failures amounting to £70,000 were registered. Nevertheless, the market stood the strain well, and the close of the year brought a more optimistic outlook. Prospects are now described as fair. The prosperity of Damascus, too, is bound up with the weather and the harvest. At present it is hoped that there will be a surplus of wheat available for export, so that the buying power of the population will be substantially increased and a considerable importation of the staple articles will result, but until the harvest is actually gathered, any undue optimism regarding it would be misplaced. The winter rainfall throughout Syria was good, and in some districts above the normal, while, although there was no rain in March and most of April, heavy and general rain fell throughout Syria on April 21, which saved the situation.

Trade Position.

As regards the general trade of the country, imports increased in value by 41 million gold piastres as compared with 1927. The increase in weight was 107 million kilogs. This was not really a matter for congratulation, as, owing to the failure of the harvest, large quantities of wheat and flour had to be imported from Australia, America, and elsewhere for general consumption throughout the country. Even now this importation continues, and several shiploads are expected in the near future. To encourage this importation the duty was reduced by one-half to 5½ per cent. It is a regrettable fact that while the United Kingdom still holds second place, there was a drop of 47 million gold piastres in British imports, which are now but little ahead of those from the United States and Italy. While the United States, with Roumania, Egypt, Iraq, India, Palestine, and Persia improved their position as regards imports, Italy, with Belgium, Turkey, Czechoslovakia, and Japan showed decreases. As regards exports, there was naturally a distinct falling off. On a weight basis they were back to those of 1926, but their value was greater than those of that year to the extent of about 60 million gold piastres. Cotton was a greatly reduced crop, only 35,000 bales of wool were exported, and the export of liquorice was much decreased. Exports

of yellow berries, gall nuts, and wax were less, but prices were favourable.

Building at Beyrout.

So far as outward appearances go, Beyrout, despite its commercial crisis, wears an air of prosperity. Much building and re-building continues, streets are being widened and re-made, and motor traffic is continuous. This year several more streets are to be asphalted. The work will, as last year, be done by a British firm. When one sees the number of new houses, offices, and shops which are constantly being built, one is inclined to wonder how they can ever find tenants. So far, however, they have been occupied as soon as they are ready, and rents have not fallen appreciably. Nevertheless, there is a danger that building will be overdone, and that one day there will be a considerable slump in urban real estate. At Damascus, too, there has been a lot of building in the northern quarters of the city, and the municipality has imposed certain regulations as to the width of roads, drainage, and building material. Beyrout might well follow suit on the last two points, for the much-talked-of drainage scheme has made no progress, while, as regards building material and methods, it is clear that the amalgam of stone, brick, and reinforced concrete, of which even some of the more imposing new buildings are composed, is unsound. Aleppo, also, has seen street improvements and a good deal of building.

Both at Damascus and Beyrout the tramway companies are extending or planning to extend their systems. At Aleppo a good deal of work has been done, and trams are running in certain parts of the town. Owing to high fares the cars seem to be but little used. The tramway company also supplies the electric light. At Damascus the Ain Fijeh water scheme advances steadily, and good progress is being made. Beyrout has long been blessed with a good and abundant water supply. Aleppo, however, has hitherto been permanently short of water in the summer. A scheme for remedying this state of things is under consideration.

As regards extra-urban public works, they have been confined to the making of roads. The Lebanon, although it has a longer road mileage than the other States, is still behind in the matter of surface. Nevertheless, progress is being made with the asphaltting of the main roads running from Beyrout east to Damascus, north to Tripoli, and south to Sidon and Palestine. Also, these main roads are being progressively widened and straightened. Work is proceeding on the improvement of the Beyrout Harbour, and new Customs stores are being erected.

As regards railways the line has been opened to traffic as far as Nisibin. The sleeping-car service to Constantinople via Aleppo has been improved and seems to be popular. Nothing has yet been done in the way of new irrigation schemes, but it is believed that the French High Commissioner has in view something of the sort. His public utterances justify this belief.

The Lebanon summer season was a short one and disappointing. Only about 6,800 visitors came, a number much below that of previous years. On the other hand, the number of spring tourists is on the increase. A good many Christian pilgrimages seem to touch Syria on their way to or from the Holy Land. The route via Syria is also attracting an increasing number of foreign Muslim

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pilgrims. At present they come mainly from Iraq, but when the Persian Government authorises the use of the Syrian route by its subjects there should be a large influx of Persian pilgrims. Muslim pilgrims either travel by land via Palestine from Damascus or from Beyrout by sea. The concession for the sea carriage of pilgrims was this year secured by a British company whose arrangements have given satisfaction. All this coming and going of travellers of all creeds and classes is advantageous to Syria, and especially to Beyrout. What is now wanted are some good hotels. It is understood that certain undertakings propose shortly to remedy this defect so far as Beyrout, Damascus, and Aleppo are concerned.

Industrial Activity at Damascus.

Although Syria can never hope to be a successful industrial country on any large scale, it is interesting to note that there was in 1928 quite an industrial revival at Damascus. This has taken three forms: Increased output of existing factories, formation of associations among small producers, and establishment of new factories on modern lines. Of these latter there are now two, one for silks and one for woollen cloths. There is also a small match factory and another for "pates alimentaires." A first-class tannery, with the best modern equipment and Austrian technicians, produces the finest grades of leather. The trouble will be to find a market for what is produced. Turkey is installing a number of silk-weaving factories, and Palestine is intent on capturing for its industries as much of the Syrian market as it can. In Aleppo weaving looms renewed their activity, and work more and more with artificial silk. Interest is being taken in textile machinery generally. Tanneries are active in making native "morocco" leather. There is a scheme for the erection of a cement factory near Tripoli. If successful, it should diminish the importation of cement from Palestine, which is now considerable.

Home producers seem to be taking more interest in the Syrian market. Damascus reports that travellers' visits are more frequent, and some directors of exporting firms have found it worth while to study the market in person. The same may be said to apply to Beyrout. Unless this interest is taken and the district personally visited, it is difficult to see how British trade can expect to hold its place in face of the keen and ever-growing competition. Italian and other foreign piece-goods are still ousting the British article.

The following figures as to textile goods imported through Beyrout during the last three years are interesting:—

	1926.	1927.	1928.
	Packages.	Packages.	Packages.
Other Countries ...	1,119	1,992	1,269
England ...	4,483	5,864	3,220
France ...	4,393	4,139	3,208
Italy ...	11,882	14,347	11,761
Belgium ...	2,785	3,083	2,033
Via Trieste ...	1,720	2,965	1,960
Via Egypt ...	8,355	7,012	5,321
Total packages ...	34,647	39,402	28,772

At Aleppo British rayon silk is gaining ground, and Indian cotton yarns hold their place. It is satisfactory that a British firm has obtained a good footing in the road-asphalting sphere as in course of time more and more use will be made of this method.

The directors of the Royal Exchange have accepted with regret the resignation of Mr. W. G. Ross, chief cashier to the corporation, who has completed 40 years' service. Mr. R. E. F. Johns has been appointed to succeed him.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended June 1 amounted to Rs.13,45,944, making the total from April 1 Rs.1,15,40,655, as against Rs.1,14,19,485 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

The report of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., for the year ended April 30, 1929, states that after providing for the charges payable in London and Cairo, the accounts show a profit of £100,843 16s. 4d.; the balance of undivided profit brought forward from last account is £6,376 19s. 2d.—£107,220 15s. 6d. From this has to be deducted depreciation of plant, fixtures and fittings at hotels, £7,000, leaving an available balance of £100,220 15s. 6d. The directors recommend: (1) The payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares for the year to April 30, 1929, absorbing £5,750; (2) the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 35 per cent. for the year, £43,750, and a bonus of 4s. per share, £25,000, which will absorb £68,750; (3) to place to special reserve, £20,000—£94,500; leaving a balance to be carried forward of £5,720 15s. 6d.. At a general meeting of the shareholders of the company held in Cairo on April 25, 1929, a resolution was passed recommending that the capital of the company be increased by 100,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. In pursuance of this resolution an extraordinary general meeting has been convened to follow the ordinary general meeting of the company and at this extraordinary general meeting the shareholders will be asked to authorise the increase in the company's capital to the extent mentioned above, and also to approve certain suggested amendments in the articles of association to facilitate the issue of the new shares in the form of share warrants to bearer. By resolution passed at a general meeting of the company held on June 30, 1927, the ordinary share capital of the company was increased by 25,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, and these shares which have not yet been issued, together with the further 100,000 shares mentioned above, when created, will be offered for subscription to the ordinary shareholders of the company at par in the proportion of one new ordinary share for every existing ordinary share held. The offer of these shares for subscription will be made on October 1 next.

PHOENIX OIL AND TRANSPORT.

The report of the Phoenix Oil and Transport Company for 1928 states that the accounts show a net profit of £239,099, as against £223,553 for 1927; and £224,191 was brought forward. Out of the total of £463,290, the directors have decided to transfer £200,000 to investment reserve, to reserve £11,000 against sundry assets, and to write off the expenditure of £2,506 on furniture, fittings, etc. It is proposed to pay a dividend for the year of 6d. per share on the £1 shares and 3.464841d. on the 1s. shares, leaving £142,175 to go forward. The policy of the management during the year was to improve the methods of producing and refining and to effect general economies, no effort being made to increase the output of crude oil, which in fact was lower at 391,108 tons, against 434,897 tons. During the current year drilling activities have been increased, and for the first five months the production was in excess of that for the corresponding period of both 1927 and 1928.

SUDAN SALT.

The statutory report of the Sudan Salt Company states that the company was registered on March 23, 1929, with a nominal capital of £250,000 in 250,000 shares of £1 each, and became entitled to commence business on April 19. The number of shares allotted is 173,000, of which 12,500 were allotted as fully-paid to the vendors and 160,500 for cash. The total amount received by the company in respect of shares allotted for cash is £79,916. Payments to June 13 are as follows:—Remittances to the Sudan and sundry payments in the course of the company's business, £16,661; payment to Sudan Government, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, £10,256; payment to Port Sudan Syndicate under terms of agreement, £350; preliminary expenses, £3,497; interest, exchange, and general expenses, London, £96; leaving cash at bankers and on deposit, £49,513.

SOSPIRO OILFIELDS.

The report of the Sospiro Oilfields, Ltd., for the year ended March last states that the exploration of the extensive oil lands belonging to the Sospiro Societate has been continued during the year by geological survey and also by drilling. In the Cervenia field strong gas pressure has so far prevented the wells which are in drilling reaching production. The geological survey having proved an extensive oil-bearing structure to exist at Upper Cervenia, an exploratory well is about to be drilled. At Piscuri, which is adjacent to the Sospiro properties, two wells have recently been brought into production on a very large scale by other companies, and it is anticipated that the same oil-bearing structure will be found to continue into the Sospiro lands.

Mr. W. S. Highton has been appointed financial manager and secretary to Thos. Cook and Son as from June 26.

An Athens message states that the National Bank of Greece is issuing a second series of 23,333 bonds of a nominal value of 5,000 drachmæ. The subscription price will be 7,000 drachmæ, although the market price is 7,350 drachmæ. The subscription list will be opened on July 8 and will be closed on July 12. Applications will be received in Greece at the National Bank of Greece and in Paris at the Comptoir d'Escompte.

Company Meeting.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

The Trans-Persian Railway.

Sir Hugh Barnes' Speech.

The fortieth ordinary general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held on July 2 at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O. (Chairman), presiding.

The Manager (Mr. Sydney Rogers), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—I think it may be safely assumed that in the past year there has been no diminution of the energy and driving power which has always distinguished His Majesty the Shah, with the result that the modernisation of the structure of the State which has been such a remarkable feature of Persian history since His Majesty's accession has been making steady progress. You will remember that the old commercial treaties with the various European Powers, which conferred on foreigners extra territorial rights, came to an end a year ago. I am quite sure that the Persian authorities desire to exercise their new jurisdiction with fairness and circumspection, but for some time they will be faced with the difficulty of adapting their laws and training their judges and magistrates up to the standard of modern requirements.

The work on the proposed Trans-Persian Railway from the Gulf to the Caspian has been proceeding surely if somewhat slowly. We hear that in the north a few miles of line have recently been opened to traffic and in the south the American engineers are busy completing the line between Ahwaz and the new Persian port at Khor Musa, which is to be given the name of Bandar Shapur. From all we have heard, there seems to be little doubt that in the Khor Musa inlet the Persians have discovered what they have never possessed before, viz., a commodious, sheltered deep-water harbour in the Persian Gulf completely under their own control, which, when it is connected by railway with Teheran and the north, is likely to absorb a very large share of Persia's sea-borne trade.

The position at Mohammerah, the Persian port on the Shatt-ul-Arab, has never been a satisfactory one from the point of view of the

Persian Government, as the Shatt-ul-Arab up to low water mark on the Persian shore belongs to Iraq and the navigation is entirely controlled by the Basrah Port Trust. Beside the railway, other means of communication have not been neglected; the roads have been steadily improved. Other measures of internal reform are being taken in hand, but the two most important events of the year have been the election of Persia in September last as a non-permanent Member of the Council of the League of Nations, a timely and appropriate recognition of Persia's political progress, and the reconciliation of the Persian and Iraq Governments which took place last spring. Previously Persia had always refused to recognise Iraq. Now that friendly relations have been established the way is open for the settlement of several important questions at issue between the two Governments.

As might be expected, the year has not been entirely free from troubles. Early in May a rather serious disturbance, prompted by Communist propaganda, took place at Abadan, but this was quickly and efficiently dealt with by the Persian civil and military authorities and our business was not interfered with.

You will also have seen from the newspapers that a rather grave situation has arisen at Shiraz owing to the truculent attitude assumed by the Kashghai tribe. We know little beyond what has appeared in the telegrams to the Press, and can only hope that His Majesty the Shah with his usual tact and ability will be able to bring about a speedy settlement of the trouble. But the situation is obviously not free from anxiety.

I will now ask you to turn your attention to the figures of the balance-sheet. The total, as you will see, shows some diminution from that of last year. To clarify our accounts to the Inland Revenue Department with whom we have been in consultation, we have, as stated on page 2 of the Report, converted the Persian assets and liabilities into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling on March 20, instead of as hitherto at a fixed rate adopted since 1917, for the purpose of easy comparison year by year.

Our position continues to remain very liquid. Our cash in hand has been augmented by the completion of the coinage contract mentioned last year and to meet the increase in the note circulation of about half a million sterling for which we have to keep adequate reserve in coin. Investments are lower this year by about the same amount, occasioned by the employment of funds in other directions. Bills discounted, etc., are down relatively to the decrease in deposits. In this latter item is reflected the withdrawals by the Persian Government for expenditure on railway construction and in other directions, which, you will remember, I anticipated last year. Bills recoverable show a slight increase, which calls for no particular comment.

In the profit and loss account there is only one figure that calls for any comment, viz., the total. The net profit for the year is £125,955 8s. 10d., as against £135,311 13s. 1d., a reduction of £9,356 4s. 3d. There are, of course, bound to be fluctuations in all businesses, especially in the East where competition is very keen for the business offering, but nevertheless you will doubtless consider the results satisfactory, seeing that whilst we have maintained the dividend unaltered we have written £30,000 off bank premises, and have added £40,000 to reserve, bringing that item to £610,000, or only £40,000 less than the amount of our capital. We have also slightly added to our carry forward.

Assuming that the disturbances at Shiraz are speedily quelled and that order and security are restored, the prospects of the current year are not unfavourable. The wheat crop in the south is reported to be very good, and, as export is now permitted, considerable business should result.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and after the transaction of the usual formal business the meeting terminated.



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to the Secretary

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.07½
Athens	Drachma to £ ...	375	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.85½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.20½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 53 64—55/64
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.93
Bueharest	Lei to £	813.6	817
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.82
Caleutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 53/63 - 55/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1,010½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84 ½—15 16
Paris	Francs to £.....	124.21	123 98
Prague	Kronen to £.....	164.25	163½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.68
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	54½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.50
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 3/16—7/16

YUGOSLAV PORTS DEVELOPMENT.

In the current issue of the *Belgrade Economic Review*, M. Slavko J. Sirishchevitch has an interesting article on "The Possibility of the Development of the Yugoslav Ports." We give the following extracts:—

The Yugoslav coast of the Adriatic is very rich in harbours. In not quite 600 kilometres as the crow flies there are some 360 harbours of different sizes and forms. The greater part of this really large number of harbours are used for purely local purposes, while trading centres of more importance are very limited in number. If we judge their importance, as we must, by the amount of goods which pass through them in a year, we shall find only six ports which have a trade of 100,000 tons or more per annum, and of these only four maintain this quantity regularly while in two cases it is only temporary. These six Yugoslav ports are, from north to south, Shushak, Shibenik, Split, Omish, Metkovitch and Dubrovnik. According to the statistics for 1927 the total traffic of these six ports amounted to 1,953,000 tons, while the traffic of all the other ports excluding the above-mentioned six amounted to 2,234,624 tons, that is to say barely 280,000 tons more, which shows how much more important these six are.

In order that the importance of this trade passing through the ports for Yugoslav foreign trade may be realised it must be pointed out that goods for foreign destinations passing through the ports amounted to 1,700,000 tons in 1927, while the whole foreign trade of the country that year amounted to only 5,197,287 tons and from which it will be seen that the traffic of the ports plays a considerable part in the foreign trade of the country. But this share in the foreign trade is not so great as it should be and could be in view of the extraordinary position of the coast and of the hinterland of these ports.

The most important feature of all Yugoslav ports is their exports. The ports are specially devoted to export traffic. The only exception to this is Shushak where the exports are fairly well balanced with imports. The exports from the Yugoslav ports are mainly bulky articles. The main item of export of all these ports is timber, the greater part of which is timber for building purposes but wood for fuel is also exported through most of them in considerable quantities. Exceptions to this statement are Split and Omish which export scarcely any wood but handle mainly cement and its raw material "Laportza" stone. But besides these three most important articles which together give over one million tons yearly, there are other bulky goods exported such as bauxite (the raw material for aluminium), lignite, artificial manures (calcium cyanide), carbide and other goods.

It is important now to discover whence come the materials for export through the ports. Most of the timber exported from the country goes by sea. Although the sea is comparatively distant and connexions are bad, timber will not stand long transport by land. Besides this most of the big timber concerns are situated near the Adriatic and the most important are in Bosnia. In this direction it will be necessary for the Yugoslav ports to wait until the railways have been built which will enable the exploitation of forests as yet untouched. Some of the exports now passing through Trieste will also be able to be sent through home ports. Cement and laportz stone are quarried on the coast itself near to Split and Omish which accounts for the large export of these products although land transport is so bad. Bauxite is sent by rail to Shibenik from the district close by and nitrogen products, for manures and lighting purposes the products of the great water power of Dalmatia, are sent through Shibenik, Split and Omish. Thus the main trade of these three central ports is in the goods produced by local industry.

The building of railway lines will bring to the ports great quantities of minerals since their construction will enable the exploitation of the vast, hitherto untouched, mineral wealth of the interior. Besides this when railways

have been built many of the other products of the country will be sent via the sea.

Shibenik has grown by 50 per cent. since the War. Split had reached in 1927 a total trade of almost three times that handled in 1913 and Omish has, from a very unimportant per-War harbour grown to be a very important export centre. Metkovitch has considerably diminished, especially because of the silting up of the Neretva River so that larger ships can no longer enter its port. This could be remedied by the dredging and deepening of the river. Dubrovnik has remained about the same as before the War.

CONSTANTINOPLE MUNICIPAL 5 PER CENT. LOAN, 1909.

Meeting of Bondholders.

A meeting of the bondholders of the Constantinople Municipal 5 per cent. Loan of 1909 was held at 8, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., on July 2, under the chairmanship of Lord Revelstoke, to consider an amendment put forward by the Turkish Government to the Agreement in connexion with the loan.

Lord Revelstoke said:—Bondholders who were present at the meeting held at Winchester House on May 14 will recall that at that meeting you expressed your approval of the provisional settlement which had been arrived at as the result of negotiations between the Municipality and Mr. Dickson. That settlement has since been ratified by the Municipality of Constantinople and by the President of the Republic of Turkey. The Government's ratification, however, carries with it the insertion of a new clause similar to a clause which forms part of the recently concluded settlement of the Turkish Public Debt, the effect of which is, shortly, to give the Turkish Government power to interrupt the service of the Public Debt abroad, in the event of unforeseen circumstances making it difficult or impossible for the necessary foreign exchange to be bought in the market. The Turkish Council of Ministers, who dealt with the matter, did not consult your Committee before inserting this new clause, but we understand that the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs did call upon H.M. Ambassador in Constantinople and explained to him that, in view of the powers granted under the Public Debt agreement, they did not feel willing to ratify the Municipal agreement without the addition of a clause granting similar powers. Consequently, although it need hardly be said that we would have preferred that our contract should remain in the state in which you expressed approval of it, we are now faced with an accomplished fact and we have to decide to-day whether we shall accept the agreement, varied as it is by the additional clause, or reject it and so reopen the course of negotiations which had been as we thought, at the cost of so much effort, concluded.

The following is the text of the new clause which it is proposed shall stand part of the agreement:—

"If as laid down by Article 17 of the Agreement dated the 13th June, 1928, signed at Paris for the settlement of State debts, the purchase of foreign currency should be provisionally interrupted either by agreement with the Council of the Public Debt or as a result of arbitration, the Municipality reserves the right to interrupt for a similar period the purchase of sterling exchange provided for by the present agreement. It is understood that even in this case the exchange value of the sterling instalment will be calculated at the rate of exchange for the day and lodged in currency at the Bank by the Municipality."

Your Committee have given the matter their most earnest consideration and the conclusion which they have arrived at is that, although the powers bestowed by these clauses both in the Public Debt agreement and in our agreement are in themselves undesirable from a bondholder's point of view, in our case the consequences of rejecting the ratified agreement might be so serious that we do not feel justified in recommending you to do so.

Subject to any questions which may arise for debate, the Committee recommend that you should adopt the following resolution:—

"That the meeting of holders of bonds and coupons in the Constantinople Municipal 5 per cent. Loan, 1909, accepts the addition to the terms of the Agreement confirmed at the meeting held on May 14, 1929, of a clause in the terms which I have already read out."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 26:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—During the sessions immediately following our last report, the market began to reflect in a more direct manner the consequences of the Government's declaration to auction their holding, and the decision of the employers in both the spinning and weaving sections to serve notices of a reduction in current earnings approximating to 12.82 per cent. As reported last week, at the first auction only 316 bales out of the 1,000 bales submitted were sold; the threat of the release of this stock, however, was sufficient at the present juncture to undermine the morale of those who have held cotton throughout the recent decline; consequently, both the Alexandria and local markets during the latter part of the week were called upon to absorb a considerable amount of unexpected liquidation. As a result of this, new low levels for the season were established, but afterwards an announcement that the Government is postponing sales of their old stock and consistent support through the medium of trade calling have caused a moderate reaction, to-night's close showing a decline of 30 to 17 points for near and 5 points decline to 12 points advance for new crop positions.

Whilst the trade outlook is rather obscured by the wages question, somewhat more business has been attracted by the decline, and in some cases margins show a slight improvement. At the lowest point of the week, our premium over the American contract closed down to about 525 points, a parity that does not appear unreasonable at existing levels, and one at which more business would be attracted were trade conditions normal.

Upper Contract.—Very little change has occurred in this market as a result of the past week's trading. Some heavy liquidation of new crop months yesterday morning caused values to break temporarily; since a recovery to previous levels has occurred, owing to increasing speculative support and to a slight improvement in spinners' activities. The spot basis shows signs of hardening and import houses are buyers of near positions, putting out sales of new crops against their stocks.

Egyptian Spot.

Owing to the further break which has occurred in Sakel prices, business in this growth has been somewhat restricted. We are, however, at the lowest point of the season, which represents a drop of approximately 365 points from the high level touched in March last. With this fact in view, and with the always critical month of July close at hand, it is evident that spinners are keeping in very close touch with the market, and it is significant how, on any appearance of strength on the American side, the spot demand improves out of all proportion to the amount of business doing. Although the sales of Egyptian have fallen off this week slightly as compared with last, this has been more than compensated by the improved demand for Sudan Sakel. The basis for the latter has remained very firm, and most of the business has been done in the medium and lower qualities. The demand looks like improving further. Reports from up-country have shown some slight improvement. The Upper market has been remarkably steady, and the basis for desirable cotton is slowly hardening. The bulk of the inquiry has remained stationary on the quality represented by 10 off to 10 on cotton, with some demand noticeable for cotton up to 40 on. There has been a quantity of very cheap Upper cotton on offer in our market lately, and this, added to the "mixed" cotton which has been such a feature this season, makes it difficult for the average shipper to get on as quickly as he would like to.

Pilion has again been in good request at from 12d. to 12½d., both for spot and shipment, but probably business in the latter has not amounted to very much.

Nahda and White have been in moderate request, but sellers have been inclined to let cotton go.

Maarad has been in fair request, chiefly, however, from one or two special sources. Buyers are very particular and their exact requirements are not easy to fill.

Tokar Sakel.—No improvement has been noticed in the demand for this cotton.

Low and Inferior Cotton.—A moderate business has been done in cotton at from 3d. to 10½d. C.i.f. business has been slow, so far as can be ascertained. Forwardings to the trade last week amounted to 7,073 bales Egyptian and 1,186 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 2,000 bales Egyptian and 1,300 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel have declined 20 to 55 points. Upper and Pilion are just a shade harder on balance. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 15.95d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.28d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.25d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended June 20, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active, but the tendency has been distinctly weak. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaris: July, 31.63 dollars,

1.42 dollars down; November, 32.32 dollars, 1.13 dollars down; January, 32.76 dollars, 1.08 dollars down; March, 33.13 dollars, 1.07 dollars down. Ashmouni: June, 20.50 dollars, 0.40 dollars down; August, 20.83 dollars, 0.30 dollars down; October, 21.32 dollars, 0.29 dollars down; December, 21.80 dollars, 0.28 dollars down; February, 22.18 dollars, 0.05 dollars down.

Sakel.—This market has not shaken off the heaviness to which we alluded in last week's report and quotations have again lost a good deal of ground. Some liquidation of old bull positions, a fair quantity of speculative sales, and very few trade purchases are the direct causes of the decline in prices during the week. Speculative shorts were encouraged to renew their attacks on the market by the decision of the Government to begin, at last, the liquidation of its old stock. The results of the first auction held by the Government on Wednesday last were not altogether satisfactory. Only 316 bales out of the 1,000 offered found buyers, while 684 bales had to be withdrawn, either from lack of bidders or because the Government Commission did not find the prices offered satisfactory. The next sale has been fixed for Wednesday, the 26th inst., and the quantity offered will be 992 bales in 21 lots. It is to be hoped that the present level of prices, which we consider very reasonable, will attract a better demand from spinners, which might help the liquidation of the Government cotton.

The Sakel Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,100 points, against 1,184 points last week and 1,438 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—This market has also reacted slightly in sympathy with Sakel, and, more particularly, with New York. Straddle operations initiated by local operators, and consisting in buying October Uppers and selling November Sakel, have been a sustaining factor. The trade demand has not been marked by any special feature, but while only of moderate volume, it has continued to be very regular and has emanated from all consuming centres. As stated in our previous report, we are of opinion that the market will be governed principally in the near future by the fluctuations of New York.

The Ashmouni American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 263 points, against 286 points last week and 665 points at this time last year.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostri.

Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.

Tel Aviv: Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

Librairie Steimatzky, Avenue Francais.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Baghdad: The Book Shop, New Street.

Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soutanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendo.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.

Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

The week's receipts amount to 3,270 kantars, against exports 129,594 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 2,257,225 kantars.

Spot.—We have had quiet markets during the last week, the total sales being only 7,000 bales, of which we estimate 3,600 B.S. Sakellaridis, 2,600 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 600 bales Pilion, 75 bales White, 65 bales Nahda, and 60 bales Maarad.

Sakellaridis.—There has been more interest shown in Sakel, and there has been some buying of the better grades. Good style cottons of the middle grades are becoming very scarce indeed, and the premiums for these grades have gone up considerably this week.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—Much quieter than last week, with the strongest demand for Fully Good Fair up to Good about. Premiums are much the same as last week.

Pilion.—There has been a very good demand for Fully Good Fair to Good and Good and nice lots are easily sold. Premiums are unchanged.

White.—A small business has been put through, but no great interest is being shown. Premiums are as last week.

Other Varieties.—Neglected, and the only business done has been in one or two lots of Maarad and Nahda.

Crop, 1929.—Despite the rather cool weather and humidity during the nights, the plants are strong and flowering is becoming general. Egg masses of the leaf worm are being destroyed wherever they make their appearance. In Upper Egypt, bolls are beginning to form in advanced plantations. There is nothing particular to report on the subject of irrigation, the supply of water being everywhere sufficient.

The Roumanian import duty on wheat has been increased from 6,000 to 16,000 lei per 10 tons.

THE DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows for the week ended June 30:—

Currants.

The market continues under the influence of the new Australian fruit, and with further arrivals from the Commonwealth to replenish the poor selection of medium qualities on offer, Greek growths remained in a state of apathy, with very little change in the general position. The lower and medium grades were neglected with prices slightly easier, but for best grades values are unchanged, with an occasional sale at from 54s. to 56s. for Choice Bold Shade Dried Vostizza. The small business passing comprises Amalias, 45s.; Zante, 46s. to 46s. 6d.; Gulf, 46s. to 51s.; Vostizza, 54s. to 56s.; and Smalls, 50s. to 52s. S.S. Bactria and Edfou, bringing small quantities, arrived during the month. Quotations:—Pyrgos, 45s.; Amalias and Patras, 45s. to 46s.; Gulf, 46s. to 50s.; Vostizza, 49s. to 56s.; Vostizza, Smalls, 50s. to 52s.

Sultanas.

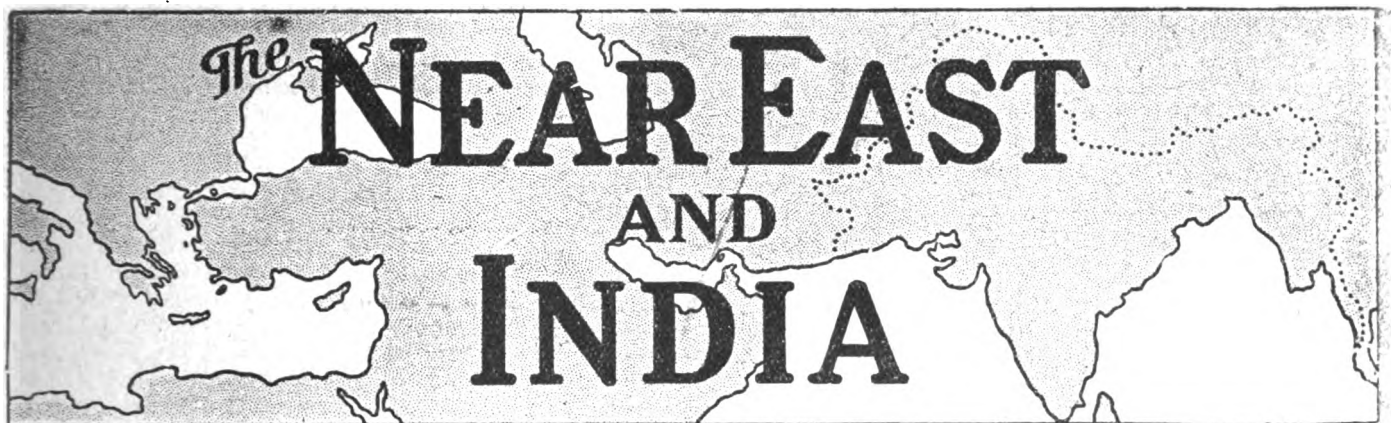
Smyrna.—Are nearly cleared; a few parcels of good quality at 41s. 6d. and Fine at 50s. changed hands. Latest reports of new crop indicate that the coming yield is estimated as likely to reach 55,000 tons, although weather conditions during the next two months will be the dominating factors to be considered. Offers of G.A.Q. quality for September shipment at about 31s. c.i.f. have failed to interest buyers.

Figs.

New Crop Genuines have sold at 22s. 6d. c.i.f. September shipment, and 23s. c.i.f. first half September.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on July 1.		Prices on July 1.		INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on June 12.	
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.			
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	...	81½		Assam-Bengal ...	...	3½ Government Paper ...	...	69½	
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	...	71		Bengal Doonars ...	...	Banks			
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	...	88		Bengal Nagpur ...	...	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	1,440	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	...	82		Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	...	Bank of India ...	...	102	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	...	28½		Nizams Gtd. ...	...	Central Bank of India ...	...	17½	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	...	87		Ottoman (Smy. L. Aid) ...	...	Coal.			
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	...	73½d		Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	...	Barabosi ...	...	5 as	
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	...	73½d		Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	...	Bengal ...	...	47½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	...	55		Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	...	Burrakur ...	...	15½	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	...	70½d		Southern Punjab ...	...	East Indian ...	...	22	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	...	70½d		South Indian ...	...	Equitable ...	...	22½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ...	...	58½d				Pench Valley ...	...	33½	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	...	60		Rubber.		Raneegunge ...	...	45½	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	...	76½		Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	Standard ...	...	60½	
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	...	100½		Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	Cotton.			
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	...	90½		Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	32½	
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	...	103½		Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	762½	
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	...	83½		Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	Bowrah ...	...	322½	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	...	68½		Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	173	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	...	45½		Shipping.		Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	14	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	...	85½		Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	...	Century ...	...	338½	
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	...	105½		Cunard ...	...	Central India ...	...	466½	
India 3½ p.c. ...	...	65½		Furness Withy ...	...	Elgin ...	...	91	
Do. 3 p.c. ...	...	55½		Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	Khatau Makanji ...	...	65	
Do. 3½ p.c. ...	...	99½		P. and O. Deferred ...	...	Muir ...	...	342	
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	...	86½				New Ring ...	...	145	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	...	18		Assam Co. ...	...	Phoenix ...	...	340	
Banks.				Bengal United Tea Ord ...	...	Svadeshi ...	...	406½	
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	...	7½		Bramapootra ...	...	Jute.			
Bank of British West Africa ...	...	4½		British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	Alliance ...	...	545	
Bank of Roumania ...	...	80½		Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	Barnagore ...	...	315	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	...	29½		Caroline ...	...	Budge Budge ...	...	542	
Chartered Bank of India ...	...	19½		Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	Clive ...	...	387½	
Eastern ...	...	6 23/32		Consolidated Estates ...	...	Dalhousie ...	...	550	
Hambros ...	...	10½		Darjeeling Co. ...	...	Delta ...	...	564	
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	...	6½		Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	Fort Gloster ...	...	440½	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	...	11½d		Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	Gourepore ...	...	55 11/16	
Lloyds ...	...	17½		Dooloxram Tea ...	...	Howrah ...	...	690	
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	...	63½		Doom Dooma ...	...	Kamarratty ...	...	560	
Do. B ...	...	33		East Assam ...	...	Kanknarrath ...	...	603½d	
National Bank of Egypt ...	...	34½		Empire of Ind. ...	...	Khardah ...	...	1,065	
National Bank of India ...	...	50		Haleam Tea ...	...	Kinnison ...	...	29½	
Ottoman Bank ...	...	15 9/32		Imperial Ind. ...	...	National ...	...	470½	
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	...	8½		Jhanzie Tea Association ...	...	Standard ...	...	709	
Westminster ...	...	78½		Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	Miscellaneous			
Land.				Jorehaut ...	...	British India Corporation ...	...	3½	
Kassala Cotton ...	...	9½		Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	Bengal Paper Mills ...	...	41½	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	...	5½		Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	...	Bengal Timber Trading ...	...	225	
Sudan Plantations ...	...	4½		New Dimbula ...	...	Burn and Co. ...	...	391	
Mines.				Nedem ...	...	Cawnpore Sugar ...	...	17½	
Salaghat Gold Mining ...	...	5½		Ouvah ...	...	Champaran Sugar ...	...	13	
Burma Corp. ...	...	18 10/16		Pabbojan ...	...	Howrah Oil Mills ...	...	11½	
Champion Reef Gold ...	...	8 4/4		Standard ...	...	ALEXANDRIA			
Mysore ...	...	13½		Scottish Assam ...	...	Prices on June 21, supplied by G.L.			
Nandya ...	...	15½		Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...	Mortero, Alexandria & Cairo.			
Oerogram Gold Mining Ord. ...	...	10½		Upper Assam ...	...	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	£7½	
Oil.				Insurance.		" " " Fond. ...	...	£730	
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	...	2½		General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ...	...	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	£15½	
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	...	413½		London & Lancs (£5, £1½ paid) ...	...	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	1½	
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	...	27½		Royal Exchange (£1) ...	...	Behera Ord. ...	...	££21½	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	...	29 9		Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	...	Ciments d'Egypte ...	...	Frs. 1326	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	...	97½		Trade Indemnity (£10) ...	...	" " " Div. ...	...	186½	
Brit. Burmah ...	...	7½		Miscellaneous.		Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	...	£6 1/8	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	...	49½		Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	Credit Foncier Egyptian ...	...	Frs. 907	
Do. 8½ Cum Pref. ...	...	28½		Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	" " " Fondateur ...	...	£2,550½	
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	...	6		Dunlop Rubber ...	...	Crown Brewery Priv. ...	...	Frs. 144	
Phoenix Oil and Transport f.p.) ...	...	13½		Egyptian Hotels ...	...	Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	...	£3	
Do. (1/-) ...	...	7½		Do. Markets Ord. ...	...	Frigoirique d'Egypte ...	...	£71½	
Shell Transport ...	...	42½		Do. Salt and Soda ...	...	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	...	£16	
Steaua Romana ...	...	11½		Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	...	Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	...	£17½	
				Oriental Telephone ...	...	" " Parts de Fond ...	...	£231	
				Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord. ...	...	Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	...	Pt. 190	
				Waring & Gillow ...	...				



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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	33	INDIAN NOTES ...	35	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLES—		Notes and News ...	51
Persia and Great Britain...	36	The Al Bu Said Dynasty ...	46	Coal Mining in Bulgaria ...	53
SPECIAL LETTERS—		The Central Asian Society's		The Week's Finance ...	55
Turkey ...	37	Dinner ...	48	Economic Conditions in Bulgaria	56
Yugoslavia ...	38	Wahhabism in Arabia ...	49	Engineering Topics ...	57
Egypt ...	39	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	45	British Consular Reports—	
Bulgaria ...	40			2. Smyrna ...	59
Calcutta ...	41			Company Meeting—	
				Egyptian Hotels ...	61
				Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	63

Notes of the Week.

The Dead Sea Salts Concession.

In spite of the fact that the Dead Sea Salts Concession was formally granted by the late Government, the controversy on the subject has not been permitted to die down, and it would appear that attempts are still to be made to challenge the award. With the fabulous value that has been attached in the popular estimate to the chemical contents of the Dead Sea, there is no cause for wonder that all those who have allowed the prospect of obtaining the Concession to be dangled before their eyes should be reluctant to accept disappointment as final and irrevocable. Hence the keen struggle not only up to the moment of the award, but also, seemingly, after the matter is supposed to be a *chose jugée*. The Concession, as it stands granted to-day, comprises a happy combination of mixed interests; of the two concessionaires one is a Palestinian subject, the other is British; the Chairman of the Company to be formed to exploit the Concession, as well as a majority of the Board, will always be British; the capital behind the undertaking will be British, Palestinian, Trans-Jordanian (if subscriptions are forthcoming) and American (in view of the large Jewish-American interests in Palestine). If, therefore, there is to be any further challenge to the Concession, it will be well for the British public to understand on whose behalf the challenge is raised. The unsuccessful tenderers fall into two groups. Behind one, as has been stated in Parliament, stands, or stood, a strong financial syndicate, which regards the Dead Sea as it would a railway line across the Arabian Desert, the Mosul oil-fields, or any other concession that promised a lucrative return; its interest is strictly financial. The second group bases its claim on the purchase, since the War, by two British subjects of a concession granted in 1913 by the Turkish Government to three Ottoman subjects. When the British Government refused to recognise the validity of a pre-War concession granted to enemy subjects, the purchaser, or purchasers, assigned the concession to a third party, an Indian resident in England, who in turn assigned his interest to a French syndicate. To judge from Press references to the subject, the hopes

of all the unsuccessful tenderers are now being raised by reports that the French Syndicate intends to contest the validity of the Dead Sea Concession before The Hague Court.

Under Which Flag?

In order to justify their action in taking up the time of Parliament over a business matter, those who challenged the late Government's good faith and patriotism in connexion with the award of the Dead Sea Concession laid special stress on the necessity of keeping a potentially enormous supply of potash in British hands and free from international control or interference. The value of their professions will be apparent, if they are found to have any hand in the new development now threatened. The French Syndicate was deliberately called into existence by the last purchaser of the Turkish pre-War concession, because, as a British national, he could have no recourse against his own Government before an international tribunal. It was to consist of commercial men "of the highest standing and commercially strong," whose main recommendation was their ability to promise the backing of the French Government of the day, in the persons of M. Briand, M. de Monzie and M. Doumergue. The agreement between the Syndicate and the vendor contemplated the ratification of the concession, whether by The Hague or by negotiation with the British Government, or the grant of a new concession. In either case French control over the exploitation of the Dead Sea salts would be established, the various vendors contenting themselves with such financial interest in the exploitation as they had been able to secure under their agreements. Whether the British and Palestinian Governments could be expected to enforce on a foreign syndicate terms as favourable to Palestine and Trans-Jordan as those which have been embodied in agreements with concessionaires who are actuated by patriotic interest in Palestine and the British Empire no less than by business motives must remain an open question; it is certainly of no concern to any of the British vendors. The French Syndicate is, no doubt, acting strictly within its rights, and it is entitled to contest the

validity of the pre-War Turkish concession at The Hague; but the effect of this development, if it takes place, is to cut the ground away from under the feet of those who have claimed to be inspired by patriotic motives in contesting the grant of the Concession to those who were adjudged to be the most suitable tenderers.

A Treaty Interpretation.

In challenging the Dead Sea Concession the French Syndicate, and the French Government, if, as is understood, the latter has already approached the British Government on the subject, are relying on the verdict of the International Court at The Hague which upheld the concession granted to M. Mavromatis in Palestine that had been overridden in the concession granted by the Palestine Government to M. Rutenberg. Whereas, however, M. Mavromatis could claim to be an Allied and not an enemy subject, there can be no question that the Turkish concession for the extraction of the bromide contained in the waters of the Dead Sea was given to an enemy subject. On this point the Treaty of Lausanne appears to the lay mind to be explicit. Article 73 states that certain classes of contracts concluded between persons who became enemies remain in force, subject to the provisions of the contracts and to the stipulations of the Treaty, but it adds that this Article "does not apply to concessionary contracts." Again, Article 77 states that "contracts between Allied and Turkish nationals concluded after October 30, 1918, remain in force," but the concluding paragraph of the same Article reads: "The provisions of this Article are not applicable either to concessionary contracts or to transfers of concessions." The intention of the Treaty to exclude recognition of pre-War enemy concessions even when transferred to Allied subjects after the War would seem to be clear, and even if one of the Turkish concessionaires happened to be an Arab, it is not apparent how his subsequent citizenship of Syria or Palestine is to change the "enemy" character of the original concession. The French Syndicate, however, claims to believe in the strength of its case and to be supported by the opinion both of the Greek jurist and of the English barrister who advised M. Mavromatis.

Dr. Radoslavoff.

Rightly or wrongly, no Bulgarian, with one possible exception, has been held to be more responsible for his country's misfortunes, arising out of the mistaken policy adopted at the outbreak of the Great War, than Dr. V. Radoslavoff, Prime Minister from July, 1913, to April, 1918. Since the War, Dr. Radoslavoff has been an exile from Bulgaria, but it is now proposed that he should be granted an amnesty and should be allowed to return to his native country. The attitude of most people on this question will be that, if Bulgaria wishes to receive back to her bosom the man who has presumably wronged her more than anyone else, it is her own affair. This, however, does not seem to be the view held in Yugoslavia where the addition of one, in the person of the former Prime Minister, to Bulgaria's population of five million seven hundred thousand inhabitants is regarded as sufficient to turn the scale against Yugoslavia's thirteen million population. The compliment thus paid to Bulgarian prowess in general and to Dr. Radoslavoff in particular will be noted, but it may be doubted whether any other country will be inclined to make such a fuss about a man of seventy-five years of age, who is not likely to find himself much of a hero on his return to end his days in obscurity in Bulgaria. It is true that, if he had been a native of any other Balkan country, Dr. Radoslavoff might have been shot or left to pass the rest of his days in prison. That he should now be amnestied may seem in all the circumstances an act of supererogation, but there can be no doubt that, as an exhibition of Christian charity, it is a solecism in Balkan history. For this reason it is bound to give offence somewhere, and Bulgaria must be prepared to see a large increase in the armed forces of her neighbours in order to protect them against Dr. Radoslavoff.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

Whatever opinions may have been held regarding the wisdom or fairness of the representations made last August by Great Britain and France to the Bulgarian Government, there can be little doubt that the two Great Powers have been well advised to remind simultaneously the Belgrade and Sofia Governments that the tension caused by the recent frontier incidents is viewed with regret, if not with anxiety, outside the two countries concerned. The course of events, during the last year has shown how almost impossible it is to look to either Belgrade or Sofia for the statesmanship necessary to obviate friction between the neighbouring peoples. That the hopes based on the establishment of the Dictatorship have not been realised is not solely the fault of Yugoslavia, for Bulgaria has shown little inclination to let sleeping dogs lie. The Greco-Yugoslav Treaty was received with bad grace by the Bulgarian Press, which was equally uncomplimentary when the Belgrade Government reopened the frontier and proposed a joint conference, which was subsequently held at Pirot. The crowning folly came when two Croat politicians were allowed to make triumphal progress in Bulgaria and to seize the opportunity of inveighing against the Dictatorship. Yugoslavia, on the other hand, failed to ratify the Pirot Agreement and has taken no steps to prevent frontier incidents, by impressing upon officials and gendarmerie that, inasmuch as the Yugoslavs have the frontier that they want, it is to their interest to keep the people contented and to facilitate movement across the frontier. As things are, each fresh incident serves to confirm the unpractical character of the present demarcation, which was enforced at the request of the Serbian authorities. If, therefore, frontier incidents are to continue indefinitely, the Great Powers responsible for the Treaty of Neuilly must sooner or later realize the hopelessness of the boundary line as it now stands drawn, and in the interest of peace in Europe, will have to face the necessity of re-drafting it. The cultivation of a little statesmanship in Belgrade, it might be thought, would make every Yugoslav anxious to show that the Bulgarians have nothing to complain of, but are as free to come and go as if they were not divided by a frontier line from their properties and kinsfolk. What seems to be happening on the Yugoslav side of the frontier is that no opportunity is lost of reminding the Bulgarian population that it is under an alien and unsympathetic jurisdiction. Nationalism run riot and stupidity can go no farther.

The Arabian Nomads.

Unquestionably one of the most considerable achievements of King Ibn Saoud is his attempted solution of the problem of the *Badawin*. As is well known, he long ago started the policy, which has so far proved amazingly successful, of settling bodies of *Ikhwan* in Najd in agricultural villages, and of then persuading the *Badawin*, through the medium of learned Wahhabi shaikhs, that a settled life and the maintenance of good conduct and loyalty towards one's neighbours were pleasing in the sight of Allah. It is now stated that this policy of colonization—a stroke of genius in a king who is himself not of *Badawin* stock—has been extended to the Hijaz, though whether the number of one a month which is reported to be the rate of foundation is correct we do not know. Other details of these new Hijazi colonies are said to be that a settler must consent to sell his camels (with the implication that the nomadic style of existence will be abandoned), that he is given a plot of land, seeds for planting, and the means to build a house, and that the smallest colony is to consist of 2,000 persons. This experiment of *Ikhwan* settlements is intensely interesting, which may conceivably transform the face of the Arabian Peninsula. It was recently stated in the *Umm ul Qura* that a third of the population of Najd is now engaged in agriculture and commerce, and hopes have been expressed that in a few years' time the nomadic life will be a memory in Central Arabia. But the Western observer,

indeed, all students of Arabia, will need more particulars about these settlements before so optimistic a forecast can be wholeheartedly accepted as probable. How far are these settlements really self-supporting? Are these settled *Ikhwan* really cultivating the land, and if so, with what results? We wish to know these things, and it is highly desirable that someone with authority should inform the world of the degree of success which King Ibn Saoud has had in inducing an untractable soil, with a most precarious or tenuous water supply, to yield fresh products. Certainly the Wahhabi King deserves all support and all encouragement both in his negative aim of abolishing the *ghazzu* and in his constructive aim of establishing new settlements; there can be no right-minded man who will not wish him well in his great endeavour.

The Franc-Turkish Accord.

A study of the French and Turkish Press comments upon the agreement which was signed at Angora on June 22 last indicates that a very welcome compromise has been hit upon. If the details of this compromise are worked out in the spirit of good will, there seems little reason why, as is foreshadowed both in Paris and in Constantinople, a Treaty of Friendship should not be signed later on between the French Government and Fethi Bey, French Ambassador in Paris. These details are, in brief: the railway from Mersina to Adana, which since the War has been administered by a French company, is handed over to the Turkish Government, provision being made for specified Syrian rights; the work of the Neutral Commission under General Ernst upon the disputed border region between Nisibin and Jazirat ibn Omar is ratified; common measures are to be taken for security in this frontier region; the properties of optants in Syria and in Turkey are to be the subject of regulation. Both sides are to be congratulated on this sensible arrangement, and it is by no means extravagant to look in the near future for a general liquidation of all questions outstanding between France and Turkey. If France, as Mandatory Power for Syria, is about to enter upon a new era of genuine friendship with Turkey, her neighbour to the south and east of Syria will be the first to congratulate the French and the Syrians upon the change. As far as can be seen at the moment, the interests of the Syrians have been sacrificed in no way in this new accord—it is particularly gratifying to note that the Turks have had the commonsense at last to recognise the justice of the award of the International Commission upon the disputed frontier—and it may be that, as Syrian-Turkish commercial relations improve, so there will come about additional prosperity to Iraq through a much desired development of Iraq-Turkish trade.

Palestine and the League.

The statement which Sir John Chancellor, High Commissioner for Palestine made before the Permanent Mandates Commission on July 5, lacked nothing in optimism. Arab-Jewish relations, he is reported to have said, had considerably improved during the past year: only the Wailing Wall incident had come between the old inhabitants and the new settlers. The attitude of an important section of the Arab population, moreover, was changing—it was now asking for a representative régime. The High Commissioner, however, must know better than anyone else that the Arabs, having gained nothing by non-co-operation, can at least argue that they stand to lose nothing by asking for a Parliament: the request does not necessarily denote a deliberate recognition of the "Jewish National Home." For the rest, Sir John pointed out that Jewish immigration had recently re-started, that the Jerusalem University was rapidly developing, to become a "Jewish intellectual centre of the greatest importance," and that there was encouraging improvement in both agriculture and industry. The High Commissioner's report seems, in fact, to have been painted in the rosiest colours, although reservation was made upon the notori-

ously difficult question of education for Arab and Jew in Palestine. There will be few observers not to share his enthusiasm in regard to Palestine's security and material prosperity, but opinions may conceivably differ on his appreciation of the political situation and of the reality of the change of the Arabs towards the Balfour Declaration. We trust that Sir John is right, but since we hear from official lips every year that Arab hostility to the "Jewish National Home" is diminishing, and since this diminution takes on no very visible form, we can but live in the "larger hope."

INDIAN NOTES.

The Prime Minister's Appeal.

Although India was not directly mentioned in the King's Speech which was laid before the new Parliament on July 3, the obvious reason for the omission was afterwards explained by the Prime Minister in terms which all parties will heartily approve. For as Mr. Baldwin aptly reminded the House later in the same Debate, whatever the divisions on domestic policy may be it is essential for the country and especially for the Empire that it faces the world as a united Parliament. It is beyond the power of any government in the position of the present Administration, without the help and active co-operation of the House of Commons as a whole, to obtain, as he said, "a settlement of the most difficult question of all which lies before us," and which will have to be dealt with when the Report of the Statutory Commission is laid before Parliament. "For that," Mr. Baldwin proceeded, and we cannot do better than give his own words, "we shall want the best work this House can give; that, more than anything else we shall have to face, will be the supreme, the acid and the ultimate test of how fit we are for the democratic conditions under which we work." Mr. Ramsay MacDonald was also brief but equally to the point. After recalling shortly the circumstances in which the Commission—to which "we gave," he added, "not only our confidence but also our hopes"—was appointed he regretted that "influential opinion in India, mass opinion in India, has not been favourable" in spite of the experience which it had since had of its working. After paying a well-merited tribute to the members of the Indian Central Committee, "who have commendably considered it to be their duty to give

(Continued on page 43).

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PERSIA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

It is convenient at times to stand away from the drama that is unfolding itself in the Middle East, and, instead of projecting oneself into this or that event, with sentiments of laudation or of condemnation, calmly to appreciate the general trend of which these separate events are but symbols or to which they are exceptions. In regard to Persia, for instance, which is the best equipped observer: he who gauges Persian friendship towards the British by the recent Anglo-Persian Treaty, or he who puts first the various *démarches* which the Teheran Government has made over certain places in the Persian Gulf? Does the one to some extent cancel out the other? Is the policy being pursued in the Persian Gulf inspired by Persians themselves or by foreigners to Persia? Such are some of the questions which should be answered together, if a comprehensive and adequate view of Persia's present attitude towards the British Empire is to be obtained. First of all, let us look at the facts. It is indisputable, we think, that Great Britain does not stand in Persia where she did. Partly this is her own fault, partly the result of world forces, partly the effect of the surge of Persian nationalism. A number of Persians, probably, have not yet forgotten the cynical agreement which Great Britain came to in 1907 with Russia upon the division of Persia into two respective "spheres of influence"—with a neutral zone between them, which the Germans fast bespattered with their well-known activities. That agreement, however, was purely an opportunist move, which, had it not been spurned by Persians and Bolshevik Russians, would surely have been anathema to the present generation of Englishmen. In any case, it can be but an historical memory to the younger generation of Persian patriots. Their standpoint towards Great Britain would probably be based on the post-War Anglo-Persian Agreement, the upsetting of which they proudly and vividly recollect. How, they now ask, has British policy changed towards Persia since these post-War years? Is it not, or would it not be if it could, in essentials the same? Just as the Russians, they argue, keep their hold on the Caspian Fisheries and a gun-boat at Enzeli, so the British patrol the Persian Gulf and would on the least provocation turn the oil fields of Southern Persia into a Protectorate.

The argument is, of course, nonsense. There is as much danger of Southern Persia's becoming annexed to the British Empire as there is, say, of Alaska's becoming part of it. But the legend of British malevolence obviously persists. How quickly the Persians attributed British instigation to the revolt in the province of Fars, indulging again in the old but apparently inexhaustible story of British rifles, British ammunition, British gold, and so on, found among the insurgents! This particular

attitude of mind towards the revolt was in truth as intelligent as that which discovers Bolshevik conspiracy in every industrial dispute in the British Empire. To those who entertain it it does little enough credit, and to the dispassionate observer it provides a melancholy example of how slow-dying is the old suspicion of Great Britain in Persia. Persians in general are taking long, indeed, to recognise the fundamental truth that the capital problems of their progress are internal, rather than external. They need not look beyond themselves and their own conduct when conservative mountain chiefs rebel against radical town reformers; they need only study their present scientific capacity when they observe—and curse in observing—the development of their country largely in foreign hands. Educated Persians, of course, recognise these things fully, and are doing their best to remedy the unfortunate state of affairs, nor are they behindhand in recognising the great educational value of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in their country. It is upon such men as these that the future of Persia to a considerable extent lies. What, then, is Great Britain doing to meet them?

Unfortunately, there is little sign that Great Britain is alive to her opportunities in Persia. There is a country, pleading for development, hospitable to foreigners, and governed firmly by a man of genius. And yet—England appears to be letting her chances slip by. The prestige of nations other than Russia and England has increased tremendously during the past few years. Of these we may mention but two: France and Germany. Certainly these two Powers cannot be grudging their successes, the one achieved largely in the cultural sense, the other in the commercial sense. But the fact of their position in Persia should be made known to Englishmen. The French colony in Persia has been growing steadily. French nationals operate the wireless in Teheran, and the activities of such institutions as the *Ecoles du Droit*, the *Ecole normale*, the Pasteur Institute, and the Alliance Française, are waxing yearly. Each year, too, a hundred Persian cadets go to St. Cyr, and fifty Persian women to schools in France. Nor is the record of Germany less encouraging from the German point of view. After the War, the German colony in Teheran consisted, we believe, of four persons; now there are 300 Germans in Teheran and over 700 elsewhere in Persia. The commercial penetration of Persia is, in fact, insufficiently realised in Great Britain, but when it is remembered that the Financial Adviser and the chief of the Persian National Bank are both Germans the high place which, largely owing to the energetic work of the German Legation in Teheran, the Germans now occupy in Persia, will perhaps be understood. This success of foreign nations in Persia, other than Persia's neighbours, is not surprising, but at least it might be counterbalanced by a corresponding increase in the position of Great Britain in the Shah's domains. Unhappily, however, the effort made to sustain and increase British prestige there is not consistently made. The support given by Britons to purely British institutions in Persia contracts very unfavourably with that given, say, to American institutions, and the way in which foreign commercial men are supported by their diplomatic representatives in Teheran has had the result of jeopardising the business of British firms. Such a state of affairs, we are convinced, need not exist. What the Persians demand to know is exactly where they stand with Great Britain. A fair and square exchange of views should be made. Essential British interests should be defined, and notice of our intention to maintain them should be given. Unessentials should be sacrificed. So long as there lurks a suspicion that Great Britain lacks sympathy with the Nationalist aspirations of Persia—a suspicion which we sincerely believe to be without real, though perhaps not without ostensible, grounds—so long will British official prestige be scored off by more pliant and adaptable foreigners. If the wood in Persia continues to be obscured by the trees, the British will indeed hardly get out of it!

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Constantinople, June 25.

Disappearance of a Byzantine Church.

Consternation has been caused in artistic and archaeological circles in this city by the destruction within the last few days of one of the oldest Byzantine monuments in Constantinople, the small Church of Saint Thecla, known among Turks by the name of the Mesjid of Toclou Ibrahim Dede, situated on the southern bank of the Golden Horn.

Erected during the reign of Justinian, about fifteen centuries ago, the fabric of the building was restored by the Princess Thecla, elder daughter of the Emperor Theophilus, towards the middle of the ninth century. On the fall of Constantinople, this little gem of Byzantine architecture was converted into a mosque. The mortal remains of some of the defenders of the city against the Turkish hordes found a last resting place in a small enclosure adjacent to the church. For reasons which, as yet, have not been made public and which, in any case, it will be difficult to justify, this venerable little edifice has been razed to the ground by housebreakers within the last fortnight. The protestations of Halil Bey, Curator of the Stamboul Museum, and of some of the leading newspaper editors, have drawn from the Prefecture of the City a feeble explanation to the effect that the Municipal Technical Services, whatever that may mean, were unaware of the projected demolition and arrived on the spot too late to save the structure. Yet, it is not possible for an ordinary citizen to erect or demolish even the smallest garden wall without going through endless formalities at the Prefecture.

The irreparable damage has been done, however, and one can only hope, as suggested by the Deputy for Sivas, who is interested in the old monuments in which Stamboul abounds, that legislative measures may shortly be introduced which will prevent the recurrence of any such act of vandalism in the future by irresponsible Municipal underlings.

Turkish Trade Relations with Russia.

A special Trade Agreement governs the interchange of commodities between Turkey and the territories of the Soviet Republic. The quantity of exportable Turkish produce is regulated by the terms of this instrument, which stipulates that the origin of the goods must be attested by certificates delivered by the respective Chambers of Commerce in both countries. Turkish exporters, for many months past, have been finding it more and more difficult to obtain either payment for merchandise shipped by them to Russia or the equivalent in Russian raw material on a barter basis. The gist of the Russian complaint would appear to be that foreign goods are being surreptitiously exported to Odessa and other Black Sea ports from this country as *bona fide* Turkish produce. The Council of the Turkish Chamber of Com-

merce have protested vehemently against this insinuation, and have gone so far as to accuse the Soviet authorities of bad faith. In the meanwhile, legal proceedings are threatening on both sides; stocks from Anatolia for export to Russia are accumulating in Constantinople warehouses, and commercial intercourse between the two countries have virtually come to a standstill.

The Turco-Russian Trade Agreement expires automatically within the next few months, and several leading Turkish exporters have petitioned the Angora Ministry for its non-renewal. One cannot help feeling sorry for the Turkish export merchant, who is doing his best to carry on legitimate trade with his Russian neighbours; but the Turkish trader is learning to-day only what so many foreign business houses established in Turkey learnt by bitter experience when trading with Southern Russia and the Caucasus some four or five years ago.

Greco-Turkish Relations.

The order which has now been definitely placed by the Turkish Government with Italian shipyards for the construction of certain naval units is scarcely calculated to give an impetus to the slow progress of the Greco-Turkish negotiations. The road to a durable understanding between the two countries cannot possibly be paved with the good intentions of sober-headed statesmen, so long as the irresponsible firebrands on both sides, whether inside or outside the Cabinet, will persist in agitating that red rag to both the Greek and the Turkish bull, the question of naval supremacy in Aegean waters. Incidentally, in order to show to what straits the Turkish Treasury has been reduced in contracting for these vessels with the Italian builders, it is only necessary to state that the latter have agreed to accept, for an order totalling about £1,500,000 sterling, an initial cash payment of £25,000, with subsequent instalments extending over eight years. The British yards—Vickers, Thornycrofts, Yarrow and others—withdrew their offers as soon as the financial aspects of the proposition became known to them, notwithstanding the fact that, in certain instances, their tenders were below those of their foreign competitors.

Franco-Turkish Relations.

At long last an agreement has been reached between France and Turkey over the outstanding differences which have divided them for so long. This agreement, which foreshadows the conclusion at a relatively early date of a Pact of Amity and Conciliation between the two countries, provides, *inter alia*, for:

(a) the rectification of the Turco-Syrian frontier on the basis of the Angora Convention of March 30, 1926, which accorded to Turkey the right of taking such practical measures for the "supervision and protection" of the border-line—which obviously implies a floating population of nomadic tendencies—as the Turkish Government may think fit.

(b) the handing over to Turkey, fifteen days after the ratification of the Agreement, of the Mersina-Tarsus-Adana Railway, at present administered by a French Company, the Turkish Government undertaking to exploit this line and its extension in the direction of Nisibin.

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The Turkish papers are unanimous in regarding the terms of the agreement as in every sense favourable to Turkey. The French, on the other hand, are, no doubt, relieved to be rid of an incubus which has overshadowed and reacted unfavourably on their diplomatic relations with Turkey for several years past.



The Birth of a Prince.

Belgrade, July 4.

The birth of a third son to the King and Queen of Yugoslavia aroused great enthusiasm throughout the whole country, where the personal popularity of the reigning House is still very great. The fact that the Queen was staying in the Summer Palace in Bled in Slovenia at the time has given great satisfaction to the people of Slovenia, who believe that in the circumstances, and in view of the fact that the first son was given a Serbian and the second a Croatian name, the third child will be given a Slovene name. The only difficulty is in finding a Slovenian name which is fairly common and purely Slav. Most of their common names are modifications of German Christian names. The child was born on the anniversary of Vidovdan (St. Vitus' Day), which is the anniversary of the Battle of Kossovo, of two important political murders, including that in 1914 at Sarajevo, which marked the outbreak of the World War and indirectly led to the liberation and union of the South Slav peoples, and of the coming into force of the ill-famed Vidovdan Constitution, which was suspended by King Alexander on January 6 of this year. It is, therefore, suggested that the boy might be given a name relating to one or other of these events, that of Lazar or Dushan, relating to Kossovo, being among the most favoured.

A Belgrade Contract.

Great dissatisfaction is expressed in many circles at the decision of the Belgrade Municipality to entrust the erection of the new electric generating station which is to supply the growing needs of Belgrade and the whole district to a Swiss firm, whose prices were almost double those offered by an English group which competed. No reasons are given for this strange decision, which is all the less comprehensible, as it is likely to discourage British capital, which might otherwise seek an outlet in Yugoslavia and which is essential to the rapid development of the potential wealth of this country and to its economic prosperity. Although the Press is not allowed to write on such matters, charges of corruption are to be heard on every hand in connexion with this award, and this is all the more disappointing, inasmuch as the new régime was expected to suppress corruption and to introduce administration in the interests of the people instead of in the interests of the administrators, as was common here formerly.

Crops and the Weather.

After the unusually severe winter it was expected, unjustifiably enough, that the summer would be a good one. It has, however, been completely marred up to the present by tremendous storms and periods of quite cold weather. As a result of lightning and floods, due to cloud bursts, about 120 peasants are reported to have been killed in various parts of the country, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina having suffered the worst. These usually dry and barrens districts had been looking forward to exceptionally good crops owing to the abundant rain, but

the hail and heavy rain, together with the flooding of the plains, have done enormous damage to the field crops and fruit, and it is feared that in some districts Government help will again be essential to save the population from starvation. This is the fourth successive year that some elemental misfortune has severely affected the population of these districts. Crop reports from other parts of the country, especially the Voivodina and northern Croatia, suggest that, if the weather should now become hot and dry, an exceptionally good yield of wheat and barley and maize may be expected. Very heavy crops of hay have already been stored in those parts of the country mainly concerned with cattle-raising.

Frontier Incidents.

The fact that M. Neshitch, Yugoslav Minister in Sofia, was recalled to Belgrade to report shows that the tension on the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier was very great. In reply to the Bulgarian reports that recent incidents are the result of the repression of the Bulgarian minorities in Yugoslavia the Belgrade Government has issued a report showing that the incident at Vranja, when an attempt was made to blow up a train, was the work of Bulgarian *komitajis*, who escaped across the frontier. Orders were then given that anyone attempting to cross the frontier anywhere except at the recognised crossing places should be captured by the frontier guards, and, if they tried to escape, should be shot down. A few nights afterwards a Serbian peasant woman who wished to rejoin her husband, a refugee living in Bulgaria, accompanied by her father and a guide sent by the husband to show the way by secret paths, was seen by a patrol and challenged. As they refused to answer and ran towards the frontier, they were shot down, all three being killed. The next night, at a spot close by, Bulgarian frontier guards, shooting from Bulgarian territory, killed a Serbian guard, as a patrol was passing along the Serbian side of the frontier. The Serbian patrol is reported not to have answered, but to have withdrawn and reported to headquarters. But when, the next evening, a patrol was again fired at from the same point the fire was returned, one Bulgarian guard being reported killed.

While it is difficult to establish the exact truth regarding such incidents, it is obvious that it is to the interests of Yugoslavia to avoid them, since she is satisfied with her present frontiers and asks nothing better than to be left in peaceful enjoyment of them. On the other hand, the Bulgarians are dissatisfied with the present situation and are willing to adopt any possible means to make it appear that the Bulgarian minorities, and the mixed Serbo-Bulgar population of the frontier regions, are dissatisfied and maltreated. The Yugoslav view is that so long as a Bulgarian Government allows its policy to be dictated by Macedonian *komitajis*, whose very livelihood and power depend on the maintenance of unrest in Yugoslav Macedonia and the creation of frequent frontier incidents, there is little chance of improvement in the situation. Indeed the lack of trust in the Bulgarian Government which this state of affairs has bred in Belgrade and the exasperation caused by these continual incidents on a frontier which they wish to be peaceful, are likely to lead to strong measures again being taken to prevent incidents. It is even possible that the frontier may again be closed and the good done by the Pirot Conference be destroyed. The danger to general peace presented by the tension on this frontier is increased by the fact that Italy is only too ready to intervene, should trouble arise. A series of anti-Yugoslav meetings organised, it is alleged, with Government help at various spots along the Bulgarian frontier recently were addressed by an Italian journalist, Nuri Giannia, who was until recently Press Attaché at the Italian Legation in Sofia. He is stated to have attacked Yugoslavia bitterly and promised Italian support, if the Bulgarians should attempt to secure their rights by the overthrow of the Peace Treaties and modifications of the frontier towards Yugoslavia.



Cairo, June 29.

The New Pension Law.

The series of new laws regulating pensions and cognate matters must have given satisfaction to a large number of officials. The existing legislation was no longer in harmony with the changed condition of things economically, which has come into existence since the War, while even before 1914 its application brought hardship, particularly to the family of the pensioner. Most of these grievances have been removed. For a higher deduction of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as against 5 per cent. of the pay, officials will be able to retire at an earlier age on a higher pension, and their widows and children will be better treated, while special provision is being made for parents and brothers and sisters who are dependent on the official or pensioner. At the same time special legislation has been enacted offering inducements to officials at present in the service to retire before they would do so normally with a view, on the one hand, to relieving the congestion, and, on the other, to enabling the State to make some economies on its present enormous wages and salary bill, which represents 22 per cent. of the total annual budget. It is not thought, however, that many will take advantage of the offer.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From next season the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be properly housed and in a position to accommodate, in a manner befitting its dignity, distinguished foreigners who visit this country, as well as to do the entertaining which its relations with the foreign communities entail. It has long been the subject of much adverse comment that official banquets have to be given by the Government at one or other of the hotels, where also its guests have to be accommodated, and a contrast has frequently been drawn between the lavish manner in which the Legations abroad are equipped and the remarkably bad accommodation which the Foreign Affairs possesses in Cairo.

The Government has recently acquired the palace, at El Insha in the quarter of Cairo quite close to the War Office, of Mohamed Izzet Pasha, husband of the King's aunt, and one of the best known Egyptians in European society. It is a very fine building, where Izzet Pasha has given in the past many a memorable entertainment, and it is fully fitted for the object to which it is intended to put it. The occasion of the sale has been seized by the Princess and her husband to make the very generous proposal to the Government that the new villa in Garden City, which they have purchased with the proceeds of the sale of their palace, shall after their death be sold together with the contents and the money used to build and maintain a free hospital. They only stipulate that four paintings of the Khedive Ismail and his wife Princess Gashm and of Izzet Pasha and his wife, shall be retained and hung in the hospital, and they undertake to constitute a Wakf bringing in £E100 per annum towards the cost of running the hospital.

This is the third public donation of its kind this year, the other two being made by Shaikh Abdel Rahim El Demerdashi Pasha and Mohamed Badrawi Ashur Pasha, and may be regarded as a welcome indication of the change that is gradually taking place in the minds of leading Egyptians in the matter of their duty towards their less

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Haifa	4,945	4,115	5,435

R. B. W. Holmes,
General Manager,
HAIFA.

happily-situated fellow-countrymen, and of their growing consciousness of what public spirit and civic duty mean.

The Mixed Courts.

It has now been definitely decided to promote the President of the Cairo Mixed Court of First Instance, M. Houriet, who is a Swiss, to the new European Counsellorship recently created in the Court of Appeal. It is not known yet who will succeed him, as the next Senior Judge, also a Swiss, M. Peter, is understood to be a candidate for a post attached to the League of Nations at Geneva. The matter will not be settled until the reassembly of the Courts in October, when the Judges will themselves proceed to the election of a President. It has been decided, on the other hand, to allot the European Judgeship thus becoming vacant in the lower Courts to an American, in view of the fact that the United States has complained that it does not consider that it is adequately represented there in contrast with the European Great Powers.

The promulgation of a new Pensions Law has been taken as an opportunity for rectifying the somewhat unfair position in which magistrates of the Mixed Tribunals have been placed in the matter of the calculation of their pensions. Compared with the members of the ordinary Civil Service, who enter at relatively young ages, in many cases Mixed Courts magistrates have been appointed at ages varying from 40 to 50 years—necessarily so, as a magistrate should have had a fair amount of experience of legal work before being given a seat on the Bench. This has meant that by the time they reach the age of retirement Mixed Court magistrates will have a period of service which would give them a pension not at all in proportion with the dignity of the posts they have held. It has, therefore, been decided to increase the period of service of all Mixed Court Judges, who join the Courts after the age of 35—provided they have had no previous service in the Government—by a period equal to one-third of the difference between 35 years and the age at which they were actually nominated to the Courts with a maximum addition of five years. It is laid down, however, that this addition cannot be used to complete the 15 years qualifying for a pension, or the 25 years entitling to retirement before reaching the normal retiring age.

Education in Alexandria.

This week the prize distribution took place at St. Andrew's School under the presidency of Mr. J. B. Barron, who has done and is still doing so much for British education in this country. The Headmaster, Mr. Ripley, had a very good report to make of this institution, which has for the past seventy years been providing

good commercial education for the children of the local British community. It has at present just over 200 boys in attendance, and its pupils are to be found in many of the local commercial houses, all of which speak most highly of the standard of education which this Scottish school affords. Mr. Ripley referred with feeling regret to the retirement of M. Coupson, who had been Frenchmaster for 44 years and had throughout been a tower of strength to the school, and at the close of the proceedings M. Coupson was the recipient of a presentation from the staff as a mark of their high esteem and affection.

The day before this tribute was being paid to a French member of the staff of this British school, a pleasing little ceremony took place at St. Mark's Collège des Frères, where the central figure was an Englishman. The occasion was the official announcement of the result of the recent examinations by the French Consul-General, M. Girieud, who said that he had been authorised by his Government to confer the decoration of Officier d'Instruction Publique on Brother Peter, the senior English master at the College, in recognition of the services he had rendered to education during the 48 years he had been at the Collège des Frères in Alexandria.



Sofia, June 25.

Tension with Yugoslavia.

Since at the recent conference at Pirot the Bulgarian delegation refused to accept the proposals of the Yugoslav delegation on the liquidation of "bilateral properties" and on the establishment along the frontier of a "forbidden zone," and especially since the Sofia Government, replying to the invitation of the Council of the League of Nations, according to the *démarche* of Dr. Stresemann at Geneva, addressed to the Committee of Three a special memorandum in which it explained its point of view on the protection of minorities and in which, in a very correct but very clever way, M. Bourroff raised in its entirety the whole problem of Bulgarian minorities, relations between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria have become strained. During the last few days great tension has existed. This tension has been particularly aggravated since the attack on Vranska-Banya on the railway from Nish to Skoplye, which the Yugoslavs tried, wrongly, to attribute to Bulgarian *komitajis*, and also since the visit of the squadron of Italian hydroplanes to Varna. These Italian aviators made some rather impetuous speeches, in which the Yugoslavs, equally wrongly, detect an Italian-Bulgarian friendship directed against Yugoslavia. They have, therefore, set themselves to persecute the Bulgarian population in the regions of Tsaribrod and Bossilégrad, which were detached from Bulgaria in 1919 and reattached to Yugoslavia for strategic reasons. The Yugoslavs claim that it was by this route that the *komitajis* went to attack the Serbian railway. They are, therefore, arresting the inhabitants, and beating and killing right and left, even those who had decided to leave their homes and to settle in Bulgaria. Every day there comes news of fresh murders of Bulgarians on the frontier or in the neighbourhood, and every day the Bulgarian public is thrown into new alarm. Naturally apprehension exists. The Press engages in interminable polemics. Thus the two Governments are reaching danger point.

It is to be hoped, however, that the Great Powers will intervene, and avoid disastrous complications between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.



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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, June 20.

The Secretary of State.

England, on hearing that Captain Wedgwood Benn was to be the new Secretary of State for India, would naturally feel that she must give him her blessing, and hope that he would do well. Those of the English in India who follow Indian affairs closely, and such of those affairs particularly as are transacted in the British House of Commons, if I may put it so, will remember Captain Wedgwood Benn's record as one readier than others to put a question to the Under-Secretary of State, perhaps too, a question prompted by a malcontent. Probably too they will recall that he was readier than others to speak at the time of the annual Indian debate, and will wonder if he is one of those who Lord Morley declared once were a danger from their being so disposed towards India as to let their hearts govern their actions rather than their heads—their hearts that are always hotter than their heads are cool. Captain Wedgwood Benn was once a member of the Liberal Party. We are familiar, from Rudyard Kipling's writings and our own observation, with a school of Liberal politicians and its ingercence in the affairs of non-British races in lands, as the Sudan and India, flown over by the Union Jack, and we have grown beware of them. They may not do as much mischief as they are seen to do, when they are looked at through the Kipling spectacles; for there are always cooler heads near to check and control them. But to any of them one would say, as one would now say to the new Secretary of State for India, that a warm heart is a poorer guide in abstruse politics than a cool head. It is easy, so far away from the spot as Whitehall, to take deeply mistaken views of Indian affairs.

Dominion Status for India.

We are promised an announcement regarding India in the King's Speech. If it is merely the announcement that the inquiry begun under the late Administration will be completed, and legislation then proposed to Parliament, there will be no harm in it; but if it is a declaration of policy, worse still if it is a declaration in favour of unqualified Dominion Status for India, as in one quarter is suggested on the authority, it is stated, of a Cabinet Minister, then all one can say will be that it was a premature act to take. What one would welcome most would be the announcement that half a dozen or so leading Indian politicians were to be invited to proceed to England for a conference with the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State. The Statutory Commission, we have recently been informed by cable, has been moved by the result of the British General Election, and the prospect of having, not a Conservative, but a Labour Government, to which to submit its report, to a quickening of its interests in the Nehru Report, the cablegram even giving the detail that the members of the Commission had been supplied with copies of the Report. If the members did not furnish themselves with copies as soon as it was published, all one can say is that they were none of them fit to be members. But one cannot believe that they did not furnish themselves with copies. Sir John Simon would surely see to as much as that. But he also is a Liberal politician; one is left with very little faith in them; they have always tended to be doctrinaires, and the doctrinaire is a nuisance in politics. To return to the question of Dominion Status in India, a writer in the *New Statesman*, an organ not ill-disposed to the Labour Party, and presumably one with some influence in its counsels, if not an openly acknowledged influence, recently had this: "The politicians of India are disputing amongst themselves just now as to whether they should demand 'Dominion Status' or immediate 'full independence.' That they have not the slightest chance of achieving

either in the foreseeable future is a fact which they seem to have overlooked." That is to go too far in the other direction, but it may be taken as showing that the "hot-hearts" will not have things all their own way, or according to their own sweet will. They really must not be allowed to have it.

Extension of Term of Legislature.

Mr. N. C. Kelkar is reported as having said, speaking of the Congress decision to boycott the legislatures, that he could only regret that Pandit Motilal Nehru should "debase and abuse the dictatorial power that he had secured in the inner counsels of the Congress." "It is an unsound policy," he is also reported to have said, "to offer a gratuitous opportunity to our enemies . . . to widen the basis of opposition to the Nehru Report. I say it is gratuitous because there is no legitimate challenge for fight to the supporters of the Nehru Report or the opponents of the Simon Commission in the extension of the term of the legislatures. Government have never pretended that those who would resign did not represent the real opinion or sentiment of their constituencies on the issue of the Nehru Report or the Simon Commission. Why then imagine an issue and fight on it? This faked protest would involve for its gratification an expenditure of lakhs and lakhs of rupees." He also said that the Statutory Commission's Report "alone now presents anything like a live issue;" for the boycott of the Commission is now stale, and the Nehru Report is not a "new issue because it has been already accepted, for what it is worth, by all the non-communal political parties in the country." One would ask Mr. Kelkar if there is a single party that is genuinely "non-communal." There are those who maintain that the Congress is really ruled by the Hindu Mahasabha, and if the latter is not a communal body, what is one?

The Muslims and the Nehru Report.

The Nehru Report, Mr. Kelkar says, has been accepted by the non-communal parties "for what it is worth." According to Sir Abdul Qaiyum, who writes from Peshawar, it is not worth much. A word of explanation first. Political Britain is divided into a Conservative camp, a Liberal, and a Labour. It is not divided into a Roman Catholic, an Anglican, and a Nonconformist; if Britain were so divided, the division would be on the lines that obtain in India. Here the division is along the lines of religion. There is no party that says, "The Nation first, and no intermixture of religious feeling in political questions." The Hindus do not want specially to further Hinduism, nor the Muslims to further Muhammadanism. The Hindus do not want to be dispossessed of what they possess; that is, in influence and what it brings in money's and other worth; they feel they will only find support from the Hindus' forming a united body, the Hindus, that is, other than the "untouchables;" for there is also that cleavage. The Hindus feel that, if the Muslims had too much power in the land, the Muslims would dispossess them. The Muslims feel that, if the Hindus had too much power, the Hindus would dispossess them.

Indian Nationalism.

No one in India says, "The Nation first," and no one can, because there is no nation. Hear Sir Abdul Qaiyum: "Does not the very Nehru Report admit of the existence of communalism based on religion in India? Has not the author of the Report had to sacrifice his high principles of Indian nationalism to the clamour of the Mahasabhaite on the one side and of the Muslim on the other. I wonder what connexion these is between the author of the Report and Dr. Moonji—their political views are poles asunder—except religion, which is what cements the various sections of the majority community, and makes them sign the Report unitedly. This, according to Dr. Moonji, was done to further the cause of Indian

Nationalism, which it is highly desirable to further; but the question is whether it exists at present as a living force, or whether it has yet to be achieved." It certainly does not exist at present. There are those who doubt, and with strong reason, if it ever will. One once said to another in Calcutta, "Do you believe in this Hindu-Muslim unity?" "Where is it?" said the man asked: "show it me." He would have liked to see what he had never dreamt any one would ever see.

The Banking Inquiry.

I was once for a few days the fellow passenger of Lord Chaplin. He had been a member of the Gold and Silver Commission, or a later body of the same nature, and I had brought its Report on board to study. I remarked to Lord Chaplin that the Lombard Street brokers, summoned as witnesses before the Commission, had all talked nonsense, and that it was not until one came to the pages containing the answers of Alfred Marshall from Cambridge that one felt that here was a man who understood what he was talking about. "That is what one ought to have expected," said Lord Chaplin: "your brokers are men trained to turn to profit such currencies and systems of banking as they find in existence; but what should they know of the underlying principles of banking and credit, the theory of it?" Another man once said to me: "It is curious that money, a thing that man invented without help from God or Nature, is the thing of which he knows least and understands least." It is true: man knows little or nothing about his own money. Let me give a third reminiscence. I once invited a Calcutta banker to set an examination paper in banking and currency. He declined, explaining that he was a practical banker, and knew nothing of the theory. He had read none of the books. I believe myself that those books are read by all the world excepting the bankers themselves.

The banking inquiry in India should have been entrusted to six men at the very most, the six to include the two or three European authorities. What we are to have is a Central Committee, much too big, ten Provincial Committees, much too large, and the non-Indian experts. That is the Government's decision. A most mistaken one; all the days I have watched that Government, in no unfriendly spirit I may add, it has appeared to me weakest on the side of finance. Each retiring Finance Member (they come to us for five years) is spoken of as one who has performed yeoman service to India, but the new man, one notices, is spoken of as confronted with a financial system so primitive that it might have grown up of itself in a jungle. Nobody ever seems to observe the contradiction.

Medical Research in India.

I had a paragraph last week on the subject of medical research in India and the recommendations of the Fletcher Committee. The next day the *Pioneer* had a leader on that subject, and this occurred in it: "Why the Government of India should have delayed 14 or 15 months the publication of the conclusions arrived at by this Committee, who were dealing with matters of great concern to the country, is a question which naturally arises and which the public will expect the Government of India to answer. Even yet there has not been published, so far as we are aware, the full report of the Committee, but only a summary of its recommendations." As for the question of Dehra Dun, and its choice as the location of the proposed Imperial Research Institute, a matter that I touched on last week, I asked the opinion of a Professor of Physiology whom I happened to meet. He would have the institute where the climatic conditions make least against men doing good work; that is, not in Calcutta or Bombay or Dehra Dun, but at some relative high altitude, somewhere in the Hills. Another question that seems likely to become a burning one is whether the recruitment of the entire body of the researchers should not be by open competition. The Committee would have some of the posts reserved for members of the Indian Medical Service.

THE LATE MAHARAJA OF DARBHANGA.

By the death of the Maharaja of Darbhanga India loses one of the ablest and most influential of her great landlords, and one of her wealthiest men. Sir Rameswara Singh Bahadur, G.C.I.E., K.B.E., Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga, was born on January 16, 1860. He was the younger son of Maharaja Moheshwar Singh Bahadur,



THE LATE MAHARAJA OF DARBHANGA.

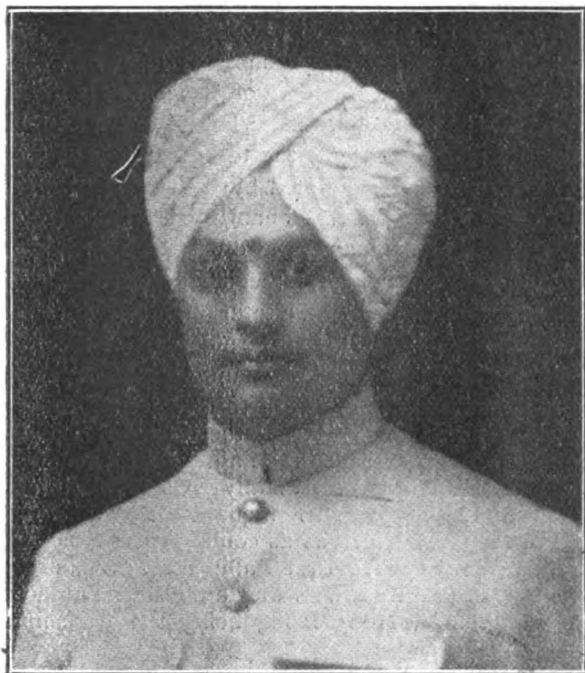
and he succeeded his elder brother, Sir Lakshmeshwar Singh, as Maharaja of Darbhanga on December 18, 1898. He was educated at Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Benares; and he also had the advantage of private tuition under the late Chester Macnaughten and other tutors. He thus received a liberal education, and he was for a number of years a member of the Statutory Indian Civil Service. He resigned in order to be able to devote closer attention to his own affairs; and, on his resignation in 1885, he was granted the title of Raja Bahadur by the Government. He represented the landowners of Bengal and Behar in the Bengal Legislative Council as far back as from 1888 to 1890. After he became Maharaja of Darbhanga he served as many as five times in the Imperial Legislative Council. His vast estates are said to exceed in area those of any other landowner in India; and he was the acknowledged leader of the landowning class. He was life President of the All-India Landowners' Association, and of the Bihar Landowners' Associations. Before the separation—in 1912—of Bihar from Bengal the late Maharaja served for six terms as President of the British Indian Association, the premier association of landholders in Bengal. He also led a deputation of landholders before the Viceroy and the Secretary of State (the late Mr. Montagu) in 1917, and on another occasion before the Viceroy at Delhi. More recently he identified himself with the Country League, of which he was one of the first members. He had had considerable experience of administrative work; for not only had he been a civil servant, but he was for five years a member of the Executive Council of Bihar and Orissa.

As hereditary chief of the Srohia Brahmans the Maharaja was recognised as the head of the whole Brahman community of northern India. He was life President of the Bharata Dharma Mahamandal, an all-India religious organisation with its headquarters at Benares and with branches all over the country. He was also President of the Religious Convention (Parliament of Religions), which was held at Calcutta in 1910 and at Allahabad in 1911, and of which the object was the promotion of unity between the different religions of India. He was con-

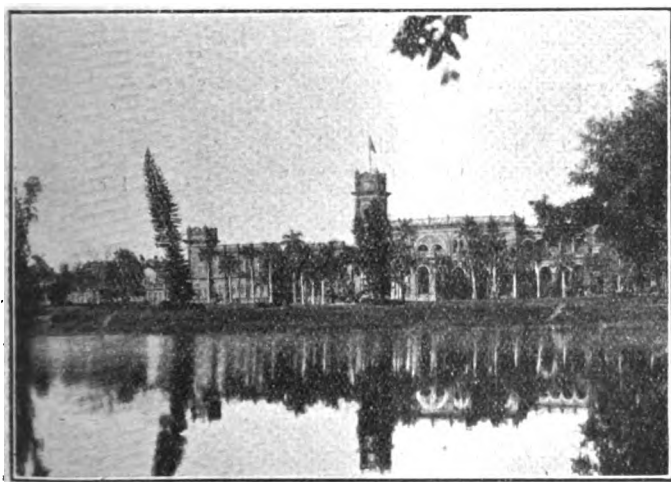
sidered to be the leading orthodox Hindu in India; and the power of excommunication from the Hindu community in the territories formerly known as Mithila rested with him. The present Hindu University of Benares is the result of his munificence; and innumerable other good causes, some connected with Hinduism and others apart from it, were most generously helped by him. He was extremely orthodox in religion, but he was a man of wide culture and a great lover of books. His library at Darbhanga is said to be one of the finest in India; and he took special interest in the cultivation of Sanskrit learning. He was always a strong advocate of the British connexion; and on occasion he spoke out plainly and firmly against sedition.

The Maharaja's ancestors, the Rajas of Tirhut, were independent rulers of the country which was known in ancient times as Mithila, and which is now included in the districts of Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur. Under the Mughal Emperors the Rajas of Tirhut were allowed to continue to exercise their powers. It was to the Raja alone that the zemindars and taluqdars were responsible, the Raja alone being held responsible to the Emperor. The Muhammadan rulers sometimes allowed the Hindu chiefs to remain undisturbed in their possessions; and in some instances, as in Tirhut, the Hindu princes appear to have been practically independent so long as they paid the annual tribute to the Emperor. The old title—the Raja of Tirhut—was replaced by the "Maharaja of Darbhanga" as recently as the middle of the last century. In fact, the present Maharaja's elder brother, who died in 1898, was the first of his line to be styled Maharaja of Darbhanga. It is of interest to note that the question of restoring to the Darbhanga family the ruling powers which were formerly exercised by the Rajas of Tirhut has been mooted on more than one occasion of recent years. Among those who have closely studied Indian constitution problems there are some who, like Sir Walter Lawrence, would turn the whole of British India into Indian States. In support of this view they point to the recent creation, by the British Government, of a new Indian State when the Maharaja of Benares was made a ruling chief; and they express the opinion that

There is much to be said for this view; for, as the memorialists showed, there are but few opportunities of public service open to landowners. Throughout the country there are plenty of able men of this class; but there is a lack of opportunity for them, and the result is that some of them do not feel the responsibility of their wealth, and do not act in a manner commensurate with that responsibility. The question which the memorialists



SHRIMAN MAHARAJADHIRAJ KUMAR KAMESHWAR SINGH
SAHEB OF DARBHANGA.



ANAND BAGH PALACE, DARBHANGA.
The usual residence of the Maharaja.

all over the country there are great zemindars, taluqdars, sirdars, nawabs, and khans, who stand as the natural chiefs of future Indian States.

At the time when the Reforms scheme was under discussion a number of members of the Imperial Legislative Council memorialised Lord Chelmsford, the then Viceroy, on this question. These members did not, of course, urge that the whole of British India should be converted into Indian States; nor did they oppose the Reforms scheme. But they said that in their opinion, provision ought to be made—side by side with the Reforms—for strengthening the political status of at least a section of the landowning nobility.

raised was whether this state of affairs would not be improved if it were the policy of the Government to invest deserving, capable, and public-spirited landowners with ruling powers. The memorialists had no doubt as to what the answer to this question ought to be. They confidently anticipated that the adoption of such a policy would bring about a most beneficent change. They made no suggestion as to who among the landed nobility should be chosen in the first instance. But at a later stage—subsequent to the introduction of the Reforms—the name of the Maharaja of Darbhanga was prominently brought forward in another memorial which was submitted to Lord Reading by fifty-eight members of the then newly constituted Legislative Assembly. These memorialists referred specially to Bihar, and they strongly urged that the ruling powers which were formerly exercised by the Darbhanga Raj should be conferred on the Maharaja, "the premier nobleman of India, whose services to the British Government as well as his wealth, position, status and family tradition mark him out as eminently fitted to discharge the onerous obligations of a ruling chief." The memorialists pointed to the elevation of the Maharaja of Benares, a step which had been, they said, entirely successful, and which was, therefore, a cogent argument in favour of the restoration to ancient families of the powers which were exercised by their ancestors.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 35)

us the advantage of their knowledge and their counsel," the Prime Minister at the same time made it clear that there would still be further opportunities for discussion and negotiation. "Again, I feel it my duty," he concluded, "to ask the representatives of Indian opinion to reopen the doors of their mind, and to consider whether they may not now come and help us to solve, and to secure a happier and more beneficial solution, of this very difficult problem."

THE INDIAN ROPE TRADE.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Indian Tariff Board recently recommended the removal of the 15 per cent. duty which is levied on all raw hemp imported into India. This recommendation the Government of India have accepted in principle, and they intend to give effect to it when financial considerations permit. The investigation which the Board made was undertaken at the request of some of the manufacturers of manila rope in India. The rope trade in India is not of very great extent, the total yearly consumption of manila rope being estimated by the Board at approximately 4,000 tons. Of this quantity roughly one half is manufactured in India and the other half is imported. The principal consumers are the steamship companies—who take more than half of the total output—the railways, various industries, and the Government. At the present time very little of the Indian manufactured rope is exported. Small quantities were formerly sent to Ceylon and the Straits Settlements, but these exports have now fallen away to practically nothing. The manila rope imported into India comes mainly from the Philippines and the United Kingdom. The quantities which formerly figured in the official returns as coming from Hong Kong apparently now come from the Philippines. It is probable that they were in the past, as they are now, manufactured in the Philippines, Hong Kong being the transshipment port.

The manufacturing trade is centred at Calcutta and about six or seven firms, some European and some Indian, are engaged in it. They asked several years ago that steps should be taken to help them in view of the duty of 15 per cent. on their raw material. Two or three of the firms expressed the opinion that the tax was an unfair burden on an Indian industry, and that it should be therefore withdrawn. On the other hand, manila rope imported into India also pays 15 per cent. Customs duty; and in view of this some of the manufacturers did not ask for any tariff alteration. They suggested that a rebate equivalent to the import duty on the raw material should be allowed to them.

Last autumn, however, a new factor was introduced into the situation. Two of the principal steamship companies—the P. and O. and the British India—established a bonded warehouse at Calcutta, and proposed to import manila rope, together with other ships' stores, for distribution to their foreign-going vessels. It appears from the report of the Tariff Board that by this arrangement, the steamship companies in question—and others are said to be contemplating similar action—will probably be able to import the bulk of their requirements of manila rope duty free.

Such being the position it is only right, as the Tariff Board point out, that the Indian manufacturers should

be exempted from payment of import duty on the manila hemp used in the manufacture of shipping ropes. But the Board found that to do this would be impracticable, and they accordingly came to the conclusion that the best way of helping the Indian manufacturer would be to make a general reduction, in the import duty on manila hemp, corresponding to the proportion of rope supplied to the shipping companies to the total output. This would have meant a reduction of the duty to 5 per cent. But, after taking into consideration the possibility of developing the export trade in Indian manufactured rope, the Board decided to recommend the complete withdrawal of the duty. For they ascertained that if manila hemp were admitted free the Indian manufacturer would be in a position to quote competitive prices in the export markets nearest to India.

THE INDIAN EMPIRE GARDEN PARTY.

The annual Indian Empire Garden Party for officers and civilians, with their wives and daughters, who have resided in Aden, Borneo, Ceylon, China, Cyprus, India, Iraq, Malaya, Palestine, Persia, and Siam, took place on July 3. at Ranelagh.

The Reception Committee included the Marquess of Reading, Mary Countess of Minto, Admiral of the Fleet Earl Jellicoe and Countess Jellicoe, Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson and Lady Robertson, Field-Marshal Sir Claud Jacob and Lady Jacob, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Hugh Trenchard and Lady Trenchard, and Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. Anderson (Hon. Secretary).

Among those who accepted invitations were:

Sir Leonard and Lady Adams, Sir Harvey and Lady Adamson, Lady Addis, Lady Airedale, Colonel and Mrs. J. J. Aitken, Colonel and Mrs. W. N. S. Alexander, Mrs. N. S. Alington, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Amery, Lieutenant-General Sir Hastings and Lady Anderson, Sir Charles and Lady Armstrong, Mr. Justice Ashworth, Sir Arthur and Lady Bannerman, Sir Charles and Lady Bayley, Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Bayley-White, Mr. and Mrs. Wedgwood Benn, Sir William and Lady Beynon, Sir St. John and Lady Branch, Sir Charles and Lady Burtchael, Sir Thomas and Lady Carey-Evans, Lady Carmichael, Sir Hubert and Lady Carr, Sir Austen and Lady Chamberlain, Sir Edward and Lady Chamier, Mr. Winston Churchill, Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick and Lady Clayton, General Sir Arthur and Lady Cobbe, Mr. Justice Costello and Mrs. Costello, Major-General Sir D'Aguilar and Lady Crookshank, Lieutenant-General Sir Ernest and Lady De Brath, Lady Deverell, Brigadier-General and Miss de Winton, Mrs. H. E. Brake-Brockman, Major-General and Mrs. Dunsterville, Sir Stuart Fraser, Sir Theodore Fraser, Sir Henry and Lady Freeland, Sir Selwyn and Lady Fremantle, Major-General Sir Thomas and Lady Gallwey, Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Francis and Lady Isobel Gathorne-Hardy, Sir Robert and Lady Holland, Sir Walter and Lady Headlam, Major-General Sir Bernard and Lady James, Major-General Sir Frederick Mercer, Sir Duncan and Lady Macpherson, Lieutenant-General Sir George and Lady MacMunn, Sir Reginald and Lady Mant, General Sir Charles and the Hon. Lady Munro, Major-General Sir Lothian and Lady Nicholson, Brigadier-General Sir Valentine and Lady Murray, Sir Donald and Lady Robertson, Major-General Sir Philip and Lady Robertson, Sir John and Lady Simon, Sir Hugh and Lady Stephenson, Sir Dorabji and Lady Tata, Lord Shuttleworth and the Hon. Rachel Kay Shuttleworth, Sir Henry and Lady Wheeler, Sir James and Lady Walker, Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert and Lady Uniacke, Sir William Vincent, Lady Tighe, Sir Seymour and Lady Tritton, and Major and Mrs. M. S. Young.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 11, 1929 (New Style).

June 28, 1929 (Old Style).

Saphar 3, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tammuz 3, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, jun., and Lady Jehangir have arrived at 41, Park Lane.

Lord and Lady Meston left 38, Parkside, Albert Gate, on July 5 for Hurst, Cookham Dean.

Sir John and Lady Maffey arrived last week at the Wellington Hotel, Harrogate, for the cure.

The Maharanee of Baroda arrived last week at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.I., from Paris.

The King received the Maharaja of Rewa and the Maharaja of Alwar at Buckingham Palace on July 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Russell have returned from Cairo and are staying at 10, Wyndham House, Sloane Gardens.

Ex-King George, of Greece, was the guest of Viscount and Viscountess Elibank at dinner at Clardige's Hotel on July 3.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala, who is staying at the May Fair Hotel, entertained the King of Spain at dinner on July 3.

King Fuad of Egypt is expected to arrive in London on a private visit about July 15. He will stay for several weeks.

The Prince of Wales received His Excellency Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha (Egyptian Prime Minister) at St. James's Palace on July 3.

Sir Samuel and Lady Wilson returned to England last week from East Africa. Their address until the end of September will be Star Cross, Compton, near Guildford.

Major R. C. Duncan (Officer in Charge) and the King's Indian Orderly Officers had the honour of being received by his Majesty the King on July 4.

The Prince of Wales received at St. James's Palace on July 5 the Maharaja of Kapurthala, and the Tika-Raja of Kapurthala.

Lieutenant-General Sir Cecil Deverell arrived at Marseilles on July 6 from Bombay in the P. and O. s.s. Mooltan. Major-General J. F. S. Coleridge and Sir Phiroze Sethna were among the passengers.

The marriage took place on July 2, at St. Aidan's Church, Johannesburg, of Harold William Vazeille Temperley, Peterhouse, Cambridge, Reader in Modern History, to Dorothy Vazeille, daughter of the late Canon Arthur and Mrs. Temperley.

Sir Aurel Stein, the explorer, was on July 5 presented with the Petrie Medal at University College, Gower Street, W.C., in recognition of his services to archaeology in Central Asia and Western China.

Lord Melchett entertained at dinner on July 2 at 35, Lowndes Square, to meet the Egyptian Prime Minister, the following guests: Sir Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Amery, the Egyptian Minister, Sir Harry McGowan, Sir Hugo Hirst, Sir Ronald Lindsay, Sir John Norton-Griffiths, Sir David Milne-Watson, Sir Frederick Keeble, Sir Frank Meyer, the Hon. Henry Mond, Mr. Frederick C. Goodenough, Mr. Lennox Lee, Mr. Wickham Steed, Mr. Percy Stout, Ahmed Rassin, and Mr. Conway Davies.

Mr. Bernard Henry Bourdillon, Counsellor to the High Commissioner for Iraq at Baghdad, has been selected for appointment at Colonial Secretary of Ceylon in succession to Sir Arthur George Murchison Fletcher, who has been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. Mr. Bourdillon joined the Indian Civil Service in 1908. Born in Tasmania, he was educated at Tonbridge and at St. John's College, Oxford.

The Secretary of State for India (Captain Wedgwood Benn) on July 8, in the House of Commons, presented a Bill "to enable the superintendence, direction, or control of the Military Government of Aden to be transferred to, and vested in, such person or authority, as His Majesty may, by Order in Council, direct, and for purposes consequent on the matters aforesaid." The Air Ministry in London is at present responsible for military affairs in Aden.

The Abouana, with an Abyssinian bishop, arrived at Jibouti from Egypt on June 24 and stayed two days at Dire Dawa, where he was received by the Governor of Harrar (who is a cousin of Ras Tafari, the King-Regent) and the Egyptian Consul. The Abouana then proceeded to Addis Ababa by a special train, which arrived on June 28, and was met by the King-Regent at the station. The following day a reception in honour of the Abouana was held by the Empress. It was attended by the King-Regent, the Diplomatic Corps, and the principal Chiefs. On June 30 there were religious receptions at the Church of St. George, attended by the Empress, the King-Regent, the Egyptian Consul, and others.

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THE AL BU SAID DYNASTY.

Before the lecture delivered by Mr. Rudolf Said-Ruete at Burlington House on July 1, a reception was given by the Royal Asiatic Society and the Central Asian Society in honour of the Sultan of Zanzibar, who afterwards, during the lecture, occupied the President's Chair. There were also present on the lecturer's platform Shaikh Hafidh Wahba, the representative of King Ibn Saoud now in this country, and Lord Allenby, representing the Central Asian Society, and Professor D. S. Margoliouth, representing the Royal Asiatic Society.

Mr. Said-Ruete, the title of whose lecture, which was illustrated with lantern slides, was "The Dynasty of the Al Bu Said in Arabia and East Africa," said that the dynasty represented there that afternoon did not originate in Zanzibar, but sprang up in Oman, more than 2,000 miles distant on the south-eastern coast of the Persian Gulf. At the opening of the sixteenth century, Zanzibar and the islands around it, Mafia and Pemba, became subject to Portuguese influence, and later they occupied Muscat and Sohar in Oman. By 1651, the Portuguese had been expelled from Oman by Sultan Bīn Seif, son of Nasir bin Murshid, who began the line of El Yaareba. The inhabitants of the East Coast of Africa were bound to Oman by affinities not only of religion, but also of race, and it was natural that they should turn to Oman for help in throwing off the yoke. Seif built what might definitely be called a navy, and with its aid he occupied the islands of the whole of the coast from Mombasa to Kilwa, and in a few years his influence extended as far as the distant island of Zanzibar. Unfortunately, much of his work was undone by the dynastic quarrels which sprang up at his death. There was no strong central power in Oman, and after Seif II, grandson of Seif bin Sultan, secured election to the Imamate, he called in the aid of the Persians to bolster up his position against his rivals. Brought in as auxiliaries, they remained as tyrants.

There was in the service of the Yaaruba as Wali of Sohar, one Ahmed bin Said, a man of unblemished, though humble, descent, and his action at this crisis made him the worthy founder of a dynasty which was destined to be one of the most powerful and respected in Arab history. As the Yaaruba had obtained power by expelling the Portuguese, so Al bu Said attained it by expelling the Persians. As the Yaaruba had shown their energy and initiative by stretching their power over East Africa, so the Al bu Said showed theirs by recovering what thirty years of strife had lost. By taking in marriage the daughter of Seif el Yaareba, Ahmed strengthened his position with the partisans of the deposed dynasty. To cement friendly relations with the Turks and to strike a blow at the Persians, who had invaded the country of the Shatt al Arab, Ahmed set out for Basrah with his fleet conveying 10,000 men. He forced the iron chain suspended across the river, and routed and drove out the Persians. The Danish traveller, Niebuhr, visited Muscat at this time, and was impressed by the noble qualities, the religious tolerance, and the politeness shown toward foreigners by the inhabitants. A still more famous man visited Oman in the summer of 1775, for Horatio Nelson was then a midshipman on board the *Seahorse*, which was stationed at Muscat for about two months.

Ahmed showed an energy and resolution which had since characterised his descendants, but having acquired by his heroic acts undisputed civil power over Oman, he made the mistake of attempting a decentralised form of government. He established his sons in key positions throughout Oman, giving them civil power. The results were worse than disappointing, and at his death in 1783 there was great controversy upon the succession to the Imamate. In the end, the weakest of the candidates, Ahmed's second son, Said, was made Imam. The result was not so much to give scope for internal disruption as to allow stronger men not clothed with the panoply of the Imamate to concentrate civil power in their own hands. He retained some semblance of religious control, while the country as a whole was well directed under the

civil power. It grew accustomed to what had at first been a novel form of dual government until in the end the experiment of the eighteenth century became the established practice of the nineteenth.

The year 1800 was noteworthy for Oman, as by Sultan's request the first Resident on behalf of the East India Company was installed at Muscat, and it was in the same year that the warlike Wahhabis of Central Arabia made their first appearance in Oman. After the death of Sultan in 1804, in an attack by pirates, the rule gradually devolved on his younger son, Said, who showed that firmness of character, pertinacity of purpose, and quickness of decision which rendered him famous among Arab rulers. He was only thirteen at the time of his father's death, and it was twenty years before he could be said to have his position secure against the dangers, on the one hand, of piracy by the Cowasim, and, on the other, of the relentless puritanical fervour of the Wahhabis. When he had consolidated his position at home, he was drawn to the idea of that overseas empire which his fathers had established. The passing of the years had separated East Africa from its Omani masters, and the reposition of Arab power was a task not easily to be encompassed. The empire which he ultimately built up, one of the largest Arab empires which the world has ever seen, and by no means small even to modern European eyes, was the fruit of three great and many small expeditions, and of twenty years of able planning, ceaseless striving, and clever manipulation.

The two enduring monuments to his fame were the foundation of the modern town of Zanzibar, and the establishment of the clove trade. The old town of Zanzibar had practically disappeared with the overthrow of the Portuguese, and Said re-established it, not in its old situation, but in one which none but the discerning eye would have chosen. Equally unaided was his establishment of the clove trade, and equally unlooked-for its success. What the clove meant to Zanzibar was now the common knowledge of all men; its introduction was the work of one man. English influence was of no small assistance to Said, but he paid for that support in a generous and highly unselfish manner. This was the period at which, under the stimulation pre-eminently of Wilberforce and of the Clapham Sect, the English conscience was becoming alive to the abhorrent, but frequently much over-estimated effects of the slave trade. Said signed two treaties, in 1839 and 1845, whereby he set himself to discountenance traffic in slaves and to abolish it within his dominions. It was to be remembered that this was the act of a man to whom the trade gave no religious offence, rather the reverse; of a man who had grown up to regard it as part of the ordinary course of nature, and whose greatest source of revenue it was. Nor was the opposition aroused in his subjects to be estimated lightly.

In 1837, His Highness was made an honorary member, one of the very first, of the Royal Asiatic Society, in token of its approbation of the encouragement given by him to the arts and sciences among his people, particularly to those of shipbuilding and navigation.

The situation which existed in the joint dominion of Oman and Zanzibar on the death of Said would have been as difficult as any of the past had not the presence of the British exercised a moderating influence and thrust succession troubles beneath the surface. Said himself, strong though he was, and great as was his prestige, had found the dual government no easy burden to maintain. Indeed, the friendly intervention of the English had helped him to preserve his suzerainty over Oman. He directed that his son, Thuwayni, should rule at Muscat, while another of his sons, Majid, should succeed to Zanzibar, and from his death in 1856 the two countries had been controlled by separate lines of the same dynasty.

After tracing the fortunes of Zanzibar and Muscat from the date of the division to the present day, the lecturer said that the Sultan of Zanzibar, whom they were privileged to have with them that day, maintained undimmed in the sixth generation the lustre of his ancestral line.

His territory was obviously destined to be of increasing importance in the affairs not only of this country, but also of East Africa in general. The years which had elapsed since the end of the Great War had shown with increasing clarity that to our generation at any rate the proper study of mankind is man. They had been engaged that afternoon in the study of the work of a generation of men which had shown each after the other in varying degrees, but with no exception, certain qualities which were confined to no race, and to which no nation could lay exclusive claim. The Al bu Said rescued their country from anarchy, welded it into such coherence as was permitted by the material they handled, opened up rich new territories to the eyes of man, and in the subsequent administration of those territories showed qualities of loyalty and friendship and a capacity for harmonious co-operation which would be no mean ornament to any dynasty, race, or period of history.

After the lecture, Mr. Yusuf Ali, who referred to his ancestral connexions with East Africa as well as with Oman and the Yaman, spoke of the important part which the rulers of Zanzibar might play in the future unity of East African territories.

Sir Lionel Haworth drew attention to the fact that, although the Persians had had dominion over Oman for perhaps seven years in over four hundred, it was of interest to note that they were now claiming possession of Muscat.

Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond spoke warmly of the kindness shown by H.H. the Sultan of Zanzibar towards the men of the Royal Navy; and Lord Allenby also praised the hospitable ways of their Royal guest and the beauties of his island home.

SAIYID TALIB PASHA.

Various feelings will be aroused among those who served in Mesopotamia before, during, and after the Great War, at the news of the death of Saiyid Talib Pasha, which, we regret to record, occurred last month in Germany. Saiyid Talib, who was 61 years of age, had flown from Basrah to Germany to receive treatment for the illness from which he had suffered for some time.

The merits and demerits of this doughty Arab are likely to be argued for long, particularly in consideration of the unusual way in which his personality was removed from the political scene in Iraq in connexion with the instalment at Baghdad of the Sharifian Dynasty—a step taken on official British advice. The details of Saiyid Talib's arrest and of his banishment to India will be fresh in the minds of all students in the Middle East. Suffice it here to recall how widely they have been both condemned and vindicated.

Saiyid Talib was the eldest son of the late Naqib of Basrah, Saiyid Rajab, a descendant of the Muslim saint, Saiyid Ahmad al Rifari. Early in life he developed a keen political sense, acquiring renown and popularity in Basrah among the Arabs and inspiring a certain fear among the Turkish overlords. In the first few years of this century he saw much of Constantinople, where for a time he was a Deputy for Basrah, and there he became possessed of new political ideas. At one time he was a member of the C.U.P., but later he appeared to conceive, according to the late Gertrude Bell, of the idea of making himself a semi-independent ruler of the Basrah wilayat, and of establishing a confederation of Arab shaikhs and amirs—a kind of pan-Arab movement under the nominal suzerainty of the Sultan. Quite certainly in the years before the War he was regarded by young Arabs, whether in Syria, Egypt, or Mesopotamia, as one of the most formidable exponents of Arab Nationalism. About this time Turkish authority in Southern Mesopotamia suffered a certain diminution of authority owing to the methods employed by Saiyid Talib. He was, in fact, thoroughly distrusted by the Turks, who resolved, just before the War, upon his arrest. Naturally, however, news of this

intended move reached the resourceful Pasha's ears, with the result that a visit to India was considered timely.

After the Armistice he came back to Basrah, and there were not wanting those who considered, in virtue of the strength of his character and the hold which he had upon Basrawis, that he might be chosen as head of the new Mesopotamian State that was to be. The choice of the British, however, fell elsewhere.

Saiyid Talib was not allowed to return to Iraq until the Constitutional Law of Iraq came into operation. He found on his return a new Basrah, which provided little scope for the exercise of his hitherto powerful personality. His last years were spent quietly, being largely occupied with agriculture—a subject on which his son, Tawfiq Bey, who was educated at Oxford, is an authority.

Saiyid Talib had his faults, his vices, his black spots. These, illustrative of a somewhat lurid career, are well known and need no enlargement here. But there is none that knew him who will gainsay the fact that he was a true Arab and a real man.

MRS. THEODORE BENT.

The death occurred on July 3, at the age of 83, of Mrs. Theodore Bent, widow of James Theodore Bent, the eminent traveller and explorer, who died in 1897. Much of Bent's work was shared by Mrs. Bent, who went with him in pursuit of archaeological and other research to such places as the Egean, the coast of Asia Minor, East Africa, particularly Abyssinia, the Bahrain Islands, and Southern Arabia. The Bents developed some notable theories, such as, for instance, that Bahrain was the early home of the Phœnicians, and that the builders of the ruins at Zimbalwe in Mashonaland were a northern race from Arabia, akin to the Phœnicians. Perhaps, however, it is upon their discoveries in the little known Hadhramaut (upon which Mrs. Bent wrote a book, "Southern Arabia," published in 1900) and upon their work in Southern Arabia generally that their chief claims to fame will rest. Certainly they gave immense impetus to research into the connexion between Arabia and Africa—a subject which, as readers of the correspondence between Mr. Bertram Thomas and Mr. St. John Philby in our columns will recall, still provokes the liveliest discussion.

LIUBLIANA UNIVERSITY.

On June 22 Liubliana University, which was established by a Decree dated July 23, 1919, celebrated its tenth anniversary. Although it is regarded as the youngest of the three Yugoslav Universities, in reality its foundations go back further than those of either of the others, as it can trace its descent directly from the High School founded in Liubliana in 1563. In the seventeenth century there was a Faculty of Philosophy and Theology in Liubliana, which was competent to bestow degrees. In 1760 there was added a High School of Physics; in 1762 one of Surgery and Anatomy; in 1767 one of Engineering, and somewhere about that time also a School of Agriculture. Towards the end of the eighteenth century (about 1783) the Austrian Government transferred the Liubliana Faculties to Graz and Innsbruck, and in spite of all protests of the Carniolan native population the lost Faculties were never properly re-established, and still less was a complete university granted to the capital of the Slovenes, in spite of the insistent demand for one. What Vienna refused to give, Napoleon in 1800 established at one stroke, viz., a complete University with the right to bestow academic honours. Unfortunately the return of the Austrians to power in 1813 brought abolition or degradation of the Liubliana Faculties in its train. But by this time the Slovene national spirit was aroused and could not be stifled as before. The continued agitation for a complete University in Liubliana was really, though at first unconsciously, part and parcel of the Yugoslav Movement, as it developed gradually during the course of the nineteenth century. Within less than a year of the Union on December 1, 1918, the University of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was fairly established in Liubliana.

The University has five Faculties: Philosophy, Law, Medicine (still incomplete, but very good so far as it goes), Engineering (Technical Faculty), and Theology. During the ten years of its existence Liubliana University has amply proved its use and justified its foundation. The students are recruited in the main, of course, from Slovenia, the Dalmatians coming next in numbers. Among its professors there are Yugoslav savants from all parts of the kingdom. The Lecturers in foreign languages alone are foreigners. On the occasion of this tenth anniversary of the foundation the name of the institution was changed to that of King Alexander I. University. The present Rector of the University is Dr. Milan Vidmar, best known in general, perhaps, as one of the world's masters in chess playing, but equally well-known among his scientific *confrères* as an ardent engineer. The admirable work done within these ten years by the Liubliana Technical Faculty is largely due to his personal efforts and devotion.

F. S. C.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

The Annual Dinner of the Central Asian Society was held on July 4 at the Hotel Cecil. Field-Marshal Lord Allenby received the members and guests, and Lord Peel presided over the Dinner.

It may be remarked that perhaps the high-water mark of the speeches made at the Annual Dinner of the Central Asian Society was reached on the memorable occasion when the late Lord Curzon addressed the Society, yet though that standard may be impossible to maintain, every endeavour, as we hope we may say without offence, should be made to insure that original or profound comments, worthy of a learned Society, are always heard by such an assembly as meets at this Annual Dinner.

In proposing the health of the Central Asian Society and of its President, Lord Peel, Sir Aurel Stein suggested that he knew little of that vast domain, including Africa and that annexe of Asia, called Europe, as well as Asia itself, having concentrated his endeavours on Central Asia. He then paid testimony to the part which the Central Asian Society was playing in explaining to the ordinary citizen of the British Empire the profound importance of Asia. In an eloquent way he spoke of the remarkable services of Englishmen who could combine with their daily duty as British pro-consuls in the East research into the lives, literature, and character of the of the races among whom they lived. In this manner he mentioned the stimulus which he himself had received from such men as Elphinstone, Lyall, Rawlinson, and, above all, perhaps, Curzon. He was himself one of the few men still living who could vividly recall the genius of Sir Henry Rawlinson, the statesman who could warn the British Empire of the ceaseless expansion eastwards towards India of the Power north of the Oxus and of the Caspian, the scholar who could decipher the cuneiform inscriptions which he found in Mesopotamia. Sir Aurel then turned from the past to the present. He said that men who, like himself, had travelled in Near Eastern countries must have been deeply impressed by the rapid adoption of mechanical transport. It seemed as if this change were revolutionizing notions of time and space in countries which had no routes worth speaking of in an even more rapid manner than in this country or in America.

Experiences such as he had had on regular trade routes within fertile parts of Northern Syria seemed in fact to suggest that there, anyhow, the brave, patient camel—his old friend in Central Asia—might before long come as near extinction as the earthenware seemed to be in this country. He was glad that he had not to undergo the rather disturbing mental evolution which the change from old caravan methods and estimates of time to more modern means of locomotion must involve for the Badawin. And he mentioned, as illustrative of this sudden change, how he discovered two Shaikhs, in the middle of the Syrian desert, hunting in a Ford car a flock of sheep that had strayed from Iraq.

Along that part of the Roman *limes* which divided the Roman province of Syria from Mesopotamia when the latter was under Parthian and later on under Sasanian domination, Père Poidebard during the last few years had been able to accomplish remarkable work with the aid of the French Air Force and the Service Géographique, carrying on surveys in the French mandated area. In the "tame" desert which stretched between the Tigris and

Euphrates he had thus succeeded in clearly tracing ancient Roman roads and lines of border posts.

When thus travelling past the foot of the Sinjar range, that forbiddingly barren abode of the so-called devil worshippers, Sir Aurel was much pleased to recognize the outlines of a small Roman castellum in the steppe just within the Syrian border. He thought it was a lucky discovery, but when later on he visited Père Poidebard at Beyrout, he found that he had already secured an excellent air photograph of that very site.

Sir Aurel Stein said he could not forgo, though his archaeological enthusiasm might be running away with him, pointing out how desirable it was that air survey work, such as was being accomplished by the French in the north, should be undertaken also in the south from the side of Trans-Jordan. There, too, to the east of the Hijaz railway, there must have run once a desert border, guarded by Roman troops. Their task of warding off raids of nomads was now being carried on, he hoped in a less arduous fashion, by the Royal Air Force. The significance of aerial photography of archaeological remains had been proved by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford. Could not the aid of the R.A.F. be utilized also for tracing the remains of their predecessors' lonely stations and routes of communication?

In reply, Lord Peel congratulated the Society on having earned the praises of so eminent a man as Sir Aurel Stein, whose recent work in identifying the site of Aornos was of monumental importance. No one could fail to be convinced that Pir Sar was indeed the base of Alexander, and even Field-Marshal Sir Claude Jacob (present at the Dinner) would agree that no site could have been better chosen than that selected by the great Macedonian General. The President then went on to refer to the tremendous change which had come over the affairs of Afghanistan since last year. When King Amanullah was last in London, he said, he was greatly impressed by the stability of British institutions. He was particularly impressed by the continuity reflected in Windsor Castle. But, unfortunately, he was a reformer in a hurry. If only, Lord Peel continued, he had adopted the motto "Safety First," or had, instead of rashly rushing into reform, started to "open up negotiations," to "explore avenues," or even to appoint Royal Commissions, his fall might have been long delayed. Lord Peel enlarged upon the possibilities of the Central Asian Society. Originally, he said, the Empire had been formed primarily through conquest and through trade. Now, however, there had been produced generations of Englishmen who strove to interpret, for the benefit of the whole world, the civilisation and religions of the various constituent parts of the British Empire. Prominent among such interpreters was Sir Aurel, who, though not born an Englishman had been inspired by and had carried on the traditions of Englishmen—and in this connexion Lord Peel mentioned the debt which Orientalists owed to that gallant country, Hungary, whence Sir Aurel derived.

In proposing the health of the guests, Lord Allenby spoke of those people who, possessing ideas, lacked the words to express them, and of those who, in speaking, manifested the opposite quality. For himself, he had neither ideas nor the capacity for words. Of Central Asia, moreover, he knew nothing, never having been, he said, east of Suez. But he did know how to obey orders. And his very pleasant duty was to propose the health of the distinguished guests.

Lord Melchett, in responding for the guests, professed his ignorance of who were members of the Society and who were guests. He then dilated on the significance of the vast changes at work in the East. Did they mean, he asked, that a new Asia was in process of rising against Europe? No: for his part he did not believe in any fundamental differences between Oriental and Occidental. It was a wonderful thought to gaze upon the past civilisations of say, China, India, or Persia, and to wonder what the application of modern scientific methods would mean

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to them. He then proceeded to pay his tribute to the great Englishmen who had explained to the world the greatness of past Oriental civilisations, mentioning in particular the work of Curzon in caring for the Asiatic treasures of India.

Finally, Sir Denison Ross explained that there were in reality no guests—those so-called were "gate-crashers!" In narrating some of his recent adventures in the Middle East, Sir Denison likened his attitude of mind to that of the poet Saadi, who, after travelling most extensively, said, on being asked which was the most wonderful experience he had had, that it was his safe return! Similarly an Irishman who had been all round the world, from America to China, reflected that the most wonderful thing he had seen was a heifer in Kilkenny. For his part, after seeing Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Persia, and Russia, he could tell them of an excellent hotel in Berlin! Concerning Egypt, he spoke of King Fuad's scheme for introducing capitals into the Arabic alphabet, and humorously mentioned the possibility of his earning the £100 prize which His Majesty had offered for the best system. At Sir Aurel Stein he had a sly dig when he explained how much he enjoyed seeing the sights of Jerusalem as described by a Greek guide, who pointed out everything as resting on the authority of the mother of Constantine. Of his stay in Persia Sir Denison spoke in rapturous tones, first pointing out that the Persian Minister in London, who was with them that night, was a most distinguished scholar, having translated the whole of Shakespeare into Armenian and much of him into Persian. Lord Peel had referred to the magnificence with which ex-King Amanullah had been entertained in Europe. But Persia also had fallen into the trap. In Qazvin, for instance, buildings had been torn down in order that a new *khiaban* should be constructed in the Afghan monarch's honour. Moreover, this work was accomplished within a month! Sir Denison then referred to the Central Asian Society. Its *Journal*, he said, was in the home of every British exile in the East as an indication of its superlative value. He issued a warning, however, that a high standard could not be indefinitely maintained, unless contributors were paid. Its increasing importance and responsibility were illustrated by the spate of excellent books on the East which had been recently published. Of these he mentioned three: Eldon Rutter's "Holy Cities of Arabia," "Travels of Ibn Battuta" (recently translated into English by Mr. H. A. R. Gibb), and the "Autobiography of Ousama." Of this last book he spoke at some length. It proved what had already been pointed out by Lord Melchett, that there was no fundamental difference between Oriental and Occidental. This fact he illustrated by reciting the following passage from "Ousama":—

In the army of King Fulk, the son of Fulk, there was a respectable Frankish knight who had come from their country to make a pilgrimage and then return. He made my acquaintance and became so intimate with me that he called me "My brother." We liked one another and were often together. When he got ready to go back over the sea and return to his own country, he said to me, "My brother, I am returning home and I should like, with your permission, to take your son with me to our countries (I had with me my son aged fourteen). He will see our knights, and he will learn wisdom and knowledge of chivalry there. When he returns, he will have taken on the bearing of an intelligent man." My ear was hurt by his words, which did not come from a wise head. If my son had been taken prisoner, captivity could have brought him no worse fate than to be taken to the Frankish countries. I answered, "By your life, that was my intention, but I have been prevented by the affection that his grandmother, my mother, has towards my son. She let him leave with me only after making me swear to bring him back to her." "Is your mother still living then?" he asked. "Yes," I replied. He said to me, "Don't disappoint her."

That, said Sir Denison, was a most wonderful story.

WAHHABISM IN ARABIA.

Shaikh Hafidh Wahba, Counsellor to King Ibn Saoud of the Hijaz and Najd, lectured to the Central Asian Society, at the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society, 74, Grosvenor Street, on July 5. Lord Allenby was in the Chair. Shaikh Hafidh read his paper in Arabic, and his Secretary, Shukri Bey, translated it, section by section, into English.

The lecturer began with the significance of the Muslim theologian. Ibn Taimiyyah. It was, he said, late in the sixth century (Muslim era) that Ibn Taimiyyah appeared. Curiously enough, he stated, the appearance of that great reformer in the East synchronised with the appearance of the great reformer Luther in the West. But for the differences of creed and the then scanty means of communication between Orient and Occident, it might be said that these two men were preaching a similar Gospel. While Luther was attacking the clericals, Ibn Taimiyyah was harassing the "mullahs" and "Sufis." Both were against intercession. In short, both were endeavouring to emancipate humanity from the clerical bondage, so long as that emancipation did not involve an abandonment of any of the sound principles laid down by religion. But, whereas Luther was supported by Princes, and his doctrines were consummated in the new Protestantism, Ibn Taimiyyah drew on his head the wrath of the Mameluke Sultans, who imprisoned him.

The term "Wahhabism," continued the lecturer, was literally unknown in Najd. Probably the Turks called the Najdis "Wahhabis" in the hope that Islam, thinking that a new sect was being formed, would be unfavourable to Najd. As a matter of fact, the Najd people were followers of the Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, the fourth of the four schools of thought in Islam.

Shaikh Hafidh Wahba then dealt with the rise and the teaching of Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab in the eighteenth century, with the superstitious condition of Najd prior to his birth, with his linking up with the Saoud dynasty at Dariyyah, and with the forceful measures taken by Muhammad Ali against the Wahhabis last century. He then summarised the teachings of the Wahhabis as follows:—

1. Individual interpretation from the Quran and Traditions is open to one and all so long as a person, in virtue of his education and learning, can do so.
2. Everything and every action is done by God, who is omnipotent. No human being, however exalted, can intercede with him for a sinner. The Creator is accessible to His creatures without any intermediary.
3. Actions only matter in this world—i.e., one is not considered a true Muslim merely because one believes in God and His Holy Prophet without performing the practices of Islam.
4. Worship in its various forms should be given to God and to God alone. Access to God should not be sought through tombs, nor should these be approached for fulfilment of worldly desires.
5. God-worship must be on the lines indicated by His Holy Prophet.

In a word, said the lecturer, the Wahhabis were aiming at the restoration of the happy days of the Caliphs.

After the suppression of the political influence of the Wahhabis by the Turks, he went on, Wahhabism was almost confined to Najd. But Shaikh Muhammad Abdu, Grand Mufti of Egypt, was the first man in the Nile Valley to eulogise Shaikh Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahhab and to denounce his opponents. The disciples of Shaikh Abdu were in fact Wahhabis, though not in name. It was gratifying to see many of the principles of Ibn Taimiyyah incorporated for the first time in the history of Egyptian legislation, in the law dealing with personal relations. Great credit for this was due to present chief of Al-Azhar and his colleague the Grand Mufti, who were among the senior disciples of Shaikh Abdu. It was now no exaggeration to say that the enlightened class in every Muslim land was Wahhabi in practice, though not in name or origin,

because this class preached the gospel of self-reliance, suppression of hagiology, or appeal to the inmates of tombs, who belonged to the past and could do neither good nor evil. Furthermore, Wahhabism preached true democracy and exclusion of the so-called "holy influence" which the Turkish Ottomans assumed for themselves. To see the chief of the Wahhabis now mixing freely with his people was to imagine oneself in Islam's glorious bygone days.

In 1913 King Ibn Saoud resolved to extend Wahhabism beyond the towns to the Badawin. He established special dwellings for them near the springs and encouraged them to follow agricultural pursuits. This policy had been so successful that the Badawin, after being a great menace to Najd, now had a powerful say in the administration of the country.

Turning to Wahhabism and the Caliphate, the lecturer denied categorically that King Ibn Saoud was aiming at the Caliphate. Most of the Muslim people nowadays, he pointed out, were under the sway of foreign Powers; a Caliph would accordingly have no authority whatsoever. He could at best be a mere figurehead to an institution that no longer existed, and King Ibn Saoud most emphatically declined to be that figurehead.

In conclusion, Shaikh Hafidh Wahba paid a tribute to the tolerant character of the British people which permitted propaganda in Great Britain, to the British Government for the hospitality extended to the delegates of the Universal Postal Congress, and to the Chairman, Lord Allenby, who, he said, on many an occasion had shown a marked sympathy with the cause of the Arabs.

After the lecture, Professor D. S. Margoliouth spoke, in Arabic, Mr. Yusuf Ali, in English, Mr. Eldon Rutter, in Arabic and in English, and Sir Percy Cox, in English and in Arabic.

SYRIAN NATIONALISM.

(At a meeting held at Damascus to commemorate June 9, 1928, the day on which the deputies of the Constituent Assembly sent their final demands to M. Ponsot, the High Commissioner, speeches were delivered by Nationalist deputies and others. The speech of Adib Effendi al-Safadi, Editor of *Al-Shaab*, was published in that newspaper as the leading article on June 11, 1929, and was as follows.)

"Mr. President, Gentlemen,—

"It is indeed a great honour to address you on this occasion and to recall the days which we hoped would herald a new era of mutual co-operation and understanding, but they would not have it so. We looked forward to frank co-operation and a mutual understanding, towards which we marched steadily and honestly in the hope of attaining that life and liberty the nation desires. But they would not have it so. They prepared to maintain the attitude they have taken up from the first, to manoeuvre round it, not to give way an inch.

"In this spirit we marched towards our goal, our opponents twitting us now with over-eagerness, now with hanging back, but we persisted in our course in the full knowledge that the nation looked for rest and that in the opportunity afforded us wisdom alone could win the day. This was the course adopted by our deputies until, embarrassed by intrigues, their patience was worn out. Then on August 9 they declared that they would maintain the country's rights to full sovereignty and freedom, insisting that sovereignty was vested only in the nation and that liberty was a right common to all under the protection of the law.

"I have never opposed the presence in this country of the French. I do not speak of the date when it began, nor of the stages gone through. That would take too long, but there are certain preliminary remarks it is impossible to omit. We fought the Turks for our independence and our liberty. Our independence was the object of engagements on the part of Europe. The French entered our country sword in hand and with artillery at their back. The Powers and their Governments acted on the principle of cutting up our country piecemeal and of destroying the strength of its unity. We compared this act with our rights, we contrasted the engagements they have made with the policy they have pursued until this hour. The methods of colonial exploitation have been gradually introduced. We are now confronted with a state of things we may describe as we see it with our eyes.

"Business is at a standstill. We have lost our markets in Anatolia, Trans-Jordan, Palestine, and the Hijaz, our trade grows dull and scarce, our profits dwindle away. Progress moves backwards, crumbling ruins fill the land. Our economic life moves backwards too, for our stock of gold has been transformed into a paper currency, the value of which is nominal, unsubstantial, depending on the strength of France and on the question whether peace in the West will be preserved at a moment when every morning we

are threatened with impending war. Regulations, decrees, enactments follow on each other's heels, one conflicting with the other. Our public offices are in a state of confusion that does not spare even the independence of our law courts. In such matters as frontier difficulties, Customs barriers, postal regulations, even in the domain of the humanities, agreements are made for us in our name. There are other matters too in which our interests are not consulted, in which we are not even regarded as concerned or having any views of our own. Our public enterprises are in the hands of foreigners, French companies for the most part, in which the first thought is given to the interests of the company, while our welfare which they came here to foster is so much ink on paper, a tale that is told for us to repeat in each other's ears.

"What, gentlemen, should I recapitulate to you further? What would you have me say? M. Ponsot arrived. First we were invited to the policy of co-operation that we might be rescued from his disquieting state of things. The High Commissioner repeated his invitation and we accepted it. The national declaration, published immediately after the Conference at Damascus, announced that the acceptance of elections in no wise bound the nation. Our intentions were pure. We would make the experiment. Maybe the people would know whom it was their duty to elect. We were invited to elect an assembly in order to formulate a Constitution. We said to ourselves: 'This invitation augurs well. A Constitution formulated, the term of the Mandate is in sight, it will come to an end!' The elections were held. From among her sons the nation chose honest men of liberal views. The Assembly met, the Constitution was laid down. We could agree unanimously with our chief Ibrahim Bey Hananu and justly say, 'The country has now an organised law that makes Syria a State with international prerogatives.' In all this we proceeded according to our natural right to liberty and independence. A Constitution is the property of the nation. The nation lays it down for the present and the future. A Constitution must guarantee the country's aims and objects. Such was the Constitution we drew up.

"For our part this is what we did. But they called a halt, protesting that they had rights in the country, that they were bound by international obligations impossible for them to forget. Negotiations were set on foot, Notes exchanged. As Nationalists we desired not to destroy the policy of co-operation with our own hands, that the French, not we, should be accused of this. We said to them: 'It is for you to share with us the nation's rights; what we absolutely reject is that you should dispose of them at your pleasure.' And this is the sense of the distinguished advocate Fawzy Bey Al-Ghazzy's words: 'I would rather see the country remain as it is a hundred years than admit what we are called upon to accept.'

"We are met together here to-day, Gentlemen, to commemorate and consecrate a day glorious to the name of Syria, glorious in the history of our cause, to honour the nation's demand for a Constitution drawn up by her own responsible deputies before the world, to salute the people's will which was voiced in the Chamber and which saved the country from colonial tutelage. Life is a struggle, Gentlemen, particularly for oppressed nations such as we are. Our principles are firm, our faith is strong, our parties united. We are ready to sacrifice our lives and money, as yesterday so to-day and in the future. Long live Syria, free and independent! Long live our distinguished deputies!"

NEWS IN BRIEF.

King Inayatullah of Afghanistan and his family left Bombay on July 5 for Basrah, *en route* for Persia.

The free zone in the port of Salonika, which was granted to Yugoslavia by Greece in 1923, is now working regularly.

Turkish airmen who are visiting England laid wreaths at the Cenotaph and the Air Force Memorial on July 4.

The pact of arbitration and friendship between Greece and Roumania was ratified on July 5 by the Greek Foreign Minister and the Roumanian Minister at Athens.

A French military aeroplane of the force surveying the Alaouite State, Syria, capsized in landing on July 4 and caught fire. The occupants, a lieutenant and a non-commissioned officer, were burned to death.

H.M. Stationery Office has published at 2s. net the Notes exchanged between Great Britain and Egypt about the use of the waters of the Nile together with the Report of the Nile Commission of 1925 and its appendices and diagrams illustrative of the flow of water. (Cmd. 3348.)

M. Michalakopoulos was sworn in on July 6 as Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs and will act as Prime Minister during M. Venizelos's absence. Dr. Christomanos, Under-Secretary of State for Health, has withdrawn his resignation.

The Sultan of Zanzibar sailed for home on July 5 in the Windsor Castle from Southampton. Before leaving he said that his most outstanding impression had been the great reception which he had had everywhere. It had convinced him that the friendly relations which had existed between England and Zanzibar for the past 200 years would continue.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Sudan Trade Improvement.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan via the Red Sea ports and Wadi Halfa for the first quarter of this year make a most favourable showing compared with those for the corresponding period of 1928. There is an increase under every one of the chief headings, while the total trade at £4,504,490 shows an increase of £1,034,534. When it is borne in mind that only a little while ago the country's trade did not total ten million pounds in the whole year it will be realised what progress is being made when almost half that total is reached by the end of the first three months. The increase of £1,034,534 is unevenly divided as between imports and exports, for while the imports show an increase of £130,155 at £1,677,647, the exports at £2,745,489 are up by £879,957. The items which make up the balance—re-exports and transit trade—show increases respectively of £10,350 and £14,112. Various features of the trade call for some reference. In Government imports there were decreases in sugar, metals and metalware, and cement, but these were more than counterbalanced by increased imports of machinery, motor cars, cycles and accessories, timber and railway sleepers, and arms and explosives. The chief and most significant increase in public imports was in cotton piece-goods, the value being £340,199 or 23.1 per cent. above the figures for the same period last year. Among the other commodities which showed more or less substantial increases were motor cars, cycles, soap, tea, timber and benzine and kerosene. The increase in exports was due, of course, to the increase in the exports of cotton. The exports of Egyptian cotton totalled 280,483 kantars as compared with 175,415 kantars, while the value was £2,018,802 as against £1,180,528. While it would be unwise to draw unduly optimistic conclusions from the trade figures they do make it quite clear that the position of the country is gradually improving, and there are various indications such as the growing consumption of sugar, which point to the fact that the material prosperity of the inhabitants is on the up grade. Good rains this year and a satisfactory harvest will result in making this prosperity much more apparent.

Conditions in Turkey.

It is decidedly interesting in view of the attitude adopted by Turkey towards foreign trade to find that the Turks are now becoming seriously perturbed at the rising cost of living in the country. At the present time living in Turkey is higher than anywhere else in the world, and while the great contributory cause of the rise in prices in the past year has been the failure of the harvest, the present price levels reflect to a considerable degree the complete failure of the economic policy of the Government. A policy of "Turkey for the Turks" may be a desirable end in the view of the Angora authorities, but an attempt to carry it out by "root and branch" methods was bound to be a failure unless the Turks were in a position adequately to carry out the development of the country. They have not been able to do so, and the measure of the complaints against the prevailing high prices is in a way the measure of the failure of their efforts. It would be interesting to know what the Angora authorities imagine will be the effect of their new tariff on prices. Obviously as it is made more difficult to

obtain foreign goods so will prices tend further to rise, though if they go much higher than they are at present in Turkey the inhabitants will simply be unable to buy commodities, for while wages and salaries have gone up from three to seven times what they were, the increases have followed the rise in prices very slowly as is always the case. How the Government will meet the situation, and whether it will decide to modify its views on the merits of protection, must remain to be seen.

Germany and the Near East.

A further indication of the efforts Germany is making to consolidate her position in the Near East is provided by the news of the formation by the firms of Junkers, of Dessau, and the Borzig Locomotive Works, of Berlin, of the United Industrial Works of Junkers-Borzig-Hall Ltd., with offices in Cairo, for the development of the sale of pumps, motors, and machines in Egypt, the Sudan, and Cyprus. This is only one of many recent examples of German activity in the Near East markets, and it may be hoped that it will serve to give an incentive to British firms to show more activity with regard to that region.

Hotel Accommodation in Egypt.

Each year the demands imposed on the hotel accommodation in Egypt by the tourist traffic are growing greater, and it is quite obvious that Egypt, given normal conditions, must look for a great increase in the number of visitors in future years. In the circumstances the development of the provision made for visitors is naturally essential, and at the meeting of the Egyptian Hotels this week (a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns) Mr. Charles Bachler, the managing director of the company, gave some details of extensions which have been undertaken. They include a new wing to the Semiramis Hotel, a new hotel in Cairo for people of moderate means with provision for 100 rooms, and the conversion of premises at Fayoum into an hotel. The company, it may be added, has acquired a share interest in the Palestine Hotels, Ltd., which is building a large hotel at Jerusalem—a development which points to the importance that the tourist traffic is also assuming for Palestine.

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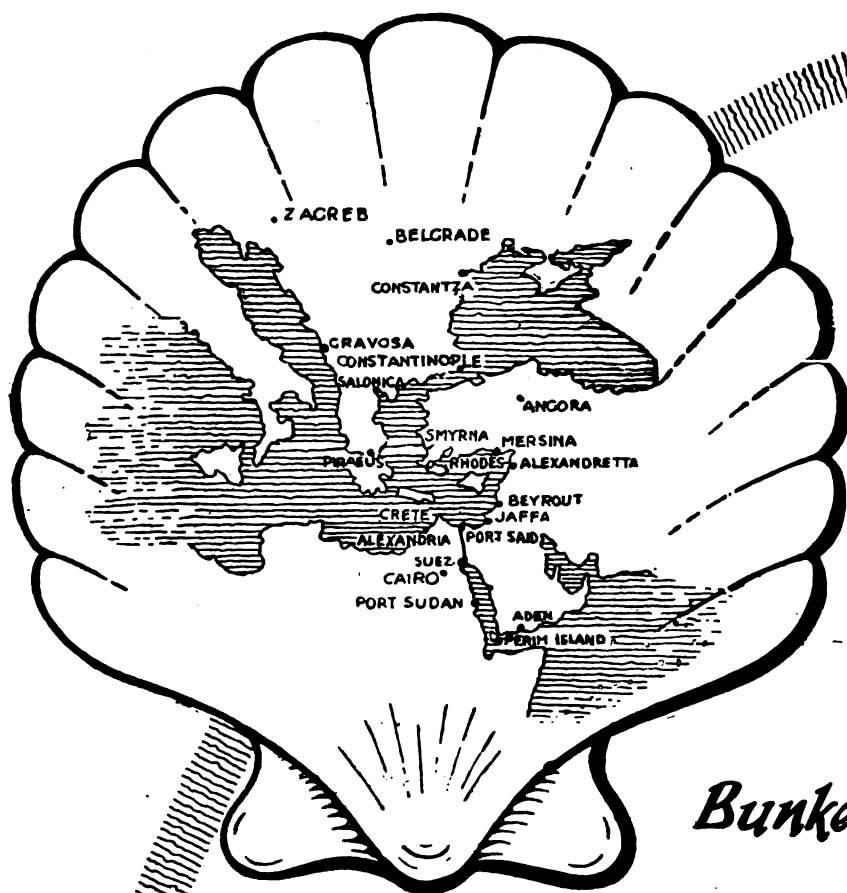
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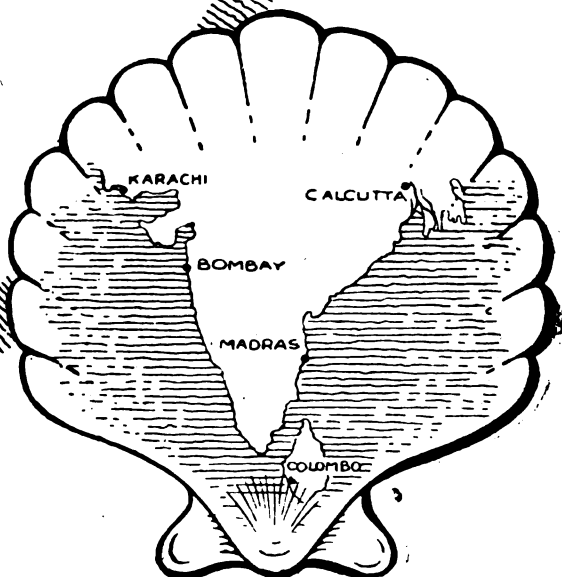
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SHELL



COAL PRODUCTION IN BULGARIA.

The Pernik Mines.

(From Our Sofia Correspondent.)

One of the consequences of the War was to give a decided impetus to the exploitation of coal mines in Bulgaria, as the country was deprived of foreign coal for the duration of hostilities, and this made it necessary to develop the production of the home product which is found in numerous beds but has been insufficiently utilised. Before the War Bulgaria imported very considerable quantities of coal, notably from Great Britain, Austria, and even from Turkey. After the War the importation of coal began to decrease steadily owing to the improvement of home production, and seems likely to disappear completely from the country's trade balance. In recent years, parallel with the constant reduction in imports, there has been in evidence the equally constant development of an export trade, which owed its origin to the obligation, imposed on Bulgaria by a special clause of the Treaty of Neuilly, to deliver each year to Yugoslavia for a period of five years fifty thousand tons of coal from the Pernik mines. Since the War the Pernik coal has generally served as the medium for reparations due to Yugoslavia, with the result that Bulgaria has thus been freed in many cases from cash payments.

It is the national mines which play the most important part in Bulgaria both as regards export and production. If the production of the national mines is compared with that of the private mines during the past three years it will be seen that of all the coal produced during that period, 89 per cent. came from the national mines, 84 per cent being from the Pernik mines, while only 11 per cent. came from the private mines. At present the Bulgarian State exploits the coal mines of Pernik, Maritza, and Bobov-Dol. Naturally the first place is held by the Pernik mines, which provide more than a million tons a year.

The Pernik mines constitute the greatest coal mining enterprise in Bulgaria. They cover all the tertiary basin of Vladaia (nearly 16 kms. south-west of Sofia) to the vicinity of Breznik between the Lulin and Golo-Brdo mountains. That basin has an area of 30,000 hectares, and it is already sufficiently well-known owing to the minute studies to which it has been subjected up to the present time. Four seams have been proved, and they are below the level of the Struma river. The seams are indicated by the first four letters of the alphabet, A. B. C. D. The last letter is given to the formation nearest to the surface. The seams are unequal in thickness. For the time being only the B. and D. seams are being worked. The D. seam is of the best quality and the working is easiest; it has a total thickness of 4 metres of which 2.9 metres are constituted by the coal. The coal reserve of the mines is estimated at about a milliard tons.

The Pernik coal is old brown coal, and is one of the best of the type. It is of a brilliant black colour, and is hard to the touch and brittle; it catches fire easily and burns with a clear, strong, and long flame. All the coal is passed through modern sifters, which free it from foreign bodies and help to separate it and classify it into four qualities according to the size of the pieces, as follows: first quality over 60 m.m.; second quality from 30 to 60 m.m.; third quality from 16 to 30 m.m.; and fourth quality under 16 m.m. The analyses which have been made up to the present of Pernik coal have given the following results:—

	Quality			
	1	2	3	4
Water	11.95	12.92	13.16	12.88
Ash	7.15	13.52	18.70	19.61
Coke	49.89	51.49	32.35	53.68
Pure Charcoal ...	52.75	37.50	33.72	34.07
Volatile Substances	38.10	35.64	34.50	33.46
Sulphur in general	1.53	2.01	2.57	2.36
Volatile Sulphur ...	1.13	1.21	1.65	1.72
High Calorific Power	6220	5369	5068	4843
Low Calorific Power	5898	5018	4680	4590

At present only seven mines are worked, five under the soil and two on the surface. Machinery is being installed, which will be first to be used in the country. It is expected that it will be completed by the end of the current year.

A special Law of February 19, 1925, made the Pernik mines an autonomous national enterprise under independent administration and constituted it juridically a "person." These mines are now organised on a commercial and industrial basis, which places them on an equality with private enterprises, and frees them from the drawbacks attaching to direct State management. This new organisation which has been given to them helps to assure their regular development, and guarantees their complete freedom in the sale of coal for export.

The autonomous administration of the mines is placed under the surveillance of the Council of Ministers, who, on the proposal of the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, can revoke any decision of the Administrative Council which it considers contrary to the organic law regarding that enterprise or other laws of the country. The Administrative Council presents to the Council of Ministers at the end of each year its report and balance-sheet for approval. The Council of Ministers nominates each year a committee of control comprising four members, of which one represents the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, one the Ministry of Finance, one the National Bank, and one is a specialist in accountancy. The committee of control watches the conformity of the decisions of the Administrative Council with the prescriptions of the law and the rules regulating exploitation, as well as the precise application of its decisions in the administration of the enterprise, and advises the Council of Ministers of each case of contravention noted.

The whole of the Pernik mines are administered by a directing committee composed of a director-general nominated by the Council of Ministers and the delegates of the Administrative Council. The Administrative Council, compared with the committee, is a directing and at the same time a controlling organ. Nominated by the Council of Ministers, it is composed of 8 to 12 members. The president is the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour; it includes, further, three mining engineers, of whom one is the head of the mines section of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour; the four to eight others are chosen freely from among the technical experts, economists, financiers, industrialists, and merchants of the country, which permits the inclusion of some persons who have rendered great services to their country and who are in adverse circumstances. The term of office of the Administrative Council is three years, but only a third of its members are liable to removal at the end of that period. Another innovation is the establishment of a workers' committee, which the directing committee consults on questions regarding housing, food, hygiene, the technical education of workers, and in general on the improvement of working conditions.

The profits of the Pernik mines are divided, in conformity with the Law, half going to the State and half to

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

THE ASWAN DAM

WITH reference to previous Notices with regard to the heightening of the Aswan Dam on the River Nile, the date on which the tenders both for the masonry work and for the modifications and additions to the sluice and lock gates must be submitted to His Excellency the Minister of Public Works, Cairo, Egypt, has been altered to mid-day on October 1st, 1929, instead of September 14th, 1929, as previously advertised.

the mines. Of the State's portion a sum of 30 million leva is paid to the Treasury under the head of public revenues, while the remainder goes to increase a special fund, instituted by the decision of the Sobranye, to further the economic improvement of the country. The profits of the mines are divided as follows:—10 per cent. to the reserve fund, 18 per cent. to the fund for the development and technical improvement of the mines, 15 per cent. to the personnel, $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the director-general, 1 per cent. to the members of the Administrative Council (not including the Minister, whose presidency is honorary), $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to the members of the committee of control, 3 per cent. to the fund for the upkeep of a school of mines which is to be created in the future, for the payment of grants for the publication of works on the mining industry in Bulgaria, the expenses of specialisation by engineers abroad, etc., and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the fund for sickness and for the cultural and social improvement of the miners.

It will be seen that the national enterprise of the Pernik mines constitutes an immense mining undertaking, and is of great importance for the material and moral progress of Bulgaria.

CYPRUS IMPORTS INCREASING.

The report on Cyprus trade for May shows that there was a further increase in imports but a slight fall in exports as compared with May, 1928. In both cases, however, the values were in excess of the quinquennial average. Imports at £173,704 were £30,362 above those of May, 1928, and £46,544 over the quinquennial average. The principal items showing increases were flour (£6,387), cotton goods (£4,764), petrol (£3,528), and motor cars (£3,423). There was a general all round increase in other articles.

Exports at £132,309 were £16,556 less than in May last, but £18,846 above the quinquennial average. The item which accounted for this decrease was carobs. Other exports showed increases, the principal being in potatoes (£7,996), pyrites (£5,481), wine (£3,064) and asbestos (£2,323).

Twenty-two steamers called at Larnaca, 25 at Limassol and 20 at Famagusta as against an average of 27, 28 and 21 respectively.

The Bulgarian Government has begun an investigation of the salt deposits in the district of Provacia. It is believed that these deposits are among the most extensive in southern Europe.

Yugoslavia's exports in May totalled 461,117 tons, of the value of 533,661,310 dinars. The figures for May, 1928, were 331,652 tons and 431,559,622 dinars respectively. The exports for the first five months of this year amounted to 1,737,325 tons, of the value of 2,450 million dinars, as compared with 1,600,550 tons, of the value of 2,233 millions for the first five months of 1928.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Paints, Etc.—The Officer Commanding General, Royal Yachts Administration, Ras el Tin, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paints, cleaning articles, electric articles and stores for engine-room, necessary for the Royal Nile Yachts during the year 1929-1930. July 23.

Towels, Etc.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of towels, tassels for turbushes, collars and caps, to the Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo. September 2.

Electric Lamp Standards.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 240 electric lamp standards with armature and globes. October 1.

Articles for Cotton Spinning Factory, Etc.—The Director-General of Prisons, No. 43, Sharia El Bustan, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of articles for the cotton spinning factory and humidifying and ventilating plant for the said factory at Delta Barrage, August 27; and for machines, engines (Diesel and semi-Diesel), boilers and electric batteries, etc. September 28.

Cooling Tower, Etc.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a cooling tower for Seru Pumping and Power Station, August 10; and for the supply and erection of two Diesel pumping units at Bousseli Pumping Station. August 10.

Diesel Engine Alternator.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of an additional Diesel engine alternator for the Zagazig Power Station. August 15. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Railway Trucks.—H.M. Consul at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, reports that a local Department will shortly be inviting tenders for the supply of six railway trucks, narrow gauge (760 m.m.). (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Live Roller Gate.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of a live roller gate for the under-sluice of the Midnapore Weir across the river Cossye. July 23. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Birkenhead, July 19); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Markhor for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 18); s.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 25).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Cheshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 24).

British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 13); s.s. Mundra for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Patras, Piraeus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, July 27); s.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool August 3, Swansea August 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Behar for Calcutta (London, July 19); s.s. Razmak for Bombay (London, July 19).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 13); s.s. Sicilian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus (London, July 20); s.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 24).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Mardinian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Malta, Piraeus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool July 20, Swansea* July 20); s.s. Oporto for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool July 20, Swansea July 25); s.s. Volturro for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, July 31); s.s. Algerian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Malta*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 10). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syra and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piraeus or other convenient port.

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*ELYSIA ... Aug. 6 *ASSYRIA ... Sept. 27

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, July 9.

The monetary situation has again been the most potent of the various influences affecting the Stock Markets and the drain of gold from the Bank of England prevented any return of confident conditions. The King's Speech was regarded as moderate but uninformative, and the vagueness of the political pronouncements left room for doubt, but the general effect on markets was slight. British Government stocks remained at about the lowest level of the year in view of the uncertainty of the monetary outlook. Industrials generally were quiet and the renewal of bullishness in New York failed to stimulate interest. Breweries and motor shares were marked down on the indications of the new Government's intentions. The half yearly dividends so far declared by the banks and discount houses have, as anticipated, been at the same rates as at this time last year, and the approach of the railway dividends for the past six months has awakened no interest in home railway stocks.

Italian Bonds.

It is perhaps political considerations that mainly account for Italian Government securities not being among the most highly valued foreign bonds in the Stock Exchange lists, but it is also true that the country has not yet economically recovered from the effects of the War. The report of the Department of Overseas Trade on Economic condition in Italy in 1928, published on Thursday, emphasises that the year was one of reorganisation and adjustment to the new conditions created by the stabilisation of the lira in December, 1927. A somewhat mixed picture is presented. Italy is still predominantly agricultural, and apart from the grain crops results were not very satisfactory in this sphere. As regards foreign trade, too, exports fell off by some 7 per cent., and imports rose by 8 per cent. compared with 1927, though it can be claimed that raw materials constitute the bulk of the imports. On the other hand, in the latter part of the year there was a distinct improvement in the industrial situation, and employment was substantially better than in the corresponding months of 1927, though not in

artificial silk or cotton, while the consumption of electricity increased by 17 per cent. Bank deposits and savings bank deposits also show satisfactory advances. It appears therefore that the recovery, though slow, continues. If the progress made is maintained without a relapse, and no adverse political factors appear, holders of Italian securities should of course benefit. The $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Rentes can be bought to yield £5 13s. per cent., while the 7 per cent. Credit Consortium bonds return £7 per cent.

Distillers' Profits.

The recently published accounts of the Distillers' Co., for the year ending May 15, show this Edinburgh firm to have completed another very successful year. Profit and loss account, after paying interest on the several debenture stocks, shows a record balance of £2,317,411, compared with £2,269,655 last year, and with the amount brought in there is £2,529,943 available, against £2,401,958 in 1928. The dividend for the year is 20 per cent., the same as for the last three years, but on an increased capital; £500,000 against £400,000 is now placed to the general reserve fund, bringing it up to £1,750,000 against an issued capital of £2,317,412; the fire insurance special reserve again receives £5,000 and £227,990 is carried forward. The accounts are all the more gratifying because they reveal that the while the dividend remains constant the amount actually earned for the ordinary shares has steadily increased during the last few years from 24 per cent. to 26.2 per cent. The directors state that the value of obsolete distilleries has been written down and plant has been kept in a state of efficiency during the year entirely out of revenue. Earnings are coming more and more from dividends as the Distillers' Co. is increasingly a holding company whose financial connexions now extend abroad also, the company having this year acquired interests in Australia, in addition to establishing jointly with a Continental group, British Industrial Solvents Ltd., which has a distillery at Hull. The £1 ordinary shares of Distillers' Company of which there are over 10½ million, yield £5 8s. per cent., while the 6 per cent. cumulative preference, whose dividend was covered nearly 18 times by this year's earnings, yield £5 9s. per cent.

International Tea Bonus.

The accounts published this week of the International Tea Company, the great producing, importing and distributing grocery concern, which embraces the Star Tea Company, Ridgways, and Kearly and Tonge in addition to its own stores record a fresh advance in earnings. Trading profits for the year to April 27, 1929, amounted to £675,919 against £579,553 for the year 1927-8. After debiting all charges, including an allowance of £50,000 for depreciation, the net available profit is £546,636 compared with £480,000 last year, to which it had grown from £349,643 in 1923-4. Of the available profit £150,000 is to be placed to reserve and an ordinary dividend of 30 per cent. is to be paid which compares with 25 per cent. last year, 22 per cent. in 1926-7, and 20 per cent. in 1925-6. In view of the growth in the company's business its resources are to be increased by an issue to shareholders of 1,000,000 5s. ordinary shares at 20s. each in the proportion of one for every four now held, the market price being 30s. 9d. In view of the company's prospects the ordinary shares have attractions, and since they yield just under £5 per cent., on the assumption that the dividend is maintained on the enlarged capital, "pay for their keep." The very well-secured 6 per cent. cumulative first preference shares return £5 7s. per cent.

In accordance with the recent agreements, the Greek authorities on July 2 handed over to the Yugoslavs the section of the railway line between Kenali, on the Greco-Yugoslav frontier, and Bitolia (Monastir), in Macedonia.

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DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.

EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn

& Co.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

The following notes are taken from the bulletin of the British-Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce of Sofia, dated June 30.

General Situation.

Before the summer recess, certain financial and economic legislation has been voted by Parliament. The Foreign Exchanges Act has undergone a revision. Purchases of foreign currencies up to 100,000 leva worth may be effected without previous authorisation of the National Bank and without production of justificative documents. Credits and guarantees in foreign currencies are to be granted under the National Bank's control. Payments in leva into the accounts of foreign residents are free, provided they are justified by real needs or effective trade transactions. Foreign depositors of leva with Bulgarian banks may freely employ their credit balance for payments in favour of Bulgarian or foreign beneficiaries. They may equally transfer their balances into foreign moneys with the authorisation of the National Bank. That institution retains in fact the monopoly of dealing in foreign currencies; the formalities and technical intricacies are somewhat reduced. This measure is described as a transition to complete liberty in foreign exchange operations.

The Railways Reorganisation Act has been definitely voted. The Administration, the finances, and the general policy of the railways become almost completely independent from political influences, and more up-to-date methods of accountancy, exploitation, supply of materials, building of new lines, etc., are adopted. The budget of the Railway Administration is separated from the general budget of the State.

The settlement of the Disconto Gesellschaft issue has been ratified by Parliament.

In spite of damage by hail storms all over the country, the position of crops remains generally satisfactory, at any rate better than it had been anticipated as a consequence of prolonged frosts.

The continued deficiency of foreign trade is giving rise to some anxiety in business circles. Imports, although slowing down during the recent weeks, are still at a high level. The position of the leather, cotton and textiles trades remains uneasy. Solvency is practically at the same level as last month.

Monetary and credit conditions are becoming gradually stringent. The National Bank rate is to be raised from 9 to 10 per cent. as from July 1 next.

Imports and Exports.

The trade balance during the month of May is again adverse by 248,199,380 leva, as against 81,633,285 leva for April and 91,000,000 for March. Imports during May totalled 50,075 tons for 853,854,165 leva, and exports aggregated 22,364 tons for 605,654,725 leva, while in April, imports amounted to 39,609 tons for 784,462,888 leva and exports totalled 27,888 tons for 702,829,603 leva.

The main export items in May, as against those for April are:

Produce		1929	1929
		May Tons	April Tons
Wheat	...	20	143
Rye	...	—	1,093
Barley	...	302	1,532
Maize	...	6,729	11,448
Tobacco	...	2,369	2,438
Eggs	...	1,813	1,642
Fowls	... pieces	33,630	52,814
Fodder	...	934	2,005
Cattle	... heads	1,004	2,260
Oilcake	...	2,462	1,815
Ores	...	1,720	1,279

Forthcoming Tenders.

The Administration of State Railways is inviting tenders to take place on July 22 for the supply of 100 tons of round iron for concrete reinforcements. The estimated cost is 700,000 leva. A 5 per cent. caution is required with offers, i.e., 35,000 leva.

The Ministry of Agriculture and State Property is inviting tenders, which must be deposited by July 20, for the erection of a dam wall alongside the Danube river from the village of Koshova to the town of Vidin for the protection of the low lands in the Vidin valley. The estimated cost is 21,000,000 leva. A 5 per cent. caution is required with offer, i.e., 1,050,000 leva.

Strikes in Tobacco and Textile Industry.

During the period under review two strikes were declared in the tobacco manipulation trade. They are now about to be settled. As the employees will receive an increase of wages, this will reflect on the cost price of tobacco for export.

The textile industry at Sliven has also experienced a strike of employees, who demanded an increase in their wages. The employers are in general not inclined to grant any increase of wages, and a lockout since the 26th has been declared by all textile factories at Sliven, the main centre of the woollen industry in Bulgaria.

Miscellaneous.

The quantity of notes in circulation during June shows a steady level. On May 23, the notes in circulation amounted to 4,039,034 leva, on May 31, 3,977,155,000 leva, on June 7, 4,007,763,000 leva, and on June 15, 3,981,559,000 leva.

The foreign exchange reserves of the National Bank, owing to reduced exports during the late spring and summer months, showed a gradual decrease during the month of June. Thus on May 23 foreign exchange amounted to 1,791,899,000 leva, on May 31, 1,788,098,000 leva, on June 7, 1,779,537,000 leva, and on June 15, 1,710,339,000 leva.

Protested bills during the first quarter of 1929 as compared with the corresponding period of 1928 shows a slight decrease as to the number of bills protested and their aggregate value.

The wholesale commodity index number (on the basis of 1914 equals 100) for May was 3,338, as compared with 3,318 for April, and 3,290 for March, and 3,134 for May, 1928. The general level of wholesale prices, therefore, has risen by 0.6 per cent. as against April, and by 6.5 per cent. as compared with April 1928. The increase in the cost of living is due to rising prices of foodstuffs (plus 2.7 per cent.) and foodstuffs of animal origin (plus 2.1 per cent.).

Receipts of the State Treasury for May, show a marked decline as compared with the figures for April, which is due to decreased receipts from Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, and from the Municipalities toward teachers' salaries. In May, ordinary receipts amounted to 448,653,000 leva, while in April they were 531,246,000 leva.

According to official data furnished by the Labour Section of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, the number of employees in industrial undertakings during May was 82,169 against 75,492 in April and 60,523 in May 1928.

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Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

The Small and Medium Sized Boiler Plant.

Typical of the economies to be obtained in the average industrial steam generation plant, using any type of boiler is the case of the Holden Wood Bleaching Co., Ltd., of Haslingden (Lancashire), who installed forced draught steam jet furnaces on their "Lancashire" boilers in 1926, with hand firing as usual. The general conditions are difficult because of the violent fluctuations of steam demand characteristic of the bleaching and similar industries, but in a letter they state these furnaces of the "Turbine" make have been most successful, enabling a cheaper grade fuel to be burnt, with actually a less consumption weight for weight, and therefore a substantial saving on the annual fuel bill. Also the total maintenance costs have been so far fifteen shillings, whilst the cleaning out is easier, this being due to the fact that the steam keeps the grates cool, and prevents melting of the ash, and clinker formation, the material being granular and therefore much easier to handle. In another case at Kircaldy a boiler plant, also in the textile industries, with much "boiling" and process steam, was burning 17-18 tons per week of double washed nuts at 21s. per ton, which incidentally resulted in much smoke. After installing "Turbine" furnaces the same steam is supplied by 15 tons of "Duff" coal at 13s. per ton, cutting the fuel bill in half, a special trial undertaken showing that 60 tons of this "Duff" coal lasted practically five weeks, the previous consumption having been about 70-75 tons a month of the expensive coal.

Naturally the savings to be obtained on any given boiler plant varies according to the local circumstances, especially as regards relative prices and qualities of fuel obtainable. The main point is, however, that the "Turbine" furnace, hand-fired as usual, and with only one steam valve to control, enables any fuel irrespective of the quality to be burnt at will by means of a forced draught blast so that a high furnace temperature is obtained with maximum emission of radiant heat, while the consumption of steam at the nozzles does not exceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent. of the steam output of the boilers. This is practically no more than mechanical draught, and without of course for smaller boiler plants complications in the way of fans, engines, motors, trunking, and dampers, while any boiler can be fitted merely by taking out the existing firebars. On these lines there can always be used fuels that represent the best value for money in actual heat units supplied, and the saving thereby as against ordinary methods of operation may be anything from 15 to 50 per cent. in normal practice. In this connexion also it is of course essential to keep proper weekly records of the performance of the boiler plant with the aid of water or steam meters, so that one quality of fuel may be tested against the other on the large scale under actual commercial conditions, and also the plant always maintained at the highest efficiency.

A Sewage Plant.

Dealing some little time ago with sewage disposal, I made some remarks which led to correspondence with an engineer in Holland, who writes now to give details of an activated sludge plant with many novel features which is now at work at Apeldoorn, Holland. Of course, surface aeration of sewage is common practice on the Continent; they are far more enthusiastic about it than British engineers, though it is difficult to say on what grounds. Anyhow, this plant seems to represent the last word in ingenuity and many of my Near Eastern readers may glean some useful hints from a description. The engineer is Mr. H. Kessener, who is the director for the Dutch Government of the State Institution for the purification of waste industrial liquids.

The absorption of oxygen is the underlying principle in

the surface aerators activated sludge methods of dealing with sewage, whether the processes be purely chemical, purely biological, or a combination of the two. The greatest proportion of the compressed air supplied for activation is merely used to keep the solids from settling, or to keep them in suspension. Mr. Kessener says, in his description of the plant, that, assuming that the activated process is a combination of chemical and biological agents, the organic substances are decomposed by this bio-oxidation process, whereby the carbon is changed partly to CO_2 and partly utilised in order to build up living organic matter. More than that, it is even possible that during the first period of aeration, which occupies only a few hours, the whole of the oxygen is made use of for the growth and multiplication of micro-organisms.

Under the influence of prolonged aeration sulphur compounds and nitrogenous substances do not produce, as end products, NH_3 , H_2S , and Mercaptans, but NO_2 , NO_3 , and SO_4 . During the first few hours in aeration, the type and number of organisms present undergo a change, and simultaneously re-assimilations of carbon and clarification of the sewage takes place.

In consequence the conclusion has been arrived at that the activated sludge process should be separated into stages in order that more efficient operation of each stage should be secured. Mr. W. Rudolfs, of the New Jersey (U.S.) Experimental Station, has gone into the subject fairly exhaustively and he agrees with Mr. Kessener in this. In fact, he goes further and suggests that surface aeration is particularly adapted to such a separation of stages on account of ease of manipulation and low costs. We must not lose sight of the fact, however, that good results can be obtained with the process even if only one tank be used.

The plant mentioned as having been laid down at Apeldoorn is designed for the purpose of dealing with slaughter-house waste, and is a surface aeration activated sludge plant. It consists of a bar screen, a grease catcher, an aeration tank, a sedimentation chamber, a septic or digestion tank which is practically flat-bottomed, a great pit, and a sludge pit. The plant is on the small size, as it has only been designed for handling between 30,000 and 31,000 gallons of waste, which is received during eight working hours daily, except on Sundays.

The incoming waste is violently agitated and kept in suspension by means of wooden racks or paddles, motor-driven, which turn diagonally to the incoming sewage.

The surface aerating device is novel and consists merely of ordinary circular street cleaning brushes, such as are used on municipal motor vehicles for sweeping refuse to the side of a road. They are 9 ft. in length and are arranged four in a row. They are totally submerged, but only to a depth of from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, and are chain-driven from a line of shafting, the power being obtained from a variable speed electric motor. The agitating paddles make $3\frac{1}{2}$ revolutions per minute, whilst the brushes make 57 revolutions in the same time; but as the character of the sewage may vary, arrangements are made whereby these speeds can be carried in proportion, the higher speeds being used for the lightest sewage. The paddles break the surface into waves and the revolving

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brushes cause an even rippled flow. The amount of air beaten into the sewage is considerable, owing to the large air spaces between the bristles of the brushes.

As is common with all slaughter-house waste, the strength of the sewage before treatment is considerable. The effluent is blood-coloured and has a most disagreeable odour. After treatment, the final effluent is colourless, odourless, and quite clear, and is, in short, such as no engineer would mind passing into a river or stream. In the results given it is noticeable that there is a reduction in the alkaline content, which in connexion with the reduction in oxygen consumed gives additional evidence of the high degree of purification brought about.

According to the figures supplied, the installation was inexpensive. The wooden paddles were made at a low cost from spare timber, the brushes, in Holland, cost only a few shillings each, the tank was of reinforced concrete, and the other accessories, including the motors, were obtained at a reasonable cost. The electric power used for driving the submerged brushes and the submerged shaft of the paddles, taking the revolutions per minute at the highest figures, was only 1.3 kilowatt-hours. This deals with the refuse from a maximum kill of 20 cattle and 80 hogs. The notes sent say that it has been found that the system has great flexibility, as if the sewage becomes stronger, all that has to be done is to submerge the brushes a little deeper into the liquid. The settled sludge is digested in the flat-bottomed tank, provided the usual precautions are taken and the proper conditions observed, without the least difficulty. It is said that so far no hitch has occurred with the working of the plant and that the results obtained have been uniformly good.

The Gas Turbine.

Improvements have been made to the gas turbine, and it is in this direction that I am convinced we shall find efficiency. The reciprocating internal-combustion engine of whatever type is at best a compromise; an attempt to obtain a fair amount of something we want accompanied by not more than we can comfortably bear of something we do not want. I am quite aware that such a statement is heretical; no doubt what I am about to say will be regarded as a greater heresy still.

Of the three classes of gas turbines I incline to the belief that the fixed abutment type, which the majority of engineers regard as hopelessly obsolete, will ultimately come into more general use than any other class. I am, of course, aware that a number of authorities use the

word "turbine" in its strictest sense, and to them the fixed abutment class of machine is a rotary-piston machine, and not a turbine at all.

At the same time, I admit the possibilities of the gas-driven water-turbine and the gas turbine pure and simple; I have no intention of speaking disparagingly regarding them. All I contend is that the rotary-piston type of machine should prove of great commercial value, and to those who would regard this as impossible, and who look on the machine as something relegated to the scrap-heap, I would say: If you would take the trouble to look up the early specifications relating to electric lamps you will find that almost every investigation, from Starr downwards, was working on metals, as platinum tungsten or iridium, for filaments.

GOOD CYPRUS HARVEST.

The report on Cyprus crops for June gives the following details:—
A good wheat harvest, as foreshadowed in last month's report, is now practically assured. The price is 6s. to 7s. per bushel.

Notwithstanding damage done by heavy rain to barley whilst the crop was in sheaves awaiting threshing, it is above the average in quality and quantity. The price is unsettled, at about 2s. per bushel.

Harvesting of oats is still in progress. The crop is poor both in grain and straw.

The new crop of potatoes is rather poor, and tubers are undersized as compared with last year. Considerable quantities are being exported to Greece, Palestine, Egypt, and Syria. Exports for the first fortnight of June amounted to 1,050 tons. The price is £5 10s. to £6 per ton, with a downward tendency.

If conditions continue favourable to growth, an increase in the yield of cotton may be expected. The export of lint continues.

It is too early to give any forecast of the new orange crop. The fruit is now forming, but a considerable amount of "June drop" is noticed in most groves.

Reports indicate that last month's forecast of the carobs crop was a little too optimistic. Whereas in some localities the crop is better than that of the preceding year, as a whole it is expected to be slightly smaller. The price is £5 10s. per ton.

The crop of Latakia and cigarette tobacco is expected to be good. The harvesting of the leaves has commenced.

There is a very good crop of cumin. The price is £40 per ton.

A limited area was planted with aniseed. The plants have flowered satisfactorily.

Up to the present the prospects of the 1929 olive crop are promising.

A very satisfactory crop of grapes is expected, though heavy rains and hail have caused a good deal of damage in some parts of Pitsillia.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

PHOENIX OIL PRODUCTS.

The report of Phoenix Oil Products, Ltd., for the past year states that the gross income for the year amounted to £69,647 1s. 8d., an increase of £12,912 5s. 8d. over the previous year. After providing for administrative expenses, etc., and the dividends on the issued preference capital, there remains a surplus for the year of £12,213 11s. 7d., which, added to the sum brought forward into the balance-sheet, gives a balance of £17,953 10s. 1d., which is carried forward. The company's distributing organisations in Austria and Hungary, Southern Germany, Yugoslavia, and Belgium have not only been maintained, but extended by the addition of further storage depôts, pump stations, etc.

P. AND O. BANKING CORPORATION.

The report of the P. and O. Banking Corporation for the year ended March 31 last states that the net profits for the year, after providing for taxation, bad and doubtful debts and valuing investments at or below market rates, amount to £106,017 3s. 5d., which, with £20,404 18s. 10d. brought forward from last year, gives an available balance for disposal of £127,412 2s. 3d. Out of this amount the directors propose to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., less income tax at 3s. 6.41d., absorbing £106,787 10s. 4d., carrying £20,624 11s. 11d. to the next account.

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British Consular Reports

II.—SMYRNA.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the British Consul-General at Smyrna on the economic situation in the Smyrna District in 1928:—

Favourable weather conditions during the winter of 1927-28 produced the hope of better crops in 1928 than in previous years, and as the prosperity of Smyrna district depends principally on its agriculture, it was anticipated that an improvement in trade would result. Unfortunately, drought and hot north winds in the summer of last year injured the crops, with the result that a monetary crisis prevailed locally and the impoverishment of the peasants increased.

The loss of man power which has hampered agricultural development is gradually being remedied, partly by mechanical methods and partly by immigration of Muslim peasants from Macedonia and Yugoslavia. Up to the end of 1928 it was reported that nearly 60,000 such immigrants had been settled in the vilayet of Smyrna alone.

Of the population of Turkey approximately 70 per cent. are agriculturists, and they cultivate about 6 per cent. of the area of the Republic. The primitive manner and means of cultivation which are still employed by the vast majority of farmers are slowly giving way to modern methods and implements. Various appliances and machines of American, German, and Hungarian manufacture were exhibited in a special section at the Smyrna Fair in 1928, but only a minority of big cultivators can afford to purchase them at present. A number of American and Hungarian tractors are being used, and iron threshing machines, ploughs, etc., are being imported, most from Central Europe, and are bought in increasing numbers. The imports of agricultural implements in 1928 amounted to 357 tons, as against 166, 119, and 129 tons respectively in the three previous years. In addition, 192 tractors were imported last year.

The Crop Situation.

In 1927, exports of wheat from the Smyrna district amounted to 2,493 tons. In addition, 18 tons of flour were exported. By May, 1928, it was realised that the wheat crop would not be sufficient for home needs for the whole year, and that it would be necessary to import. From September last to the end of the year no less than 12,000 tons of wheat were imported into Smyrna. As regards barley, exports from Smyrna in 1927 amounted to 17,280 tons. The harvest was 25 per cent. below that of 1927, and the total yield was at first placed at about 45,000 tons. After the long summer drought this estimate was brought down to 35,000 tons, of which at least half would be required for home consumption. Exports of barley in 1928 ultimately amounted to 8,895 tons.

The area under oats is relatively small, and the crop is not an important one. At the end of last year about 6,000 tons of the crop were to hand, as compared with 4,232 tons in 1927. The millet crop was good in quality, but the quantity grown was approximately 30 per cent. less than in 1927; exports did not amount to more than 161 tons. The rye crop totalled 24,000 tons, a decrease of 16½ per cent. from 1927. Imports of millet in 1928 amounted to 49 tons; bran, 619 tons; forage, 995 tons; and rye, 101 tons. As regards exports, millet totalled 161 tons; baghala, 20; bran, 1,209; forage, 9; rye, 50; hemp, 174; aniseed, 65; and sesame, 26 tons. The broad bean crop was expected early in 1928 to produce 30,000 tons; only 9,000 tons, however, were realised. The total exports were 5,563 tons, the bulk of which went to France, Belgium, the United Kingdom, and Turkish ports.

Tobacco was sown in 1928 over an area of 30 per cent. less than in 1927, owing to the low prices which obtained in 1927. Cold weather destroyed the first sowings, and in summer continuous north winds caused the "Akdaman" disease to become very prevalent. The crop totalled only 22 to 23 million okes, or 2½ million okes less than in 1927.

Exports totalled 20,879 tons, and of this the United States took 6,724 tons and the United Kingdom 107 tons, while 2,730 tons were shipped to Turkish ports.

The olive crop in the 1928-29 season was the most successful of the district's crops, and large hopes were based on it, especially as Spanish competition was not to be feared as it was in 1927. In that year only 5,500 tons of oil had been produced, and therefore none was available for export. It was expected that 25,000 tons of oil would be extracted in 1928, and statistics show that in the second half of the year about 200 per cent. more oil was brought to Smyrna from the interior than in 1927. Exports of olive oil amounted to 1,471 tons, valued at £T854,087.

The raisin crops of 1927 and 1928 were approximately the same, viz., 48,000 tons. The chief buyers in 1928 were Germany, £T4,957,176 (8,953 tons); the United Kingdom, £T3,709,678 (9,055); Italy, £T1,993,896 (4,176); Holland, £T1,682,951 (3,286); Belgium, £T684,353 (1,251); and the Soviet Union. The total exports in 1928 were placed at 29,370 tons, valued at £T14,13,830, as against 34,500 tons in 1927. The fig crop was considerably affected by the continuous hot north winds in July of last year. It was estimated that the crop would show an increase of 10 per cent. over 1927, when 27,800 tons were exported; actually there was a decrease of 10 to 15 per cent. Up to the end of last year 27,514 tons were exported, in addition to 3,032 tons of refuse. During the second half of 1928 exports of figs amounted to £T9,294,064. The United Kingdom received 2,487 tons of worked figs and 3,744 tons of natural figs, valued at £T2,085,826.

The supply of liquorice is automatically regulated by the demand, for it requires no cultivation, and almost inexhaustible quantities are available as required. There was a decrease of 30 per cent. in the amount of liquorice root brought down for shipment in 1928 as compared with 1927. Statistics show that 13,545 tons of root were exported in 1928, the United States taking 9,870 tons and France 3,084 tons; 83 tons of paste were exported. In 1927 the respective totals were: root, 14,470 tons and paste 48 tons. The total value of root exported in 1928 was £T883,153.

Last year's cotton crop was less abundant than that of 1927, for though it was expected that 40,000-45,000 bales would be gathered, as against 30,000 in 1927, drought and north winds spoiled the plants, and not more than 28,000 bales were gathered. Of these only 15,000 bales had been sold by the end of January, 1929; local mills absorbed 5,000 bales, and the remainder were exported principally to France and Greece. Imports of cotton last year amounted to 18 tons, and cotton yarn 1,211 tons, while

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.07½
Athens	Draehmæ to £ ...	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	26.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.87
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.22½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 51 64—53/64
Brussels	Belga to £	35	31 91
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	817½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27 82½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 51 63—53/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1,008½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85 5/82—3/16
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123 98
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	163½
Rome	Lire to £	92.48	92.74
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	55
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.51½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 3/16—7/16

exports of cotton totalled 2,935 tons, cotton yarn 446 tons, and cotton seed 6,065 tons. The total value of cotton exported was £T2,275,449, and that of cotton seed £T410,033.

Early estimates of the valonea crop placed the amount at 25 per cent. more than the 1927 crop, which had totalled 43,500 tons, and of which 34,888 tons were exported. The total gathered reached 55,000 tons, but the quality left much to be desired. Foreign demand was less than in former years; only about half of the total crop was exported. Exports of valonea extract, however, showed an increase as compared with 1927 of 65 per cent., large contracts received from the Soviet Union doing much to stimulate the local extracting industry. Imports of valonea amounted to 7,271 tons; valonea extract, 12 tons; and valonea refuse, 15 tons; while exports of valonea totalled 23,661 tons and of valonea extract 5,131 tons.

Increased Exports of Carpets.

In spite of Greek competition exports of carpets from the Smyrna zone have gradually increased since 1923. The United States continues to be the best market, especially for the higher grades, about 70 per cent. of the exported Sparta carpets being sent there. The total production in 1928 was 490,800 square yards. Of 361,338 sq. metres exported in 1928, representing a value of £T4,513,214, the United Kingdom imported 160,860 sq. metres, valued at £T1,816,133.

A fairly large trade is done in lambskins and kidskins; the former were of good quality and the latter abundant last year. The 250,000 lambskins produced were all exported to Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Italy. Other skins sold on the Smyrna market were hare, goat, fox, marten, jackal, badger, and other skins. Imports of hides amounted to 666 tons, while exports of lambskins totalled 291 tons; kid, 164; hare, 11; goatskins, 138; and hides, 139 tons. In addition to the tanneries in Smyrna and Adalia, local tanning industries are carried on in various towns in the interior, notably Denizli, Manissa, Usak, and Balikesir.

The chief imports of minerals in 1928 were petroleum,

15,489 tons; sulphur, 2,721 tons; and coal, 44,331 tons, while included in the exports were emery, 1,377 tons; mercury, 4; antimony, 21; arsenic, 248 lb.; lead, 58 tons; oxide of copper, 18; metal scrap, 1,808; salt, 212; and chrome, 1,000 tons.

ROUMANIA'S RIVER PORT TRAFFIC.

The continued inactivity which characterised shipping at the principal Roumanian ports during 1928 was due to a number of causes and has existed since the immediate post-War years, at which time shipping was stimulated temporarily by a heavy import movement brought about by the extreme shortage of goods after the War (says the American Consul at Bucharest, Mr. J. Rives Childs, in a recent report).

Prior to the War the bulk of Roumania's foreign trade moved through the ports of Galatz and Braila, although the port of Constantza had a limited importance for winter traffic when the Danube was frozen. The principal export port was Braila, on the upper Danube, and Galatz was the chief port for imports. Practically the entire foreign trade of Roumania prior to the War moved through the Danubian ports, the intensity of the shipping movement having been in direct proportion to the foreign commerce of Roumania. The importance of the Roumanian ports, however, particularly Galatz and Braila, has not developed in proportion to the enlarged territory and increased economic interests of Roumania as a result of the War.

The fact that exports of cereals have not attained the volume of pre-War grain exports is one of the causes for the decline in Roumanian shipping. Another cause is the disorganisation of the Roumanian railway system, combined with the fact that the railway network in the newly acquired territories was directed from Transylvania toward the ports of Trieste, Fiume, and Hamburg; from Bessarabia toward Odessa; and from Bukowina toward Danzig.

The above-named ports are said to have drawn freight traffic from the Roumanian ports as a result of unsatisfactory local transportation conditions, lack of modern port facilities, docks, warehouses, etc., as well as the unsettled juridical régime at the mouth of the Danube, the high taxes levied by the European Commission of the Danube, the repeated silting up of the Danube in the Sulina channel, and a variety of other causes.

The declining shipping movement in 1928 was aggravated by two factors—the precipitate drop in exports following the generally poor agricultural yield of the previous year, and the decrease in value and volume of imports as a result of the crisis which occurred in 1928.

Notwithstanding an increase of lumber exports to the Near East and Italy through the port of Galatz during 1928, as compared with 1927, the total export tonnage through this port during the six months ended December 31, 1928, showed a decline of approximately 100,000 metric tons from the similar periods of preceding years. During the calendar year 1927, there were shipped from Braila 186,000 metric tons of cereals, whereas during the first 11 months of 1928 only some 50,000 metric tons were loaded.

A total of 1,149 vessels, aggregating 2,334,000 tons, entered the port of Constantza during 1927, and 1,055 vessels of 2,241,000 tons entered during the first 11 months of 1928. These figures indicate that Constantza has not been subject to the general decrease in traffic that has affected Roumanian river ports. The shipping movement of Constantza in 1928, as in preceding years, was concerned in the main with exports; these totalled 1,846,000 metric tons during the first 11 months of the year, while imports during the same period amounted to only 121,000 metric tons. Of the export traffic, oil products constituted 1,543,000 tons; cereals, 222,000 tons; lumber, 50,000 tons; and miscellaneous goods the remainder. Import traffic during 1928 was divided among metal goods, tools, colonial goods, fruits, coal, etc.

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Tel Aviv: Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

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New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
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Company Meeting.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

A Successful Year.

Sir William Peat's Speech.

The thirty-second annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held on July 8 at the registered offices of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., Sir William B. Peat, C.V.O. (Chairman of the company), presiding.

The representative of the Secretaries (Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The directors' report and accounts for the year to April 30, 1929, have been circulated, and I presume you will agree to take these documents as read. (Agreed.)

You will have noted from the accounts that the profit for the year to April 30 is shown at about the same amount as that for the preceding year, which is a very satisfactory position. The dividend on the ordinary shares recommended by the directors is at the same rate as that for the previous year, namely, 35 per cent., with a bonus of 4s. per share.

As you are aware, the business of the company is controlled by the local Board of Directors in Cairo, and I have invited Mr. Baehler, the chairman of that Board, and our managing director, whom we are pleased to welcome here to-day, to give you a summary of the local Board's report on the operations of the company in Egypt for the past financial year.

The addition to freehold and leasehold buildings of £26,153 represents the cost of the acquisition of land adjoining Shepherd's Hotel at Cairo. This land is considered very valuable property, and it was important to the company's undertaking that it should be acquired.

The payments on account of the new wing to the Semiramis Hotel of £14,137 are shown as a separate item in the balance-sheet, and the corresponding advance of a temporary character by the bank to meet this expenditure is shown in the liabilities. The total cost of this new wing is estimated by the local board to be approximately £120,000. It is intended that this expenditure should be covered by the amount to be received from the issue of new ordinary shares, proposals in regard to which are to be submitted to a subsequent meeting of the shareholders, of which notice has already been given.

The company has subscribed for 10,000 shares of £1 each in the Palestine Hotels, Ltd., who are building a first-class hotel in Jerusalem, and a sum of £2,500 paid on account of these shares is shown in the balance-sheet under the heading of "Investment." The stocks and sundry debtors are a little above the corresponding figure as at April 30, 1928, which is an ordinary business fluctuation.

The liability to the Grand Hotels d'Egypte has been reduced during the year from £30,769 to £20,512.

The increase of £13,835 shown in the item of sundry creditors and credit balances when compared with the corresponding figure at April 30, 1928, is principally represented by the balance of the cost of acquisition of the land adjoining Shepherd's Hotel, which had not been paid as at April 30 last. As already mentioned, the total cost of this land, including the amount unpaid, is shown as an addition to the item of freehold and leasehold land and buildings.

The amount of cash at bankers and in hand of £101,768 will, of course, be subject to considerable reduction upon payment of the dividend and bonus for the past year. An amount of £7,000 has been written off for depreciation in respect of plant, fixtures, and fittings for the year to April 30, 1929. This sum is slightly in excess of the amount provided in the previous year, and in the opinion of the local Board is an adequate provision.

It will be observed from the balance-sheet that the total assets employed in the company's business amount to a little over £534,000, whereas the nominal capital of the company at the present time is only £240,000. In some quarters a suggestion has been made that the company's profits are unduly high, but when these profits are contrasted with the total assets figure of £534,000, the yield, although very satisfactory, is not considered excessive.

At the present time the company is enjoying the prosperity which the conservative policy of the past and the valuable and able direction of Mr. Baehler and the local Board have brought about. It is my duty to convey to our managing director, Mr. Baehler, and to the other officials and staff of the company who have laboured incessantly in the company's interest, our great indebtedness for their services to the company's undertaking.

I beg to move: "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended April 30, 1929, as submitted to the shareholders be received and adopted, and that the sum allocated to special reserve out of the profits of the past year of £20,000 should be held as applicable to the amortisation of the considerable expenditure now being made on the Semiramis Hotel."

Managing Director's Speech.

Mr. Charles Baehler (Managing Director): I beg to second the resolution. You have heard the Chairman's able explanation of the balance-sheet and the financial position of the company, and it only remains for me to inform you in as brief a manner as possible of the progress of the company's business in Egypt during the past financial year. There have been fluctuations in the working results of the various hotels controlled by the company, but collectively the

results shown are satisfactory, as you will see from the profits included in the accounts.

The season again started late, possibly due to the important political and other events in certain countries from which come many of our guests. The working results were good, and although the season started later than customary, there is a steady tendency every year for it to be prolonged.

During the year the policy of improving the hotels of your company has been actively continued. Part of the third floor of Shepherd's Hotel has been renovated, and in carrying out this work the company has been able to provide for a larger number of private bathrooms without diminishing in any way the accommodation available. The hotel is entirely up to date, possessing every convenience and comfort for its guests.

The charm of Shepherd's Hotel is not due only to its high standing; it has been for very many years in advance of modern requirements in hotel accommodation, and this policy has been so extended and amplified that at the present time it remains in advance of any hotel accommodation obtainable in any part of the world.

With regard to the Semiramis Hotel, the restaurant has been newly decorated and provided with the most modern ventilation system. A large number of rooms in the hotel have been redecorated and refurnished and running water fitted. The building of the new wing to the Semiramis Hotel is already well advanced, and it is hoped that it will be completed and ready for opening by January 1 next. Apart from a beautiful and large restaurant and banqueting room overlooking the Nile, the ground floor of the new wing will be provided with an elaborate tea room with a special entrance for Cairo residents, and a private dining and bridge room.

The new wing will also contain eight private sitting rooms, about 70 bedrooms, and 60 bathrooms, giving additional accommodation for about 100 guests, together with well-furnished servants' bedrooms in the fifth floor. The whole of the new wing will be furnished and decorated in the smartest and most attractive manner.

There has been a demand for a good hotel in Cairo of a somewhat less luxurious nature than that of the Shepherd's Hotel or the Semiramis Hotel, and an excellent opportunity occurred for the company to satisfy this demand. A lease for ten years, renewable, if desired, for a further 20 years, has been acquired of an hotel comprising 100 rooms, each with a private bathroom. This hotel, which we have called the "Metropolitan," provides first-class accommodation for people of moderate means, and it has already been opened.

The company has also taken a lease of premises at Fayoum to be converted into an hotel. Fayoum is an oasis in the desert situated about 80 miles from Cairo and is of particular interest to sportsmen. A fleet of motors will ply between Mena House Hotel and Fayoum, running daily on the newly made road connecting Mena House and Fayoum. As a complement to this hotel a small pavilion will be built at the edge of the lake at Karoun which is a few miles from Fayoum Town and where there is excellent fishing and shooting.

Your company has also acquired a share interest in the Palestine Hotels, Ltd., which company is building a large hotel at Jerusalem. This hotel will be called the "The King David Hotel," and it is intended to accommodate about 200 visitors. It is also proposed that the hotel should be managed by the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., under the terms of an agreement by which the remuneration of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., will be settled by a percentage of profits. The King David Hotel is not expected to be ready for opening before the beginning of the year 1931.

All the company's hotels and the furniture and equipment therein have been maintained throughout the year in an excellent state of repair, and these hotels are in perfect condition, enabling them to rank and to compete with the most luxurious hotels in the world. (Applause.)

I greatly regret to report the loss of our friend and colleague, Mr. Warren Gilman, who has been a director of the local Board in Egypt for a great many years. His colleagues deeply deplore his loss. His advice was at all times available for the benefit of the company.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed: "That a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended April 30, 1929, be and the same is hereby declared, payable on and after July 15, 1929."

Mr. H. M. Snow, C.V.O., seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously approved.

The Chairman next proposed: "That a dividend of 35 per cent., together with a bonus of 4s. per share, for the year ended April 30, 1929, be and the same is hereby declared, payable on and after July 15, 1929."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Baehler and was passed unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Baehler, seconded by the Chairman, the retiring director, Mr. H. M. Snow, C.V.O., was re-elected.

The auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co., were re-appointed, on the proposition of Mr. H. S. McAuslan, seconded by Mr. P. S. Joselin, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

An extra-ordinary general meeting followed, at which a resolution was unanimously passed making certain alterations in the articles.

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Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day. The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon. Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches. The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

Head Office — SOFIA — Founded in 1865

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, 522,000,000 leva

97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives. The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 3:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Without displaying any particular feature, values in this market held at a steady level up to the end of last week; since this a declining tendency in the American markets and advices of another attempt on the part of the Government to auction a further 1,000 bales to-day, have created a nervous undertone. With present conditions not encouraging from either a trade or speculative point of view, the limited amount of selling that has come into the market during the past two sessions has only been placed at material price concessions, the decline on the week amounting to 26 to 33 points for near and 51 to 71 points for new crop months. The slight improvement in the trade situation referred to by us last week has not been maintained, as spinners' business has since been on a much reduced scale; uncertainty regarding the wages question is causing most spinners to work on a week-to-week policy of securing their requirements, and whilst this is resulting in rather more cotton going out of local stock, the forward demand is practically at a standstill. As we anticipated some little time ago, near positions are now beginning to reflect in a greater measure the restricted amount of tenderable Sakel now held at this side; most of the old undesirable dockets which have depressed successive current months have now been absorbed. A few days ago July stood at 34 under November; the difference has now closed to 15 points, with a further hardening in prospect. The Alexandria market has fluctuated in a somewhat erratic manner; periodical reactions have occurred, but values have always quickly resumed a downward course. New crop reports continue to be of quite a satisfactory character, but private opinions incline to the view that next season's yield will fall considerably below this year's supplies.

Upper Contract.—A further decline in values has taken place in this market during the past week, and differences with the American market have narrowed down to the lowest of the season. Some heavy liquidation of Julys by Continental interests at the end of last week attracted support from spot houses; tenders so far have only amounted to 850 bales, and the ready acceptance of these has already influenced a closer difference between old and new crop values. Crop reports are favourable, but we hesitate to express a definite view upon ruling levels or differences until clearer ideas of the American new crop staple position can be formulated.

Egyptian Spot.

More actual business has taken place this week both in Egyptian and Sudan growths, and, whilst generally speaking quotations are lower in sympathy with the futures markets, the scarcity of certain qualities has been accentuated by the improved demand. As a result the lower and medium grades of Sakel have hardened. The improved spot demand is somewhat difficult to account for in view of the possibility of labour trouble, and the fact that the Bolton mill holidays have now commenced. Probably it merely indicates an increase of hand-to-mouth purchasing at the expense of the normal c.i.f. quota, rather than any genuine improvement in trade. It is merely repeating ourselves to say that Sakel is now at an attractive level, provided the incentive to buy could be forthcoming. Opinions about Uppers are more mixed and spinners are inclined to look for lower prices still, although, in our opinion, the current premium of 100 points over American looks reasonable.

Sakel has been in moderate request for practically all qualities and attractive lots of the lower grades, from F.G.F. downwards, have become hard to find. The better qualities are freely offered.

Uppers.—As usual the most popular range has been 10 off to 10 on, and this market also is becoming bare of good lots. A lesser demand has been in evidence for cotton up to 40 on, but the top grades have remained neglected.

Pilion.—This growth has again been in good demand, chiefly at from 11.75d. to 12d. Here and there an inquiry for the "Best" has been met with.

White, Maraad, and Nahda.—These have all suffered from neglect this week.

Sudan Sakel has been in good request at steady rates. Most of the business has been done in the medium and lower grades, which are of a very attractive character this season.

Tokar Sakel.—This cotton still awaits a revival in the demand.

C.i.f. business has been on the quiet side. Forwardings to the trade last week were returned as 7,519 bales Egyptian and 2,039 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 2,400 bales Egyptian and 2,150 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel from Extra Fine to F.G.F. are reduced 55 to 5 points, Good Fair and Fair are 10 to 25 points higher on the week. Uppers have given way 31 points, and Pilion 25 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 15.90d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.97d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.00d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended June 27, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has not been very active, and the tendency has been undecided. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: July, 31.55 dollars, 0.08 dollars down; November, 32.18 dollars, 0.14 dollars down; January, 32.66 dollars, 0.10 dollars down; March, 33.06 dollars, 0.07 dollars down. Ashmouni: August, 20.85 dollars, 0.02 dollars up; October, 21.25 dollars, 0.07 dollars down; December, 21.73 dollars, 0.07 dollars down; February, 22.18 dollars, unchanged.

Sakel.—The week opened with rather weak markets, and July at the lowest was quoted at 30.70 dollars. There was some short covering and reversals of straddles by purchases of Sakel against sales of Ashmouni, and prices at the close of the week had more or less regained the ground lost earlier on. The trade demand, while still of only moderate volume, has at the same time been slightly better than last week. Latest reports from the textile centres are not brilliant and prospects are for a reduction in yarn production, both in America and on the Continent; in England there is fear of a lock-out as a result of the dispute between the mill owners and their employees on the question of wages.

The stock of Sudan Sakel in Liverpool remains at a large figure, which exercises a depressing influence both on the Liverpool Egyptian market and our own. In spite of the fairly strong technical position of our market and the present reasonable levels of prices, we think that the probability of a rise of moment can be dismissed from consideration, in view of the existing supplies which appear to be sufficient to satisfy the prospective modest requirements of spinners from all parts of the world for the three months remaining before the first arrivals of the new crop.

The Sakel Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,093 points, against 1,100 points last week and 1,407 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—This market has continued to show the firm tone to which we have been accustomed of late. The straddle sales of Uppers against purchases of Sakel have been easily absorbed by the trade by reason of the fact that spinners, particularly the Continental spinners, have again been in the market for important lines. The difference with New York remains at about 2½ dollars for the respective October deliveries, and we are of the opinion that this difference will not undergo any great change until a more definite idea can be formed as to the figure which new crop long staple American cotton will attain.



THE LIVERPOOL COTTON EXCHANGE.

Liverpool Cotton Association

LIVERPOOL

The Greatest Spot Cotton Market in the World

MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION
OFFER FACILITIES FOR THE SALE,
PURCHASE AND FINANCE OF
EVERY GROWTH OF COTTON.

The World follows Liverpool Cotton Quotations daily.

GROWERS AND SHIPPERS SHOULD
SEND THEIR COTTON TO LIVERPOOL.

All information may be obtained from the Secretary

The Ashmouni/American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 273 points, against 263 points last week and 609 points at this time last year. Against the third June tender, dockets for 5,750 kantars were issued, which brings the total for the month up to 7,500 kantars.

The week's receipts amount to 3,207 kantars, against exports 125,691 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 2,134,561 kantars.

Spot.—We have had higher average markets this week due to freer offerings, owing to the demand moving to slightly better grades. The total sales are about 9,400 bales, of which we estimate 4,550 bales Sakellaridis, 4,340 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 450 bales Pilion, and 60 bales White and other varieties.

Sakellaridis.—The good demand for medium grades still continues, but this week there has also been a moderate demand for Fully Good Fair/Good, which has increased the turnover, as there is a fair quantity of these grades on the market. The premiums for medium grades have stiffened compared with last week, as decent staple lots are very scarce indeed.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—Here we have had a fair turnover in the grades Fully Good Fair/Good and Good, the buyers paying full premiums on August. The demand for Fully Good Fair still exists, but there are very few lots on offer. Sellers are maintaining the prices and buyers are plentiful.

Pilion.—This market is much the same as last week, with the demand general for all grades. Premiums are unchanged.

White and Other Varieties.—Have been in very moderate demand.

Crop, 1929.—The news received this week on the crop is very good. Under the influence of warm weather and normal irrigation, the plants present a robust appearance and their progress is quite satisfactory. There have been a few complaints of leaf worm

attack, but the resulting damage, at any rate up to now, has been insignificant.

A Yugoslav-Belgian Chamber of Commerce has been instituted at Brussels for the promotion of trade between the two countries.

The prohibition which was imposed in January on the export and re-export of barley from Syria has recently been withdrawn.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for June was 68,040 tons.

The provisional receipts of the Suez Canal for the first six months of the current year amounted to 561,230,000 francs, against 548,545,000 francs for the corresponding period of 1928, making an increase of 12,685,000 francs.

Sir Herbert Baker, A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A., has undertaken the design of the Victoria Embankment elevations of the new head office of Cables and Wireless, Ltd., and Imperial and International Communications, Ltd. The building is to be erected on the site of the old L.C.C. Education Offices adjoining the Temple Station.

The directors of Westminster Bank Ltd. have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 on the £4 shares, and the maximum dividend of 6½ per cent. on the £1 shares for the same period. The dividends, 2s. per share and 1s. 3d. per share respectively (both less income tax), will be payable on August 1.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		INDIAN EXCHANGES.	
Government Stocks.		Government Loans.	
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	81½	3½ Government Paper ...	70½
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	71	Banks	
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	88	Imperial Bank of India ...	1,432½
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	82	Bank of India ...	102
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	28½	Central Bank of India ...	161
Do. 7 p.c. ...	83½xd	Coal.	
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ...	72½xd	Baraboni ...	5 8a
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ...	72½xd	Bengal ...	47½
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1899 ...	56½	Burrakur ...	15½
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	70xd	East Indian ...	22
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	70xd	Equitable ...	22½
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ...	58xd	Pench Valley ...	33
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	60	Ranegunge ...	43½
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	77	Standard ...	60½
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ...	100½	Cotton.	
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	90½	Bengal Nagpur ...	32½
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	103½	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	762½
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ...	84	Bowrah ...	322
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext ...	68	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	173
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	45½	Cawnpore Textiles ...	14
Do. 7 p.c. ...	85½	Century ...	338½
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	106½	Central India ...	460½
India 3½ p.c. ...	66½ 16	Elgin ...	91
Do. 3 p.c. ...	56½	Khatia Makani ...	65
Do. 5 p.c. ...	99½	Muir ...	342
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	87½	New Ring ...	145
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	18	Phoenix ...	340
Banks.		Svadeshi ...	406½
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	79/16	Jute.	
Bank of British West Africa ...	4½	Alliance ...	545
Bank of Roumania ...	80	Barnagore ...	312
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	28/9	Budge Budge ...	542
Chartered Bank of India ...	19½	Clive ...	381
Eastern ...	6 9 16	Dalhousie ...	525
Hambros ...	10½	Delta ...	552
Ionian Bank ...	6½	Fort Gloster ...	872
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	11½	Gourepore ...	442½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	17½	Howrah ...	56½
Lloyds ...	62½	Kamarhaty ...	568
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	32½	Kankannarrh ...	603xd
Do. B ...	33½	Khardah ...	1,065
National Bank of Egypt ...	34½	Kinnison ...	29
National Bank of India ...	50	National ...	440
Ottoman Bank ...	11½xc	Standard ...	682
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	8½	Union ...	
Westminster ...	78½	Miscellaneous.	
Land.		British India Corporation ...	3½
Kassala Cotton ...	9/3	Bengal Paper Mills ...	4½
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	5/9	Bengal Timber Trading ...	226
Sudan Plantations ...	4	Burn and Co. ...	391
Mines.		Cawnpore Sugar ...	171
Salaghat Gold Mining ...	5½	Champaran Sugar ...	124
Burma Corp. ...	18/10½	Howrah Oil Mills ...	111
Champion Reef Gold ...	8½	ALEXANDRIA	
Mysore ...	13	Prices on June 28, supplied by G.L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.	
Nandydroog ...	15/6	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	£7½
Opereum Gold Mining Ord. ...	10/3	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	£2730
Oil.		Alexandria Water Co. ...	£15 1/32
Angle-Egyptian B ...	221/32	Behera Ord. ...	£14
Angle-Persian Ord. ...	411/32	Ciments d'Egypte ...	£2015/16
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	27½	Div. ...	£185½
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	29/9	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	£5/16
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	97½	Credit-Roncier Egyptien ...	£903
Brit. Burmah ...	6/9	Fondateur ...	£2,550
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	49/32	Crown Brewery Priv. ...	£142½
Do. 8½ Cum Pref ...	26/3	Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	£43½
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	-6	Frigorifique d'Egypte ...	£7
Phoenix Oil and Transport f.p.) ...	13	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	£16
Do. (1/-) ...	7/-	Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	£17½
Shell Transport ...	413/16	Parts de Fond ...	£230
Steaua Romana ...	11/-	Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	£190



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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	65	INDIAN NOTES ...	67	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE —		Notes and News ...	83
Egypt and Great Britain...	68	The Air Route to India...	81	Notes from Bulgaria ...	85
SPECIAL LETTERS—		CORRESPONDENCE ...	76	Shipping Intelligence ...	88
Egypt ...	69	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	77	The Week's Finance ...	89
Bulgaria ...	70	BOOK REVIEW ...	78	Motors and Motoring ...	91
Greece ...	71	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	80	Engineering Topics ...	93
Cyprus ...	71			Company Meeting—	
Calcutta ...	73			P. & O. Banking Corporation ...	94
				Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	95

Notes of the Week.

Friction in the Balkans.

With the return to Sofia of the Yugoslav Minister accredited to the Bulgarian Government, who has established a reputation as a keen advocate of good relations between the two countries, the danger that tension in this part of the Balkans will become still further aggravated has been reduced, although it has not been altogether removed. M. Neshitch was unable to bring with him from Belgrade any assurance that the Pirot Protocol would be ratified; but in view of the friendly suggestions made on this subject by the British and French representatives in Yugoslavia, it was not to be expected that the Belgrade Government would be disposed to take at once the step recommended to them. It is all to the good that M. Neshitch has been allowed to return to his post, and that he has had a friendly conversation with the Bulgarian Prime Minister. The strong bias of European opinion in this recrudescence of trouble between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria will not have been lost on King Alexander's Government. It is no question this time of provocation by *komitajis*. The troubled area lies to the north of the Macedonian arena, and covers the territory which was allotted to Yugoslavia by the Treaty of Neuilly under the belief that Yugoslav security required the frontier to be moved within thirty miles of the Bulgarian capital. It was not contended that the inhabitants of this area were other than Bulgarian, but strategic reasons were held to overrule national and economic factors. From a statement issued by the Bulgarian Government it would appear that over fourteen thousand Bulgarian subjects owning property in the ceded districts were handed over to Yugoslavia, and nearly eight thousand of those who became Yugoslav subjects still have property in Bulgaria. In these circumstances it is not surprising that this part of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier has proved a Balkan "sore." Under a just and enlightened administration it is conceivable that the industriousness of a hardy people would have induced the great majority of them to accept their lot philosophically; but the harsh policy adopted towards them and the restrictions placed on free movement across the frontier have had the inevitable effect of keeping the sore an open one.

Attempts at Settlement.

With the advent to power of the present régime in Yugoslavia the Belgrade authorities appear to have been anxious to find some friendly settlement for this frontier problem. The Pirot Conference was held, and a *modus vivendi* was arranged, although the Bulgarian Government would not accept the Yugoslav suggestion that the simultaneous owning of land on both sides of the boundary should be abolished. Unfortunately, certain incidents in Bulgaria have given the Yugoslav Government an excuse for not ratifying an agreement that failed to embody all its recommendations, and the Bulgarian population in Yugoslavia has experienced a tightening of the screw. Accordingly, if matters are allowed to drift, there will be a long series of outrages on this section of the frontier. The Great Powers that transferred the population in question to an alien jurisdiction cannot divest themselves of all responsibility in the matter, and it is satisfactory to find that the new British Government favours the appointment of a Neutral Commission to take charge of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier. The suggestion may not be to the liking of the Yugoslav Government, but if it secures the support of France, Yugoslavia will find it less invidious to agree to such a Commission. A continuance of frontier incidents between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria must sooner or later rouse public opinion in Europe to an appreciation of the fact that a demarcation which might have worked satisfactorily with other peoples has proved impossible in the Balkans, and the need for imposing peace from outside will become imperative. The advocates of revision of the Peace Treaties inevitably find their strongest arguments in the actions and policy of the Governments which so strongly oppose it.

A Plot in Roumania.

Drastic censorship in time of war is an admitted necessity; under peace conditions it may be doubted whether it serves any really useful purpose. For this reason it is a matter for regret that the present Roumanian Government, which, to judge by the last elections, had some claim to be broad-based upon the people's will, should have emulated the Bratianu régime in enforcing the

ensorship in regard to a so-called Fascist plot. Europe to-day has an instinctive interest in the political stability and material progress of every single country. It made up its mind that the former Government in Roumania, even if firmly entrenched, could never connote material progress for the country, and the advent to power of Dr. Maniu's party was welcomed as affording some promise that Roumania would again pull her full weight in the economic reconstruction of Europe. That an unconstitutional attempt should be made at this early stage to upset the Maniu régime is sufficient in itself to incur the full reprobation of all responsible European opinion, and the Roumanian Government, therefore, would appear to have nothing to lose in allowing the full light of publicity to be brought to bear upon the "plot." The more insignificant or localised the movement, the greater the advantage of allowing all the facts to be known. If only official *communiqués* on the subject are permitted to be published, the inference is at once drawn that the Government dare not divulge the real extent of the plot. In the present instance there may be no justification for this inference; but the policy adopted has not made it easy for the Government to be given the benefit of the doubt. According to the official statements a small "Fascist" group, including certain officers, conceived the idea of a *coup d'état*, but the plot was brought to the notice of the authorities and was nipped in the bud. There follow, however, rumours of a Ministerial crisis and of strained relations between the Government and the Council of Regency, with the result that there is a danger that the efforts of Dr. Maniu and his associates during the last seven months to place conditions in Roumania on a stable basis will be checked. The dragooning of the electorate and the censorship were two bad features of the previous régime, and it was thought that the latter had been as resolutely abandoned as the former under the present Government. It is to be hoped, therefore, that any setback to the confidence placed in the National-Peasant Party to make good will quickly be removed, and that Dr. Maniu will not be deterred from his policy of purging the administration of the country of bad features that have characterised it for so long.

Democracy.

The new British Government has done good service by taking early steps to show that it does not propose to lose sight of practical considerations in any attachment to doctrinaire views. Nowhere have greater hopes been built on the advent to power of a Labour Government in England than among the Opposition in Egypt. Its success, a statement issued by the Secretary-General of the Wafd declares, "was looked upon by the Egyptians as heralding a new era of friendship and understanding between our two democracies"; but the rest of the announcement made it clear that the reader was expected to hold the view that Egypt could be a democracy only under the Wafd, and did not come within the category under the present régime. In the opinion, however, of one spokesman of the present British Government there are democracies and democracies, and his warning may be commended to countries where there is a tendency to set more store on words or definitions than on things that really matter. In other words, all practical people of the world over endorse Pope's contention: "For forms of government let fools contest; Whate'er is best administer'd is best." In the course of a speech last week Mr. J. H. Thomas, Lord Privy Seal, declared that he was a believer in democracy and that he never apologised for democracy; but he could conceive of nothing worse than an ignorant democracy and of nothing worse than a power so great, so important, so fraught with great and tremendous possibilities as that of the Government of Great Britain being entrusted to people who did not realise that power carried responsibility. So much lip-service is paid to democracy, especially in the East to-day, by those who refuse to admit, or act up to, the responsibility involving upon the would-be leaders of a democratic country.

A Parliament for Palestine?

The High Commissioner for Palestine is known to be discussing with the Colonial Secretary the possibility of granting some sort of representative institution to Palestine. Before leaving the Holy Land for Geneva Sir John Chancellor promised to a delegation of Arabs that he would do as much, and the proposition is said to be supported—though it should be remembered that Palestine is perhaps *par excellence* the land of rumours—by a number of British officials. It is quite certain at any rate, that considerable anxiety is professed in certain Jewish quarters over the possibility of a granting to the Arabs of some degree of the ideal of self-government to which a section, at all events, of the Palestinian people so ardently look forward. Whether there will be any concrete outcome to these discussions is problematical, but if the Arabs of Palestine were in any way to countenance the Balfour Declaration, it is difficult to see how a Parliament could much longer be denied to them. As things are, it seems improbable that the Arabs will be conceded their desires, and, curiously enough, the majority of Zionists would wish things to continue as they are, that is for the Arabs to persist in their refusal to accept the Balfour Declaration. Far better, in the Jewish view, to have the united but hitherto powerless hostility of the Arab people than a Legislative Council which in the guise of good will might conceivably harm the "National Home." It is true, of course, that the Arabs have once been offered a representative institution, and that they refused it. On that occasion, during the régime of Sir Herbert Samuel, the initiative came, we believe, from the Mandatory Power. This time it proceeds from the Arab Executive itself. What conditions that Executive has attached we do not know, but the result of the discussion between the High Commissioner and the Colonial Office will be awaited with extreme interest.

Great Britain and Palestine.

One of the results which, as we have often pointed out, may be expected to follow the representation of non-Zionist Jewry, particularly of American Jewry, upon the Extended Jewish Agency, is an increase in the criticism of the Mandatory Power for Palestine. Even before the Zionist Congress, which meets at the end of this month, and which will, it is confidently expected, consummate the Weizmann-Marshall Agreement, there is discernible a tendency to forget what the Mandatory Power has done for the Jews in Palestine, and to emphasise what has not been done. Even of the High Commissioner himself, who at first was hailed by Zionists as a practical man who would give fresh impetus to the "Jewish National Home," bitter things are being said. He is blamed, for instance, for "the curtailment of Tel-Aviv's autonomy, the land conflict in Infyat, the transfer of Jewish colonies to a purely administrative Arabic district, the stricter enforcement of the certificate system, the attempts to minimise the rights of Hebrew"; and so on. To those who are aware of the details of the conditions of Palestine, such criticism of what in the main is merely a tightening up of administrative efficiency will seem strange; but it is probably symptomatic. Many Jews do not yet realise, apparently, that what British officials in Palestine are being asked to do, and what they are striving to do, is a most difficult and unusual task, particularly for Englishmen. Preferential treatment for a minority—or, if you will, the trusteeship, through a handful of Jews in Palestine, for the fifteen millions of Jews in the world—is neither a conception the justice of which is easy to grasp nor a duty easy to perform. Sometimes one is impelled to feel that the Jewish people, even those Jews who have adopted Palestinian nationality, are in fact the chief obstacle to the realisation of the British ideal in the Holy Land; the creation of a Palestinian people which shall think in terms of country and not of religion or of race. It is a comparatively simple matter for the philosopher to comprehend the idea that the Jews in Palestine are not an ordinary minority, but are (in theory,

at least) representative of the whole of their race; it is another thing for the local British official, who has to distinguish, so to speak, between the smaller and the greater justice. Yet these officials have performed their work so admirably that they need no apology, nor defence. We could wish, however, that the Jewish Nationalist Press would desist in its attacks upon them as "anti-Semitic"—a quaint adjective, in any case to use in connexion with a land almost wholly peopled by Semites.

The Sixteenth Zionist Congress.

Zionists in general appear to be looking forward to the Sixteenth Congress, which assembles at Zurich on July 28, with considerable hope, even if some anxiety is expressed on the score of what the "non-Weizmannites" may say. For one thing the Zionist movement has ridden successfully the severe storms which have broken upon it during the last few years. The economic depression in Palestine, the unemployment and the necessitated payment of the "dole," the restriction on immigration and the actual emigration of Jews from Palestine—all these things are in the main now past history, although the possibility should never be overlooked that in so "artificial" a movement as the establishment of a "Jewish National Home" crises may re-occur. In any case, the movement has emerged from the testing-time badly battered, it is true, in the financial aspect, but probably sounder and keener in the psychological or moral aspect. It is in good heart, therefore, that the Zionists will be assembling at Zurich. Another reason for buoyancy may be found in the way in which plans have gone forward for the representation of non-Zionists on the Agency, or, in other words, for the collection of additional funds for the colonising of Palestine. Dr. Weizmann has stated, indeed, that provision has been made, in connexion with the Enlarged Agency, for the reinstatement of the Zionist Organisation as the Agency under the Mandate, if at any future time circumstances should bring about the dissolution of the Enlarged Agency. But this, as he says, is a remote contingency, and the Zionists are justified in assuming that the financial aspect of the movement for Palestine will be radically improved. It is interesting to note, however, that instead of the annual budget of £1,000,000 which was suggested by the Joint Palestine Survey Commission as a minimum, the Zionist Congress will be asked to ratify a minimum budget of £750,000 a year for the next two years. This last figure represents an increase of fifty per cent. over the budgets for the financial years 1927-1928 and 1928-1929.

The Revolt in Persia.

The course of the revolt among the tribesmen in Persia has been singularly difficult to follow, owing to the meagre information supplied by the Persian Government. As far as can be gathered, the situation among the Kashgais is stabilising itself, but trouble is reported among the Arab tribes of the South who are said to be endeavouring to throw off altogether the authority of the Teheran Government. It is remarkable to notice that Persians themselves—particularly the Russophil *Chafagh Sorkh*—have not failed to criticise their government, and particularly the Minister of War, for not publishing fuller information on this rebellion—with the natural consequence that wild rumours abound. Certainly it might have been beneficial, seeing that the revolt began early in June, if official Persian announcements had not confined themselves to remarking that the situation was well in hand. A better conception of the seriousness of the revolt is gained perhaps from the statement that the Minister of War himself, Jaffar Kuli, the Sardar Assad, has been sent from Teheran to pacify the Bakhtiari. But even now the position is obscure; it is still unknown even whether the insurgents had anything other than a negative aim in the vigorous attitude which they have adopted. From the facts that the outbreaks have been sporadic and not simultaneous it is probably to be

inferred that grievances were local rather than general, and that no common ambition united the rebels. If, however, the revolt has taught the Teheran Government the folly of imposing non-essentials upon tribesmen who are perfectly good Persian patriots, it may not have been without its benefits. The warning must nevertheless be issued that the end of the rebellion has not yet been achieved; nor will those who realise that the tribesmen are the backbone of Persia fail to be anxious until definite news is to hand that these hardy sons have been reasonably pacified.

INDIAN NOTES.

Commerce and the Police.

It is a matter for some regret that the lack of unanimity among the constituent members has necessitated a further representation being made by the Associated Chambers of Commerce to the Statutory Commission upon a point which, while of relatively minor detail, nevertheless raises issues of far-reaching importance. In its original Memorandum, the Association, it will be recalled, stated that a majority of its members was in favour of the transfer to Autonomous Provincial Governments of the control of the police and the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order provided safeguards were laid down for efficient administration and the security of life and property. At the same time, in view of the fact that other Chambers preferred either to see the Police Administration in the hands of the Central Government, or at least maintained as a Reserved subject under the direct charge of the Governor of the Province, no definite recommendation was put forward. Furthermore the issue has been somewhat confused by the use of a much wider and more comprehensive term—Law and Order—in the Memorandum of the European Association. It is now shown that, with two exceptions, the Chambers are definitely opposed to the transfer of the control of the Police Administration to an elected Minister responsible to the Legislature. The point would seem to resolve itself largely into the practical question that, if representative institutions are to be a success in India, the Indians will have to realise the paramount necessity of an efficient police force. Will they ever, however, appreciate this undoubted fact, unless and until they are made responsible for such a body? After all the maintenance of Law and Order—in the general and broadest sense—is the primary function of every Government; and there can be no such thing as provincial autonomy if this responsibility is not borne by the provincial administrations.

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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1929.

EGYPT AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The return to London of Dr. Hafiz Bey Afifi, Egyptian Foreign Minister, with the Prime Minister, Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud, who had paid a brief visit to Paris, has given rise to the supposition that negotiations are in progress with the British Government for a settlement of all questions outstanding between the two countries. At the same time confident reports in the London Press that an Anglo-Egyptian agreement may be expected within the course of the next few weeks have been interpreted to refer to a final adjustment of the four Reserved Points. It is more than probable that the event will prove that the wish in this case is, as often, father to the thought. With the advent to power of a new Government in Great Britain, it was a wise move on the Egyptian Prime Minister's part to pay a visit to London, in order to establish personal touch with His Majesty's Ministers. Both Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Mr. Henderson, it is not unreasonable to suppose, were glad of an opportunity to form a first-hand opinion of members of the Government of a country so closely connected with Great Britain as Egypt is. It cannot be overlooked that the present régime in Egypt is familiarly described as a dictatorship, and that consequently some fundamental incompatibility of temperament between the "Dictator" and a British Labour Government might be expected to develop in any negotiations for a settlement of the future relations of the two countries. The establishment of personal touch between the members of the two Governments would, at least, enable one or both to determine how far labels in these cases are an infallible guide, and whether good government is not possible under more forms than one. There is reason to suppose that Mahmoud Pasha's visit to London has, in this respect, achieved its object. Neither the man nor his methods suggest the dictionary dictatorship, and one result of the personal touch established between the two Governments would appear to be that the present British Cabinet is as ready as its predecessor to give Mahmoud Pasha the fullest credit for the soundness of the intentions with which he took office and the substantial measure of achievement that he has already attained.

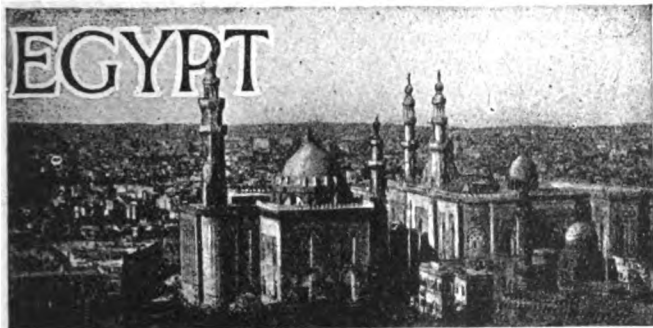
The hopes entertained by the Egyptian Opposition that the new Government in Great Britain could be persuaded to dictate to Egypt the form of government that it must adopt could never be fulfilled and have now been definitely belied. For the last year the spokesmen and writers of the Wafd have never wearied of describing their country as living "in an atmosphere of dictatorship and terrorism." Only last week the details of the picture were filled in by the Secretary-General of the Wafd in suitably lurid colours :—"Hardly a day passes without the arrest

of individuals of different classes, or the suppression of newspapers, or the searching of private houses without legal warrant, or the preventing of public and private meetings, or assault on demonstrators, or disbanding of law courts or the dismissal of officials and mayors and students, or the passing of laws of exceptional rigour." Now, even if this description were literally correct, it could not be overlooked in Great Britain that every single measure mentioned might not only be justified, but also be imperatively necessary for the restoration to good government of a country that had been at the mercy of a régime which, with the Wafd's record, sought to introduce the Wafd's Law of Public Assembly. The issue between the Opposition and the present Administration in Egypt appears to turn on the interpretation of good government, and the Wafd can hardly fail to realise that there was nothing in its own record which would lead any British observer to suppose that it had even an elementary knowledge of what the term implied or indeed of the real meaning of constitutional government. When, therefore, another party comes into office in Egypt which proves that it has entirely different ideas of what constitutes good government, it is necessarily assured of a sympathetic attitude on the part of any British Cabinet. It was only to avoid a greater evil, involving other than Egyptian interests, that Great Britain took the extreme step of interfering in the matter of the Public Assembly Law. Mahmoud Pasha's Government has been long enough in office to show that under the present régime there is no likelihood of a repetition of the provocation. The change thus indicated in Anglo-Egyptian relations could not fail to be welcomed in Great Britain, and, on the top of the good impression that the new Egyptian Government has already created by its administrative measures, the British Prime Minister had no reason to delay his personal assurance to Mahmoud Pasha that a Labour Cabinet has no intention of interfering in the purely domestic affairs of Egypt.

Any agreement that may be reached as a result of the present discussions in London is more likely to be connected with the system of Capitulations in Egypt than with the Reserved Points that await settlement for a final adjustment of Anglo-Egyptian relations. Preliminary conversations on the subject had been initiated by Dr. Hafiz Bey Afifi during his visit to London before the General Election, and there is no reason why the new Government should not formally conclude the arrangement that had already been reached in principle by its predecessors. Egypt necessarily looks to Great Britain for a lead to be given to the other Capitulatory Powers, and the ease with which the existing system is adjusted to modern requirements will depend largely on Great Britain's whole-hearted support of the Egyptian contention that no case can any longer be made out for the retention of the Capitulations. That a Wafd Ministry, so long as it persisted in its indifference to good government and in its Britain-baiting infatuation, could never have secured the full measure of British support will not be lost on the great body of Egyptian public opinion. Neither Mr. MacDonald nor Mahmoud Pasha is likely to make the mistake of supposing that all the questions at issue between the two countries can be finally adjusted, until the Egyptian Parliament is once more in existence. Given good will on both sides, the Reserved Points have been shown to lack any urgency for settlement. In the meantime Egypt has an opportunity to set her own house in order, with the knowledge that the more thoroughly this work is carried out, the more likely is the final settlement of Anglo-Egyptian relations to conform with her own way of thinking. Mahmoud Pasha has decided that Egypt's future depends on her capacity for good government and hard work. On this point the Wafd joins issue with him, maintaining that years of barren controversy with Great Britain were more in keeping with Egypt's dignity and interests. In a controversy of this nature no British Government has any part, and its rests with the Egyptian people to decide, of its own free choice, which school of thought it favours.

'The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, July 6.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner is back after a week's tour of Syria and Palestine. He was the guest of M. Ponsot at Beyrout, after which he visited Tripoli, Homs, Khaled El Husny and Damascus. At Damascus he was entertained by the French High Commissioner's delegate. From there he motored to Nazareth and Jerusalem, and returned *via* Ludd and Kantara, where he inspected the War cemetery. Lord Lloyd has not yet fixed his departure for Europe, but it is highly probable that he will leave before the middle of the month. Mr. Reginald Hoare, the Counsellor at the Residency, will be Acting High Commissioner during his absence, and the Residency will be transferred to Bulkeley for the summer.

The New Customs Tariff.

While the new tariff itself, drawn up by the foreign experts engaged for the purpose, is still under consideration by the Egyptian Government, the latter has communicated to the various Chambers of Commerce part of the new regulations which it is proposed to apply under the régime of specific duties. I understand that the British Chamber of Commerce has presented to the Government a Note in which it criticises the new regulations, and gives it as its considered opinion that the Government would be well advised to abandon the proposed substitution of specific duties for the existing system of *ad valorem*, and so avoid the many complications which it foresees will arise if the change is introduced. I have reason to believe that the other commercial communities are likewise exercised, in regard not so much to the change in method of assessment of duty, as to the situation which will arise from the alteration of system.

The Mixed Reforms.

The Justice and Foreign Affairs Committee which is dealing with the proposed reform of the Mixed Tribunals is still far from reaching the end of its labours. It is expected that by the end of the month the special sub-committee will be in a position to submit a text of the proposed code of criminal procedure to meet the needs of the transfer of limited criminal jurisdiction. But no further progress has been made with the scheme for the reorganisation, and it does not look as if it will be possible to present any concrete proposals to the Powers before the late autumn. As is well known, the Egyptian Government is now very anxious to obtain a complete transfer of criminal jurisdiction from the Consular to the mixed jurisdiction instead of the limited transfer which it proposed itself two years ago.

One of the directions in which reform is urgently needed and where, without waiting for any decision with regard to matters now under consideration, the new Procureur-Général could render a service to the community, is in regard to motor-car contraventions. While the severer enforcement of traffic regulations, which has been effected during the past year or so, has done much to improve the state of the streets and prevent the dangerous driving, which not long ago made them a positive danger zone, nevertheless a system is really iniquitous where it is possible for motor-car owners to be reported for contraventions without their being at all aware that they have offended, for writs to be served months after the offence has been committed and without giving any reasonable notice for the offender to make arrangements to appear in Court, and for sentences to be inflicted without the offender's being aware that he has been called before the Courts. One hears on all sides strong complaint in this respect, and it is certainly high time the whole matter was placed on a proper basis and an end put to the delays and injustices which now take place.

Copyright Congress.

Next winter the *Association Internationale de la Propriété Artistique et Littéraire* will hold its congress in Cairo, and the King has just signed a Decree creating an Organising Committee under the presidency of the Minister of Education. This Congress will discuss, among other matters, the question of copyright, in regard to which Egypt is very badly organised. A special commission was formed two years ago to study the question and to draft a law. The commission carried out its mission, and the text of the proposed legislation was duly published. But the question got no farther, and the draft has gone to keep company in the Government archives with the many other similar projects which bear witness there to the fate which befalls so many good intentions in this life. Perhaps the imminence of this Congress may stimulate the Government to resurrect this excellent project and get it put into operation in the same manner as the knowledge that the Tropical Medicine Congress was to be held in Cairo last winter impelled the authorities to promulgate a month or so before it met the much-needed law regulating the practice of medicine in Egypt.

The Pilgrimage.

This year's pilgrimage to the Holy Places of Arabia is now over, and has been declared by the Quarantine Board as net, i.e., free from infection, though as smallpox exists in the Hijaz it has been laid down that all returning thence must undergo vaccination unless they have been recently vaccinated or have suffered from that disease. Just under 28,000 pilgrims have so far passed through Tor, the quarantine station for those belonging to or returning to their homes *via* the north. (The other pilgrims from the Far East and West Africa undergo their quarantine at Suakim, Kameran and Massawa.) Of these 18,600 were Egyptians and the rest foreigners, including 2,100 Algerians, 1,500 Syrians, 1,500 Tunisians, 660 Iraqis,

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1,300 Persians, 400 Moors, and 500 Palestinians. Special arrangements for their repatriation have to be made so as to avoid congestion and delay, and the organisation of the Quarantine Board, which is responsible, works nowadays exceedingly smoothly in this respect. Very considerable improvement has been made in the accommodation available for pilgrims at Tor, and it is now possible for better-class Muslims to secure special treatment at a relatively cheap cost.

The question of giving a concession to an Egyptian company, who would provide ships meeting the peculiar requirements of the pilgrim traffic, is at present under consideration. But if this is done, clearly one of the conditions should be that the ships should be British built and British manned, while the principle of Anglo-Egyptian financial and economic co-operation, which is so close to the heart of Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, could be adopted by laying down that the capital should be part British and part Egyptian.

The Taxation Question.

In usually well-informed Egyptian circles it is affirmed that within the very near future the Egyptian Government will receive the assent of the Powers to the imposition of the ghaffir tax on foreigners and the introduction of a petrol tax. Contrary to what is generally said, the ghaffir tax was never rejected by the Powers, when it was originally put up. It was referred back because they did not consider that the organisation and mode of assessment and collection gave the necessary guarantees. During the War it was collected under martial law, but large numbers of foreigners still refuse to pay it, in many cases with the assent of their Diplomatic Representatives. The tax is a perfectly just one, if a proper service and assessment are provided, and as guarantees in regard to these are forthcoming it is expected that the assent of the Powers will be secured. The petrol tax is likewise perfectly just, since motorists will only contribute to the upkeep of the roads, to which the proceeds are to be devoted, in proportion to their use thereof. It is also expected that some arrangement will be made with regard to a better organisation of the various dues which the municipalities and local councils collect. But no assent will be given to any form of taxation which is to produce fresh revenue without giving in return a service, and it is from that point of view that the proposed stamp duty, which was to have brought in well over £E500,000 per annum, will, it is expected, fail to go through.



Sofia, July 10.

A Political Provocation.

There are some people, living for the most part outside Bulgaria, who do not wish to see appeasement settle throughout the country. This appeasement, towards which the Liaptcheff Government has worked wholeheartedly and in which it has made increasing progress, received a powerful impetus from the amnesty which was recently introduced into the Sobranye, for all those compromised in the internal struggles of the last few years. The Sobranye showed particular generosity towards the Agraro-Communists, of whom the greater number have been pardoned and have resumed their peaceful work. This was a wise gesture of confidence on the part of the Government, for the country wished only to forget and to

liquidate the civil war. But this pacification and this return to legality inspired justifiable fears among the fomenters of trouble, particularly among those Agraro-Communist chiefs who had emigrated. For these saw that they might be abandoned by their troops and remain completely isolated. And so the idea arose of organising a criminal persecution in the hope of frustrating the good effects of the said amnesty.

This provocation took place on July 6 in the form of an attack on the carriage of the President of the Council, M. Liaptcheff, and of the Minister of Public Works, M. Vanileff, on the road from Kritchim to Plovdiv. Happily, the two Ministers were not inside. They had gone to this district in order to be present at the inauguration of the construction of the great national route joining Kritchim to Deuven, two important forestry centres whence Bulgaria obtains almost all her wood for building purposes.

The attack, badly organised, and even more badly executed, was evidently designed to provoke new disorders and new persecutions so that peace could not be consolidated in the country. The Government, perceiving the intention, resolved to change in no way its policy of appeasement.

The Return of Radoslavoff.

At the same time as it amnestied the Agraro-Communists, the Government, in its aim of liquidating the political past, granted an amnesty to those responsible for the great national catastrophe, namely, M. Radoslavoff and M. Tontcheff, who in 1915 decided upon allying Bulgaria with Germany and upon fighting against the Allies of the Entente.

This amnesty has irritated the Serbs, who imagine that Bulgaria is returning to the policy of 1915. The Belgrade Press, which writes only to order, has directed a violent campaign against the Bulgarian Government. Serbo-Bulgarian relations are extremely strained. The aggravation would certainly be even more dangerous if M. Radoslavoff, who since 1918 has been living as a political *émigré* in Berlin, were to return immediately to Bulgaria, instead of postponing his action, as he has done, until the end of the summer.

It must be emphasised that the amnesty of M. Radoslavoff does not bear the interpretation given to it in Belgrade, and that even if the ex-President of the Council, who is 75 years old, wished to preach an anti-Serb policy and a war of revenge, he would find in Bulgaria no listeners, the Bulgarian nation hoping only for peace in order to pursue their political, economic, social, and cultural ends.

But the amnestying of M. Radoslavoff has had another unexpected effect. It has provoked a grave crisis within the Government group of the Democratic Entente. The friends of the President of the Council, M. Tzankoff, have voted against the Cabinet. The friends of M. Liaptcheff press for an open rupture with the recalcitrants. A change in the Ministry in the near future can be foreseen, and it is probable that M. Liaptcheff will take as collaborators with him the representatives of one or two groups of the Opposition.

The Yugoslav-Bulgarian Conflict.

The intervention of the Powers which I foretold in my last letter has come about.

The representatives of Great Britain and France have notified the President of the Council of the *démarches* which their two Governments made to Belgrade to bring about a softening of the régime on the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier and the ratification of the protocols of Pirot, and the provisions which they include for the liquidation of all incidents by the regular functioning of a mixed body of control. They have urged the Bulgarian Government to take appropriate measures in the task of smoothing down the difficulties with Yugoslavia, to assure the maintenance and consolidation of peace in the Balkans.

It is hoped that after this intervention of England the situation will gradually mend and the danger of complications be avoided.

GREECE.*Athens, July 9.***The Budget.**

The Budget proposals for 1929-1930 were discussed in the Chamber on June 29. The reduction of 107 million drachmæ in naval expenses, originally estimated, will, it seems, be sensibly modified, in view of the development in Turkish naval policy. The chief feature of the new Budget is that the failure of the heavy direct taxes is recognised, and many of them will be dropped. To fill the gaps in the revenue thus created, it is proposed to create an organisation like the *Istituto Nazionale di Assicurazione di Vita* in Italy, which would, in co-operation with the National Bank, monopolise life insurance; to extend the lottery system; to bring back foreign and Greek capital which has been driven away by the severity of the conditions imposed upon it in recent years, and to attract new capital.

A Minister's Resignation.

The most interesting political event during the last fortnight has been the retirement of M. Zavitsianos, Minister of the Interior. It was not the first time that he had sought to resign, but on each occasion the Prime Minister had succeeded in prevailing on him to reconsider his decision. The ostensible reason is a difference of opinion over the appointment of candidates for the posts of Mayor of Athens and Salonika, M. Venizelos holding the view that these appointments should be non-political. One may conjecture that the real reason lies deeper, and that causes of a more personal nature have something to do with the resignation, not so much between the retiring Minister and his chief as between the Minister and other members of the Council. It seems that M. Christomanos, Sub-Minister of Health, almost followed the example of his colleague, but fortunately he has been persuaded to stay. With his autocratic temperament the Prime Minister cannot always be an easy person to work with or under, and those who do must often be content to submerge their own individualities. In this connexion, it is interesting that after prolonged *pourparlers*, M. Michalakopoulos, a man of marked individuality, has consented to become Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice-President of the Council. M. Argyropoulos becomes Minister of the Interior.

Collections for the State.

The heirs of the late M. Benachi have presented to the nation his residence and the collection of objects of art which it contained. This collection contains much valuable Rhodian pottery and pictures of historic interest. In the same building will be housed the collection of M. Antoine Benachi, consisting of Oriental objects and relics of those who took part in the War of Independence.

Another valuable collection which has been acquired by the State is the Mavrocordato Library, bought last year from the heirs of the Mavrocordato-Baltazzi family. The collection was formed by Prince Alexander Mavrocordato and his brother Nicholas; it will be divided between the National Library, the Library of the Chamber, the General Archives, and the Academy.

Archæological Controversy.

Archæological results of unusual interest are reported from excavations on the island of Ithaca, which have been undertaken by a local architect, M. Oiconomou. That modern Ithaca was the Ithaca of Homer was until a short time ago accepted without question by almost everyone. But the researches of Dr. Doerpfeld, the famous German archæologist, compelled him to abandon this view and to see in the neighbouring island of Leukas the authentic Ithaca. Though the Homeric description can be made to fit equally to both islands, what was really wanted to clinch the argument either way was remains of the Mycenæan Age—in other words, the palace of Odysseus. Unfortunately for their respective champions, neither island had been able to produce them. Now news comes

that M. Oiconomou's researches have revealed considerable Mycenæan (as well as pre-Mycenæan) remains. First reports from archæological excavations should always be received with caution, but should these from Ithaca be confirmed, the controversy will assume a new aspect: the Ithacists will have the best of the argument, until the Lefkadists can produce something equally good.

The Tourist in Greece.

Gratitude is due to M. Constantine Melas, Director-General of the newly-formed autonomous "Office of Tourism," for his remarks at a recent meeting of that body. It is refreshing to hear that Greece, in developing her tourist possibilities, is not to become a large hotel for the exploitation of her rich visitors; that the words "exploitation of foreigners" should be erased from the Greek vocabulary; that the Office of Tourism has an obligation to the country, to its past, present, and future; that tourists must be made to regard their visit to Greece as a pilgrimage, and that the glories of mediæval and modern, as well as of ancient Greece, must be brought before their eyes. All this is admirably said. The chief difficulty in its realisation will be the tourist. Perhaps the day will come when tourists will be allowed to land only if they have first passed an examination on the history and antiquities of the country. The very rich can always find somewhere else to go, or they might even stay at home.

CYPRUS.*Nicosia, July 1.***The Situation.**

The Greek leaders and Press hope that the accession to power of the Labour Government will lead to furtherance of their aspirations. The Greek member of the Legisla-

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tive Council (excepting two who are absent from the island) met on June 19 to discuss the situation, at the Archbishop's residence. It was decided that a deputation of two members, viz., the Bishop of Kition and Mr. N. Nicolaides, should proceed to London to present a memorial, drawn up by three members of the Council, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. At a further meeting on June 21 the memorial was fully examined and agreed to. It is a long one, and is intended to enlighten fully the new Minister for the Colonies and the Government as to the state of island affairs as described by the Greek leaders. It is submitted that it behoves Great Britain, whose principles respecting the rights of subject peoples are so well known, to yield, as a duty, to the claims of the Greek Cypriots, who form the large majority of the population, based as they are on ethnic and historical considerations. It also proceeds to criticise adversely the backward state of the country, and refers especially to an alleged over-burdensome and increasing taxation, to a too costly administration, to an excessive number of British officials, many of whose offices are stated to be sinecures, to the neglect of agriculture and its many needs, and of the industrial classes, to the need of better communications with Cyprus, of the improvement of harbours, and other public works.

The Greek Archbishop has telegraphed to Mr. MacDonald, "in the name of the Cyprus people," their congratulations on his accession to the office of Prime Minister and expressed the hope that in the carrying out of the principles of the Labour Party the rights of the Cypriot people will not be overlooked. His Eminence has been informed by letter from the Colonial Secretary that his congratulations to His Majesty on the occasion of his birthday have been forwarded to the Secretary of State.

Development of Flax Cultivation.

The Agricultural Department continues to take active measures for the improvement in flax cultivation and its preparation for export. It is said that the Imperial Board for development of Empire products will grant £2,500 for three years, provided that the Cyprus Government will contribute an equal amount. The centre of activity is Zodia, where there is a factory. Two students of the Cyprus Agricultural School are now in N. Ireland, and on their return will be employed in teaching advanced methods of cultivation and preparation for export.

General News.

The Turkish community has now submitted a petition, similar to that of the Greeks, that a Director of Education

may be appointed for their community. It is much to be regretted that there should be so long a delay in appointing a successor to Canon Newham.

The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, Dr. McInnes, who visited Cyprus on June 6, and who has been to Limassol and Larnaca, as well as Nicosia, left the island on June 10.

The *Gazette* states that Sir Ronald Storrs was granted further leave of absence, on half salary, from May 18 to June 17.

Archdeacon Buxton, of Nicosia, has left for a visit to England.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Anglo-Egyptian Association held its annual gathering on July 11 at the Victoria Hotel. The afternoon gathering, at which some two hundred guests were present, was followed by a Dinner. Colonel Sir Henry Lyons presided in the absence of the Chairman, Lord Allenby, and the Association had as its chief guests Colonel Sir Henry McMahon and Lady McMahon. Sir Henry Lyons proposed the toast of "The Guests," and Sir Henry McMahon replied. Canon Horan proposed the health of the Honorary Secretary, Mr. H. Ward Boys, to whom the Association was indebted for the successful meetings that day.

Among those present were:—Mr. and Mrs. Beeston, Col. and Mrs. Blunt, Mr. and Mrs. Boxwell, Sir A. Boyd-Carpenter, Mrs., Miss, and Mr. Boyd-Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Boys, Mrs. Henry Boys, Miss Brockwell, Mrs. Bury, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Carey, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Carver, Mr. L. J. Carver, Miss Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Crewe, Dr. and Mrs. Day, Miss Devonshire, Sir E. Dowson, Mr. and Mrs. Duke, Mr. Edleston, Mrs. Finlaison, Mr. Foote, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. P. Foster, Miss C. and Miss S. Foster, Mr. Foster-Smith, Miss Frinneby, Mr. and Mrs. Gandy, Mrs. Godfrey, Mr. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Griffith, Col. and Mrs. Clifford Hall, Miss Hame, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, Mr. Hendry, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Hopkins, Canon and Miss Horan, Mr. and Mrs. Kinder, Major and Mrs. Liddell, Mrs. Lowe, Miss Lowndes, Mr. and Miss Macaldin, Mr. and Mrs. McCallan, Mr. McAllister, Mr. McClean, Mr. McColl, Mr. Mackness, Messrs. Mason, Moore, Moss, Pringle, and Spooner, Mr. and Mrs. Peckitt, Mrs. Rabagliati, Mr. and Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Travers Symons, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Tottenham, Major-General W. Turner, Mrs. Caux, Mr. Waller, Colonel and Mrs. Watson, Captain Weldon, Mr. T. W. V. Williams, Lady Willcocks, and Mr. Young.

THE "ASIATIC REVIEW."

The *Asiatic Review* for July is an unusually interesting number. Included among the articles issued under the auspices of the Asian Circle is one by Sir Denison Ross upon "Impressions from the Near and Middle East," and an anonymous one on "Some Features of the Afghan Problem"; and in the section called "The Inner East" are two very valuable articles, one by M. Mustapha Chokaiev on "The Bolsheviks and Afghanistan" (which contains much new matter, derived from Central Asian sources), and the other by Mr. W. E. D. Allen on "Recent Soviet Publications." Other things to note in an excellent number are the numerous reviews, and an article on "Exploring Royal Nineveh," by Mr. Warren Dawson.

THE OLD PAULINE CLUB.

The Old Pauline Club held its annual dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant, London, on July 9. Mr. Cyril Bailey, President of the Club, was in the Chair. India was "represented" by Sir Leslie Wilson, late Governor of Bombay, Sir Arthur Froom, Mr. H. A. Sams, and many others, and references to the India Branch of the Club disclosed the fact that some four hundred Old Paulines are resident in India.

Several prominent Turks and Jews have been arrested in Constantinople and Angora. They are all concerned in the gunpowder and explosives monopoly, and are suspected of having indulged in corrupt practices.

The Commission appointed by the Greek Senate to examine charges against General Pangalos, the former Dictator, and his Ministers, on July 9 decided to liberate General Pangalos, M. Tantalides, his Minister of Finance, and M. Vogopoulos on bail.

After the conclusion of the joint *jirgah* (conference) of Afridis, Sunni Orakzais and Shiah Orakzais at Peshawar, the Afridis interviewed the Political Agent and agreed to hold another *jirgah* in their own country with the Orakzais in a further attempt to find a formula acceptable to both tribes for the settlement of the dispute over the village and lands of Kalaya in the Tirah, where Shiah property has been occupied by Sunnis.



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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, June 27.

The Viceroy at the Chelmsford Club.

The other evening at the Chelmsford Club in Simla Lord Irwin delivered by far the best of his speeches in India. To begin with it was a debating fighting speech, really an answer to the too vehement, little truth-regarding critics of the Government, those pandits who so, ordinarily, have it all their own sweet way in the Assembly. It was a speech spoken from the Viceroy's clear-thinking head, and not, as his other speeches have been, from his sympathetic heart, from his generosity and desire not to hurt. It is better to hurt a little while day is than to wait and hurt a great deal, when the dark comes, the dark that in India will be public confusion, disturbance in the country, and general fear. It is still day with us; it is even more still the day than the editors of such newspapers as the *Manchester Guardian* think, and there is no need to consider desperate remedies. If things are allowed to drift, the dark will come, and with it the need for desperate measures; but the Viceroy seems resolved not to let things drift any further, and India is to be congratulated on that.

The Critics of the Government.

The critics of the Government of India are for the most part critics of its proposal for legislation, if of late the arrest of the Meerut accused has added an act of administration to the black-list. The Viceroy was thinking of those arrests, when he said: "Let no one deceive himself. The effect of a transgression of the law is more far-reaching than the actual breach committed, and any society that forgets that the reign of law is a condition of its existence will soon find itself helplessly drifting towards the cataracts of anarchy. I do not claim that the Government of India is perfect. Few human institutions are, but I do claim that it enjoys no monopoly of human wickedness, and that its opponents enjoy no monopoly of human wisdom. I find it hard to believe that those who attack the Government on these lines are concerned so much to examine the merits or demerits of a particular policy as to use any argument—good, bad, or indifferent—which may in the opinion of some bring discredit upon the Government."

The Indictment.

The Viceroy was speaking of those who have been attacking the Government "on these lines." What lines these were he had stated in an earlier passage of his speech. The principal indictments in the count are three in number—the Public Safety Bill and the Ordinance that was enacted, when the Assembly President's ruling stopped further progress with the Bill, the Trades Dispute Act, and "certain arrests and prosecutions during the last few months." The Viceroy dealt with these one by one; he dealt with them forcibly, if sometimes with a little too much subtlety for his audience; and any man who declares himself not satisfied shows himself to be an unreasonable being. I have dealt with the matters myself in past letters, if without that inside knowledge of the working of the Viceroy's mind that His Excellency was to be supposed to know more about than I could know. They are none of them of the kernel of the Indian tangle; so no more need be said about them. There are more important things to pass to, things that are of the tangle. Let us pass to them. The Viceroy's speech will naturally be read in full by those on your side who are following Indian affairs with close attention.

The Statutory Commission.

Speaking of the work of the Statutory Commission, work that the Viceroy must be expected to regard as important, however others may think that the tide has flowed so far since the Commission was conceived as to

make its work no longer as important as it promised to be at the beginning, the Viceroy quoted that passage from Sir John Simon's speech at Ootacamund that I called attention to myself at the time: "No one," said Sir John, "should regard the Statutory Commission or its colleagues as though we were settling or deciding the constitution of British India. Our task is very important, but it is not that. Our task is that of making a fair, honest, and sympathetic report to the Imperial Parliament. When we have made our report, then it would be India's opportunity to make her full contribution, which is right and necessary, to her future constitution, which would be framed by Great Britain and India together." That is so; but let the Statutory Commission *make its report quickly*: there is need for that. If the situation is not critical, but serious, it is so because India has grown impatient: India is at the moment in the frame of mind of the man who is afraid that, if his wife dawdles any longer, they will miss their train. The Statutory Commission is the wife this time; India the husband.

The Communal Problem.

The Viceroy dealt, of course, with the communal problem. I have said that the Chelmsford Club speech was his best in India so far. One thing that made it so good was its comprehensiveness. It surveys the whole vexed ground, the whole field of battle. It would not have done that without an examination of the communal problem. My letters would have failed of comprehensiveness, if they also had left the communal problem out in the cold. Speaking of that problem, the Viceroy said: "We know very well that as a political question the communal problem is still unsolved. As in the international problem of disarmament, the first requisite of progress is to exorcise and allay the spirit of suspicion and fear that forbids mutual confidence and drives men to seek security in the strength of their own defences, so it is with the communal problem in India. Could the leaders of the majority communities once convince the minorities that their interests are in no danger at their hands, the backbone of the problem would have been broken. This the leaders of the majority communities alone can achieve, and they would be the first to recognise that they have not yet succeeded in it. So long as this is so, it must remain the purpose of all patriotic men to bend their energies to the task of bringing into concord the different component parts of India's common life, and in the meantime to avoid anything that may make their task more obstinate." That is the way to speak to them; to tell them plainly that the task is theirs; theirs, not the task of the British in India.

The Agricultural Research Council.

The Viceroy's task the following day was a much pleasanter one—that of delivering the inaugural address to the Agricultural Research Council, the body called into being on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. One is not sure that the same criticism could not be brought against the Council that has been brought, by myself among others, against the machinery provided for the banking inquiry—that it is too large and promiscuous a body; but as the work to be forwarded is that of research, and as that must be the work of trained scientists and not of any council throned above them, its being a promiscuous body may not matter so much. If the Government of India, with the Viceroy at its head, is open to serious criticism—I believe it is—it is because of its childlike complacency over the bodies that it calls into being to carry through important public tasks. It is open to criticism on that ground, and on the ground of the many bad appointments it makes. Simla is far too full of incompetent men.

The Bombay Mill Strike.

The new Governor of the Bombay Presidency seems, fortunately for Bombay, the most distracted spot in India at present, one of the competent, even one of the highly

competent. He has been bending his energies to mobilise the competent in Bombay, with a view to having that vexed mill strike settled, and has gone about things in a way to show that he is possessed of an original mind. So vexed a thing as that demented strike was not to be settled in a day, even by a man of very great originality, and one cannot yet report the thing as settled; but the outlook is more hopeful than it for long has been. The Bombay Stock Exchange has been re-opened, and that may be taken as a sign that, in the opinion of the share brokers, the worst is over.

COMMERCE AND THE SIMON COMMISSION

In the issue of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* of August 23, last year, we reviewed at some length the able and reasonable memorandum which the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon had submitted to the Statutory Commission on behalf of the European commercial and industrial community in India. In that memorandum it was explained that there was considerable divergence of views among the members of the Association as to the control of Police and the maintenance of law and order, but that a majority of the Chambers were in favour of a transfer of that subject, holding that the risk involved in such transfer must be taken if any real measure of self-government were to be given to the provinces.

In the oral examination of the Association's representatives which took place last January a number of questions were asked with the object of ascertaining the strength of the majority in favour of that transfer. The Association's representatives explained that the majority had been merely numerical, on the basis of each Chamber having one vote; that possibly some of the larger and more important Chambers had not been with that majority; and that had the voting been taken on the usual basis, each Chamber being credited with a number of votes corresponding roughly to its membership, the result might have been different. A question was also asked as to whether the view expressed in the Memorandum was the view of the majority of the Chambers, but the witnesses were unable to answer that question.

The report of that oral examination has been studied by the members of the individual Chambers and has led to further discussions on the subject of the transfer of Police and of law and order. As a result of such discussions and of subsequent happenings in various parts of India, opinion has been modified and has become more definite. It is felt that the oral examination may have failed to give a true impression of the views of the Chambers at the time the Memorandum was submitted, but, however that may be, it seems clear that the Memorandum does not reflect faithfully the views held by the various Chambers at the present time.

It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this question of the control of the Police and the maintenance of law and order, for upon the good administration of this Department depend the stability of the country and the security of life and property. The Association, therefore, has felt it necessary to reopen the subject with the Commission and to endeavour to remove any misunderstandings which may have arisen from the oral evidence by placing before the Commission the views held by the Chambers at the present time.

In a second Memorandum, which was addressed last month to the Commission in London, the Association expresses regret that the fact that these views differ from those expressed in the Memorandum may cause inconvenience to the Commission, but adds that it feels sure that the members of the Commission will recognise that it is right for the Association to remove any wrong impressions that may have arisen as to the views held by individual Chambers on this important matter.

"The Association," the Memorandum proceeds, "has referred this question to each of its constituent Chambers for further discussion and has now received replies giving the present views of those Chambers. It is the general wish of members of the Association that their views should be recorded on the subject in so far as concerns their own Province. A summary of those views is, therefore, set out hereunder province by province.

"The Bengal Chamber, in reply to the reference made to them along with other Chambers, states that in their opinion the Commission, and the Joint Free Conference, clearly understand there is a wide divergence of opinion among the Chambers in the matter, and that accordingly no further representation to the Commission is necessary. Such a representation would, in the opinion of the Bengal Chamber, be required only if there were any doubt in the minds of the Commission and the Joint Free Conference on this point. While this is their feeling, the Bengal Chamber, in response to a request that they should state their views in the matter, expresses the opinion that unless the responsibility for the maintenance of order (which they regard as the primary function of Government) is transferred to the charge of a Minister, provincial autonomy cannot be regarded as having a proper chance of fulfilment. At the same time they appreciate the grave dangers attached to this policy, and they would not be averse to any scheme which postpones the transfer of the Police until the Local Government shows signs of permanent stability.

"The Bengal Chamber further considers that the grant of full provincial autonomy should be accompanied by the strengthening of the Central Government's ultimate powers of maintaining or restoring order; in this connexion they offer the suggestion that the Armed Police in each Province might be strengthened and retained under the Central Government for discipline and pay, but be seconded for service when required under the local Government in whose area they are serving. The two other Chambers of Commerce situated in Bengal, viz., the Chittagong and Narayanganj Chambers are quite

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definite in their opinion that, as far as Bengal is concerned, the control of the Police and the maintenance of law and order should not be transferred to a Minister. The latter Chamber is in favour of the control of the Police being reserved and in the hands of the Central Government.

"The Bombay and Karachi Chambers of Commerce agree in opposing the transfer in their Presidency. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce is of the opinion that its view that the control of the Police and the maintenance of law and order should not be transferred is immensely strengthened by the very serious communal rioting in Bombay during February and May this year when conditions of communal discord would have rendered it, in its opinion, impossible for an elected Minister to have functioned successfully.

"The Karachi Chamber of Commerce has already put its individual views on record with the Commission and desires to abide by these as expounded in oral evidence. Briefly speaking, they do not favour transfer at present, but consider that the constitution should allow for the transfer later on, should conditions so warrant.

"The Madras Chamber of Commerce definitely favours, so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, the transfer of Police Administration to the charge of a Minister directly responsible to the Legislature. In this view they are supported by the Cocanada and Coimbatore Chambers and opposed by the Tuticorin, Cochin, Tellicherry and Calicut Chambers. The last named Chamber contests the right of the Madras Chamber to speak for the whole of the Madras Presidency and claims that both geographically and ethnographically Malabar is entirely separate from the rest of the Presidency. It is strongly of the opinion that whatever arrangements may be made for the rest of the Madras Presidency, the Police of the whole district of Malabar, including the Malabar Special Police, should be placed under the control of a special Commissioner of Police directly responsible to the Central Government. With these views the other Chambers situated in the Malabar District, viz., Cochin and Tellicherry Chambers concur.

"The Burma Chamber was not associated with the Associated Chambers' original Memorandum, but they desire to emphasize that the reasons which prompted them to dissociate themselves from the views of the Association in the first place still hold good and that they are strongly opposed to any proposal to transfer the control of Police Administration as far as Burma is concerned.

"The views of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce are already on record with the Commission and they desire to abide by them. They are definitely against transfer for the reasons given in their Memorandum and expounded in oral evidence.

"The Punjab Chamber desires to abide by the views expressed in its separate Memorandum to the Commission in which at page 10 the view is expressed that the general Police Force should be under the direct control of the Central Government.

"It will be seen from the above opinions, which cover those of all constituent members of the Association except the Ceylon Chamber, who are not directly interested, and the Northern India Chamber who prefer not to express an opinion, that the majority view is now quite definitely opposed to the transfer of the control of Police administration to an elected Minister responsible to the Legislature. It is with the object of making this fact quite clear that this further reference is made to the Commission."

The letter concludes with an intimation that all save one of the gentlemen who composed the delegation which gave oral evidence in January in Calcutta happen to be in England at the present time and, though no special reference has been made to them in the matter, the President of the Association has little doubt that they would be prepared to appear before the Commission to elucidate the Association's position and to speak for their respective Provinces, if the Commission so desired.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

An Appreciation.

"The well-kept secret of the India Office," remarks the *Review of India*, in an editorial reference to the new Ministry in its June issue, "was perhaps the biggest surprise of all. Many probabilities were mentioned for what is likely to be in the near future one of the most difficult of all offices; none of them materialised. Mr. MacDonald has done well in bringing to bear on the great problems ahead in India one of the cleverest and most vigorous minds at his disposal. Captain Benn, as politicians go, is a young man for the great office with which he has been honoured, but he has proved in other spheres that he possesses the qualities essential to success—brain, courage and sympathy."

An interesting sketch of the career of the new Secretary of State appears in the same issue of the monthly organ of the European Association, from which the following is reproduced:—

"Few who have followed the brilliant career of Captain Wedgwood Benn, or who have personal contact with his magnetic personality, will doubt that his selection for the position of tremendous responsibility which the India Secretaryship to-day entails, will be justified by events. For 'Little Benn,' as he has long been affectionately called in the House of Commons is in almost every sense of the word a 'big' man."

After explaining the circumstances in which, after being a Liberal Member of Parliament for twenty-two years, Captain Wedgwood Benn decided last year to join the Labour Party, the writer of the sketch concludes: "The other issues which we cannot escape will confront Captain Benn at the India Office. He may succeed or he may fail in the handling of them, but they will at all events be faced with courage by a fresh, vigorous, unprejudiced and sympathetic mind."

LORD IRWIN'S RETURN.

A distinguished gathering welcomed Lord Irwin on his arrival in London on July 13 on four months' leave of absence. Those present on the platform at Victoria Station to greet the Governor-General, who was accompanied by Lady Irwin, included Sir Robert Vansittart (representing the Prime Minister), Mr. Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for India; Sir John Simon, Sir Atul Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India; the Maharaja of Alwar, the Maharaja of Burdwan, the Maharaja of Rewar, the Earl of Inchcape, Sir Hugh Stephenson (Governor of Bihar and Orissa), Colonel J. F. Stanley (Governor Designate of Madras), Sir Charles Harrington, Sir Umar Hayat Khan, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Sir Saikaran Nair, and Dr. Drummond Shiels (Parliamentary Under-Secretary for India).

The proceedings were of a purely informal character and elaborate precautions were taken by the authorities to prevent any possible disturbance. Lord and Lady Irwin left for their country seat at Garrowby, near York, the following morning, but the Governor-General is expected to return to London shortly for consultations with the Secretary of State for India.

Dr. Drummond Shiels, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India, has appointed Mr. George Mathers, M.P. for Edinburgh West, to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Fleet Orders announce that the sloop which is under construction by Messrs. Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson for the Indian Government has been named Hindustan.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Walter Frank Hudson, C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, as a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bombay in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Sir Jean Louis Rieu.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE "ENOSIS" AGITATION IN CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I read your article headed "The Dodecanese and Cyprus," which appeared in your issue of May 30, and I should be grateful to you if you would be good enough to allow me to use your columns to say a few things about that part of our article which referred to Cyprus. Your newspaper, it is well known, is exceptionally well informed on Near East matters, and that is why I was particularly surprised to notice your reference to "a handful of the Island's Greek lawyers who share with Athenian politicians a belief in the divine right of demagogues to spoils of office." You evidently do not happen to know certain facts which you will be interested, I am sure, to hear. About five-sixths of the inhabitants of this Island are Greeks. Thousands of these Greeks fought and were distinguished as volunteers in the Greek Army during the recent wars of Greece against Bulgaria and Turkey, and I have no reason to believe that all these were "politicians" or "demagogues." Now these Greeks, in spite of their deep respect for Great Britain, want to form part of the Greek Republic—which they monotonously enough insist on calling "Mother Country"—rather than to continue to belong to mighty Great Britain, towards whom they feel utter strangers. The above wish of the Greeks has been considered by many humble Britons and many illustrious Britons not as an abnormal one, but rather as quite normal and even noble. All these facts, Sir, you apparently do not know, and you are under the impression that "a handful of lawyers" make all the fuss here about Union with Greece, and, therefore, it would have been unfair for us to say that all you wrote about Cyprus was merely a clever, although somewhat uninviting specimen of cynical literature. That is why I disagree with some of your readers who understood you to mean that the word "Justice" should be discarded from the English vocabulary. Your beautiful language has many words synonymous to "Justice," but I like best of all your term "Fair Play," and as long as those two wonderful words are not effaced from your language, and British hearts continue to feel their stirring beauty, Cypriots shall not despair of the ultimate success of their cause, which asks for nothing else but "Fair Play."—I am, etc.,

MICH. HERACLES MICHAELIDES.

Member of the Legislative Council.

Limassol, June 12.

[The "facts" to which our correspondent refers are well known. Cypriots, in common with Greeks from Egypt, America and other parts of the world, volunteered for war service with Greece; but the latter do not use this patriotic action as an argument for the incorporation of Alexandria or New York in the Greek Republic. The British Government has indicated to Greek Cypriots, in effect, that, while it sympathises with their aspirations, there are weighty international reasons why it cannot accede to their request for union with Greece. This point of view has been endorsed by the present Greek Prime Minister, who has warned both Greek Dodecanesians and Greek Cypriots to cease their agitation. M. Venizelos has possibly realized that the method adopted by the Turks of ridding themselves of agitation on the part of the Greeks in Asia Minor might be applied with effect elsewhere, and he wants no further influx of repatriated Greeks this time from the Dodecanese and Cyprus. One of the difficulties with which Great Britain has to contend is that no equivalent of the term "fair play" (which our correspondent rightly extols) exists either in the Greek or in the Turkish language, and unfortunately in the glib appropriation of an essentially British conception the Greek and Turkish interpretations

are diametrically opposed. Thus what seems to our correspondent to be merely a matter of justice and fair play—the handing over of Cyprus to Greece—becomes in the eyes of the Turkish inhabitants of the Island an act of flagrant injustice and unfair play. At the same time long suffering Europe would be saddled, by the action of Great Britain, with yet another Minority problem. As for the urban character of the "Enosis" agitation, nothing that our correspondent write invalidates this established fact. When the handful of agitators have been careful to explain to all Greek Cypriots and to place in the forefront of their propaganda that "Enosis" means conscription, heavier taxation, government from Athens and no guarantee from capture by any Power with a more powerful navy than Greece's, it will be time enough to claim that the agitation for union has been spontaneous amongst the peasants, who form the bulk of the Greek community in Cyprus.—E.D.]

NON-ARABS IN SOUTH ARABIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Mr. Bertram Thomas and Mr. Philby in their discussion in your last issue of the Arabic word *Ahl al Hadara* (or more correctly *Hadarah*) seem erroneously to connect it with *Hadara*, meaning to cast down from a height. But this last word is spelt in Arabia with a "d," whereas the first one is spelt with a "dad," and so they are of two separate roots and meanings.

The late Miss Gertrude Bell made a similar mistake in one of her early books, saying how absurd(?) the Arabs were in naming the desert *Béida* and a white house *dar al Béida*!

It may, therefore, help these two scholars to compose one of their differences to know that *Ahl al Hadara* means nothing more or less than "The Moderns," i.e., towns' people, not nomads.

This mistake is excusable for strangers, because even Persians and Turks cannot pronounce this Arabic "dad" and make it "z," as in Reza for "Reda" and "Idul-Azha" for Idul-Adha"—hence the Arabs call themselves "Ahlu-dad."—I am, etc.,

A. SEFI.

July 6.

THE "BECCAFICO" OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—With reference to the *Cyprus Gazette* of April 12, a Bill to amend the Game and Wild Birds Protection Law, I take it that the chief purpose of the Bill is to prevent the capture of the "Beccafico" or "Ambelepoulia." This is the *Sylvia atricapilla*, the Blackcap; although other species such as the *Ortolan* and the *Garden Warbler* are sometimes included under the somewhat loose designation of "Beccafico." (See J. A. Bucknill; "Ornithology of Cyprus.")

Protection is advocated on account of the benefit rendered to agriculture by these birds, who are said to feed upon insects. But there is considerable difference of opinion on what is the food consumed by them. Many farmers in Cyprus deny that they eat insects. This is probably because the injury to farming caused by the destruction of the birds is more than compensated for by the profits of the trade. According to Witherby ("Practical Handbook of British Birds," Volume 1) the food of the Blackcap consists of "insects, fruit and berries." A resident of Larnaca who has tested the question by opening the stomachs of these birds, states that "They do not eat grapes, their principal food being the berry of the thinia, figs and blackberries." We are not informed which are the harmful insects destroyed by these birds. Is it not possible that they destroy a good many useful ones?

Protection is advocated again because the practice of using birdlime for the capture of these birds is a cruel one. No serious person will deny the cruelty or will fail to hope for the prevention of it, as soon as possible, by legal or other means.

But, in my opinion, it is undesirable and indeed unfair at one blow to sweep away a trade which has for several centuries been carried on in Cyprus. Long before the Turkish occupation (1553) these birds were pickled and exported in jars to Venice year by year. Their numbers do not seem to have been appreciably reduced in spite of this trade. Many poor people in the Famagusta and Larnaca districts earn their daily bread by catching these birds during the three months August, September, and October. The villagers of Paralimni, Ayia Napa, and Sotera claim that they can make about £1,500 per annum out of the business. If this traffic is to be forbidden, surely some *quid pro quo* is due to those who have hitherto been accustomed to depend for their living upon it?

The effect of this Bill, if carried into law as it stands, will alienate the sympathies of the majority of the village people on the South side of the Island.—I am, etc.,

HAROLD BUXTON.

Nicosia.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 18, 1929 (New Style).

July 5, 1929 (Old Style).

Saphar 10, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tammuz 10, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Bulgarian Minister left London on July 10, for Brighton.

Lord and Lady Irwin arrived in London on July 13, and left the following day for Yorkshire.

Mr. and Mrs. Sperling arrived last week at Donnington, Newbury, from the British Legation, Sofia.

M. Georges Cattau, Secretary to the Egyptian Legation, last week returned to London from Berlin.

Lord Lloyd, High Commissioner in Egypt, sailed for Alexandria on July 11, in the *Ausonia* for Geneva.

Abdel Malek Hamza Bey, Counsellor to the Egyptian Legation in London, has been appointed *Chargé d'Affaires*, in succession to Sesostri Sidarouss Bey, who leaves shortly to take up his post as Egyptian Minister in Athens.

Captain Sir George Rowley left London on July 11, to join the P. and O. s.s. *Macedonia* at Marseilles for Bombay.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco arrived last week in Venice. M. Constantin M. Laptew is acting as *Chargé d'Affaires*.

The Maharaja of Alwar and Sir John and Lady Maffey were among the guests at a Dinner Party given by the Prince of Wales on July 9.

The Prince of Wales received Captain C. E. Turle, R.N., late Head of the British Naval Mission in Greece, on July 11, at St. James's Palace.

Sir Ronald Storrs left England on July 10, on his return to Cyprus. Lady Storrs and Miss Mary Clowes will be at 84, Elm Park Gardens until the beginning of August.

Sir Louis and Lady Kershaw sailed from Southampton, on July 13, in the Viceroy of India for a Mediterranean cruise.

Mahmoud Pasha, Egyptian Prime Minister, who left London on July 8, for Paris, to meet King Fuad, returned with Dr. Hafiz Afifi Bey, Egyptian Foreign Minister, on July 11.

The King of Egypt, who will arrive at the Ritz Hotel from Cairo on July 20, for a stay in England of from four to six weeks, has accepted an invitation by the Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayoress to take luncheon at the Mansion House on Tuesday, July 23.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that the King has granted to the following permission to wear the under-mentioned decorations and orders granted to them by the respective foreign Government:—

Star of Roumania (Grand Officer).—Mr. Smith Austin Guest.

Brilliant Star of Zanzibar.—Mr. Shapurji Dunjishaw Bhicaji Elavia.

The King has approved the appointment of the Hon. Sir Francis Oswald Lindley, his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Oslo, to be his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Lisbon. Sir Francis Lindley has served in many other capitals, including Teheran, Cairo and Athens.

Dr. Seton Watson, who, while on a journey in Yugoslavia, was taken ill some time ago and underwent a slight operation at Sarajevo, in Bosnia, has made satisfactory progress and is now convalescent.

REPARATIONS IN TURKEY.

The Commission for the Assessment of the Damage Suffered in Turkey, which has its headquarters in Paris, is now approaching the end of its labours. It has examined and disposed of more than 16,600 claims presented through the British, French, Italian and Japanese Delegations, and has accepted over 8,800 of these. The awards total more than ten million Turkish gold pounds, so that the percentage payable will not amount to more than 52½ per cent. of the amounts allotted, and of this a preliminary distribution of 40 per cent. has already been made in the great majority of cases.

Final payments of awards on this basis—i.e. a further 12½ per cent.—will be made as soon as possible, without awaiting the assessment of the few cases which remain to be disposed of from Delegations other than those mentioned above. For these a fixed sum has been set aside by the Commission from the total amount placed at its disposal.

Resmijeh Tarzi Khanum, mother of Queen Surayya of Afghanistan, arrived in Constantinople last week, accompanied by other members of the Afghan Royal Family.

The Greek Chamber has passed a Bill authorising the issue of an international loan of about £2,000,000 for the purpose of indemnifying the Greeks who suffered losses during the War.

Negotiations in Angora between M. Pappas, Greek Minister to Turkey, and the Turkish delegates for a settlement of outstanding questions between Greece and Turkey, in which a hitch occurred recently, are being continued.

Sir Demetrius George Metaxas, G.C.V.O., for 13 years Greek Minister in London and afterwards at Rome, left unsettled property in England valued for probate at £14,906 gross, with net personalty £14,656.

The trial in their absence of the former Croat Federalist Deputy, Dr. Ante Pavelitch, and of his secretary M. Pertchetz, on charges under the Defence of the Realm Act was begun in Belgrade on July 11.

The recent troubles in Afghanistan, according to *The Times*, have left their mark on the stamps in the form of a special imprint incorporating the title of Habibullah applied at Kabul to the remaining stock of the last issue of Amanullah. The circulation of these overprinted stamps is of course restricted to the region at present under the control of the Government of Kabul and does not extend over the entire country.

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Book Review

SAID BIN SULTAN.

"**SAID BIN-SULTAN, 1791-1856, Ruler of Oman and Zanzibar. His place in the History of Arabia and East Africa.**" By Rudolph Said Ruete (London: Alexander Ouseley, Ltd. 16s. net.)

Here is a book about one of the greatest figures thrown up by Arabia in a thousand years, a claim the author may fairly be said to sustain. The author, Mr. Rudolph Said-Ruete, is no less than the grandson of its hero, Said bin Sultan, and in this historical biography of the Ruler of Oman and Zanzibar during the first half of the last century, Mr. Said-Ruete gives us a serious contribution to modern Arabian history. Assiduous care has been devoted to the collection of the materials, its treatment is scientific, and one feels that the author has brought a filial devotion to his task.

The period coincides with that of the early days of militant and proselytizing Wahhabism, of Qawasim piracy in the Persian Gulf, of the Egyptian Invasion of Arabia under Muhammad Ali, and of the later days of British and French rivalry for trade supremacy in the Indian Ocean. And if these issues are not primarily the subject matter of the book, it is their repercussions on Oman and Zanzibar affairs that provide the situations with which the life of Said is bound up.

In 1806 Said came to the throne of Oman, an immature youth of 15 years. It was no bed of roses. His father, Sultan bin Ahmad, the son of the founder of the Albu Said Dynasty, had lately been murdered on the high seas by Qawasim pirates, and his death, in a theocratic Ibadhi State where succession was not necessarily determined by primogeniture, was the signal for a rising by an uncle. Another uncle, cherishing similar ambitions, was acting Regent, and the two in their respective bids for power proceeded to make ruinous alliances with the two enemies of the country, Wahhabi invaders on the one hand, Qawasim pirates on the other. The first act of young Said was to decoy his Regent Uncle and to assassinate him. This "will to power" was applauded by the country. It was no strange means to employ. Incidentally Said's successor, Thuwaini, was destined to be murdered by his own son, Salim, who thereupon succeeded to the Sultanate, and during the past five years fratricide, a time-honoured institution for the purpose has on three several occasions been responsible for a change of Shaikhship in the powerful Omani tribes of Bani Ali, and of Bani Yas of Abu Dhabi. There followed a rallying of the tribes to Said's side. The Wahhabis withdrew. Our East India Company, which had suffered heavy depredations from Qawasim piracy, and was shamefully faced with having to buy immunity, had up to this time observed a clearly understandable neutrality in internal affairs in Oman. But now it saw in the turn of events—and a Commercial Treaty between the Young Ruler and the French may have provided a spur—a suitable ally in Said to approach the Qawasim question. The Qawasim were thereupon driven into the arms of the Wahhabis, who, with the recent arrival of Saoud himself, their leader from Najd, were at this time in the ascendant. A British Expedition was fitted out to attack Ras al Khaima, the pirates' stronghold, Khor Fakan, another

lair, and Shinas, where the Wahhabis had obtained a footing. All the objectives were secured, but no sooner had the British Fleet left for India than the good work was undone. The Wahhabis revived, and proceeded to overrun the country. Said turned in vain for support to the British. He then obtained 1,500 Persian mercenaries from the Governor of Shiraz, but they proved ineffective. Baraimi, the headquarters of Wahhabi activities—it still inherits a nebulous tradition whose victim I myself have been when turned back from before its gates—now received further reinforcements under two Najdian princes, and the Wahhabis, sweeping like a flood through the land, soon had the two principal ports of Sahar and Matrah, the latter only two miles distant from the capital, Muscat, at their feet. Said had no other course than to buy them off with an annual tribute of 40,000 dollars, a burden from which he could only hope for relief by their declining fortunes. Fortunately, respite was at hand, its sources, largely extraneous, springing from the Egyptian invasion of Arabia under Muhammad Ali, the death of the Wahhabi Chief, Saoud, and the decision of the India Government to send another expedition against Ras al Khaima. This, with which Said co-operated (1819), consisted of nine ships and 3,000 men. It succeeded in giving the final *coup de grâce* to Qawasim piracy and a stunning blow to their Wahhabi alliance. For Said matters rapidly mended: and now, in 1820, after fourteen years of incessant struggle, he found himself the unchallenged ruler of his country. This marked the end of the first of three phases, of almost equal duration, which made up his fifty years reign.

The middle phase, the sixteen years 1820-1836, was characterised by a policy of overseas expansion. Said had nourished secret dreams of becoming master of the Island of Bahrain, had already in fact, with his Persian allies, made an attack, albeit abortive, on the Qawasim established there, but he now turned his eyes to covet wider horizons, and for the next eight years his activities in the Persian Gulf suggested that that inland sea was, for the nonce, Persian only in name. Oman is essentially a maritime State with a long coastline, a large sailor population, a wealth deriving from freedom to sell its date produce overseas, and a secondry industry in its fisheries. Outlets it must have, to live. Even before the accession of Said, Bandar Abbas, Kishm, and Hormuz had been leased to Omani Imams by the Persians, and Said's appointment of Governors and tax collectors to this part of Southern Persia, now invested him with virtual sovereignty there. In 1826 he conducted a fleet to Basrah and brought back the Turkish Pasha a prisoner to Muscat, his design to blockade Bushire in the same year was only prevented by British representations, and two years later he must perforce make yet another vain attempt on Bahrain.

But the results of these Gulf adventures were ephemeral. It is the work of the next following eight years, 1828-1836 that forms a more notable achievement, for it was then that Said, facing right about, laid the foundations East Africa. For this the natives had paid a nominal and East Africa had existed from remote times. As early as 1652 an Imam of Oman sent a fleet to expel the Portuguese from Mombasa, and it was an Omani fleet which in 1698 led to the final expulsion of the Portuguese from East Africa. For this the natives had paid a nominal tribute to Oman, but emboldened by the disruptive effects attending the dynastic change from Ya'araba to Albu Said, they had of late defaulted.

Said, secure in Oman, now turned his attention to this African Arcadia. He fitted out and personally conducted four expeditions during the period 1828-1836, and on the last occasion remained in Zanzibar for a space of three years, during which time he disposed characteristically, if mysteriously, of his rivals after arresting them

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and dispatching them by ship to Bandar Abbas. In 1839 he returned to Oman for a season, disturbed by the news of Muhammad Ali's successful Arabian war of annexation. Said is believed to have cherished an Egyptian *rapprochement* with a view to securing Bahrain, but sensing Muhammad Ali's own ambitions, wisely abandoned this shadow for the substance of British friendship, which grew apace.

The last phase of his reign was spent consolidating himself in East Africa. The year 1840 saw him undisputed Ruler of both Oman and Zanzibar, but it was the latter place that he now made the seat of Government, and thither, and not to Muscat, was posted the British Resident to his Court. Indeed, for the next sixteen years Said paid but two short visits to Muscat, where his son Thuwaini was Regent, and these only under the compelling influence of a reviving Wahhabi menace. It was on the sea voyage as he was returning from Muscat to Zanzibar that he died in 1856.

Said's name to-day is a name to conjure with South Eastern Arabia, where his achievements are held in proud and sacred memory, achievements of a resolute, resourceful, liberal-minded leader of man. To have welded a tribal State, riven by internal dissension and buffeted from without, into any sort of cohesion, would have been a statesman's lifework; what shall we say, then, of the qualities of heart and mind by which he not only accomplished this, but also conquered and consolidated a great African possession, and built up a considerable private fortune (without, be it noted, forfeiting the love and respect of the common people) as shipowner and merchant prince?

More visible, more fruitful results of Said's work are his introduction of the clove into Zanzibar, the now flourishing industry by which the Island principally lives; his co-operation with us in the suppression of slavery, a tremendously strong initial action for an Arab Ruler to take, when one remembers that in his country slavery not only had religious sanction but also represented a powerful vested interest, and finally his Commercial Treaties with Britain, France, and America, Treaties sought by the Great Powers for the first time at his hands, and which substantially endure to this day.

Mr. Said-Ruete is to be congratulated for producing so valuable a work on his august ancestor, a work which no student of Arabia can afford to miss. **BERTRAM THOMAS.**

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Cambridge History of the British Empire. Vol. I. The Old Empire. From the beginnings to 1783." (London: Cambridge University Press. 35s. net.)

"The Tin Shawl." By Marion McClelland. (London: Hurst and Blackett. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Political Handbook of the World. 1929." Edited by M. W. Davies and W. H. Mallory. (Yale University Press, New Haven, for the Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., New York.)

"The Turkish Ordeal." By Halide Edib. (London: John Murray. 21s. net.)

"Thomas Herbert. Travels in Persia, 1627-1629." Edited by Sir William Foster, C.I.E. (London: Routledge and Sons. 15s. net.)

"Leaders of Hassidism." By Dr. S. A. Horodezky. With a Foreword by Dr. M. Gaster. (London: "Hasefer" Agency for Literature. 5s.)

"Ten Thousand Miles in Two Continents." By Mrs. Patrick Ness. (London: Methuen and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Path of Purity. Part II." By Pe Maung Tin, M.A., B.Litt. (London: Oxford University Press. 10s. net.)

"Night Falls of Siva's Hill." By Edward Thompson. (London: Heinemann. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Byron: The Last Journey." By Harold Nicolson. (London: Constable. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Ibn Battuta. Travels in Asia and Africa, 1325-1354." Translated by H. A. R. Gibb. (London: Routledge. 15s.)

"Christianity and Some Living Religions of the East." By Sydney Cave. (London: Duckworth. 5s. net.)

"The Character of India." By A. Chapman. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. Rs.3.)

"Ghond the Hunter." By Dhan Gopal Mukerji. Illustrated by Boris Artzybasheff. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons. 6s. net.)

"Poetry of the Orient: An Anthology of the Classic Secular Poetry of the Major Eastern Nations. Edited by Eurnice Tietjens. (London: Alfred A. Knopf. 21s.)

"THE MOSLEM WORLD."

The July issue of the *Moslem World* contains two articles which will be of exceptional interest to reader of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*. These are "Christians at Mecca," by Mr. Arthur Jeffery, and "Mohammed Abduh the Reformer," by Dr. C. C. Adams. The first, which is inspired by the recent publication of Mr. Eldon Rutter's "Holy Cities of Arabia," mentions, from the roll of Christians who since the sixteenth century have penetrated into the Hijaz, Ludovico di Varthema, Vincent Leblanc, Johann Wild, Joseph Pitts, Badia, Seetzen, Burckhardt, Finati, Roches, Wallin, Burton, Keane, Hurgronje, Courtellemont, Wavell, and finally Rutter. It is a representative, though by no means complete list, and as an introduction to a fascinating subject will be found very useful.

The article on the great Islamic reformer, Shaikh Muhammad Abdu, is also valuable. It refers to his early connexion with *Al-Ahram*, his co-operation with Jamal Al-Din Al-Afghani, his endeavours to reform not only Al-Azhar but also the whole of Islam (two of his *fatwas*, for instance, declared it permissible for Muslims to eat the flesh of animals slaughtered by Christians or Jews; and for Muslims to deposit money in the Postal Savings Banks of the Government). His death in 1905 left his work uncompleted, but it is evidence of his tremendous influence upon Islamic, and particularly upon Egyptian thought, that his lectures and commentaries are now being reprinted. At the moment, indeed, the movement to reconcile the fundamental ideas of Islam with the scientific ideas of the West is receiving perhaps its most considerable impulse from the writings and memory of Shaikh Muhammad Abdu. Dr. Adams has written a very timely article.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Neshitch, Yugoslav Minister to Bulgaria, returned to Sofia on July 12

M. Henri Ponsot, French High Commissioner for Syria, arrived in Paris on July 12 from Beyrout.

Mgr. Damianos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, was reported on July 14 to be dangerously ill in consequence of a stroke.

Ismet Pasha, Turkish Prime Minister, arrived last week at Constantinople from Angora for a month's holiday.

M. Venizelos announced in the Greek Chamber on July 9 that the Government would introduce a Bill during the next session giving women the vote in municipal elections.

Prince Mustapha Kiamil Fazil, first cousin once removed to the King of Egypt, has died at Grasse at the age of 43, leaving one daughter, the Nabila Saliha.

The King of Yugoslavia, having ended his tour in Dalmatia, reached the Royal summer residence at Bled on July 11 after traversing a portion of Croatia.

M. Polychroniadis, Greek Minister in Belgrade, was married on July 14 to a Serbian lady, Mlle. Nikolaevitch. The wedding took place at the Greek Legation.

Eighty members of the Archaeological Society of London arrived last week in Zagreb as the guests of the Yugoslav Society of Archaeologists.

In his European tour during the summer recess M. Venizelos will visit London, Geneva, Berlin, Warsaw, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Bled (the Yugoslav summer resort), and Belgrade.

Famine in the Hadhramaut, in the Aden Protectorate, is reported to be so severe that large numbers of camels have died, and the rate of hire has risen owing to the consequent lack of animals.

Lord Peel will preside at a meeting of the East India Association on Wednesday, July 31, at the Caxton Hall, at 4.30 p.m., when Mr. Kikabhai Premchand, a member of the Indian Central Committee, will lecture on the economic and industrial outlook in India.

Mr. Henry Van den Bergh, who in 1912 presented the Bleazby collection of over 2,500 Islamic coins to the British Museum, and has made other gifts to this section, has now given a series of 16 Indian gold coins, all of extreme rarity and importance, and including several unique pieces.

The ex-Queen Mother of Greece, with her daughter, the Princess of Roumania and Princess Irene, and her grandnephews the Princes Alexander and Nicholas of Karageorgevitch, left Bucharest last week for Bled to visit the Queen of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Peterson, First Secretary at the British Legation, Cairo, is acting as High Commissioner for Egypt until the return of Mr. Hoare, the Counsellor, on July 17. Aly Pasha Maher, Egyptian Minister of Finance, and Mr. Watson, Financial Adviser, left Alexandria on July 11, embarking in the *Ausonia*.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

A Lively House.

The new House of Commons is incomparably more interesting than its predecessor, owing mainly to the fact that individual sincerity is being allowed to penetrate the gloomy front which party loyalty has been supposed to demand. It is all to the good when Labour Members of Parliament criticise, and criticise bitterly, their own Cabinet Ministers; it is equally to the good when leading Conservatives offer opposed counsels. For we know from this that men are thinking, and not simply doing what they are told to do.

The Labour Party, of course, were prepared for this. Their leaders knew well that their educational proposals, for instance, would gravely disappoint many members whose return to Parliament was brought about largely through the promise to raise the school-leaving age; they also knew that opposition was certain to their Imperialistic proposals. This division of opinion in the Government Party may become more serious, but it may also become a source of strength, in that richness and variety are added to it.

The Unionists, on the other hand, seem to have been taken aback by the show of dissension in their ranks. They profess to be gravely put out at the difference between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Amery, for example, on the question of co-operation with the Liberals and Socialists; they are perturbed over the obvious difficulty in establishing a common front over the issue of Protection. Their more craven advisers are, therefore, suggesting that Mr. Baldwin should tighten up the discipline of the Party, and put a stop to all this division of counsel.

In my view, it would be in the best interests of the Unionists to allow the widest possible freedom of expression. They need all the brains they can command, and to suggest that all the young men and all the old men in the Party can think, or should vote, in the same way on all occasions, is tantamount to suicide. What is the good of pretending that all Unionists think alike on the question of Free Trade? It would be a gesture that would deceive nobody; and might bring to the Party such disastrous results as occurred to the Liberal Party through the utterly false assumption that they were a united Party.

It seems, however, that all sections of opinion in this House will have a good say—in which case Ministers will have a wearying time, but the country will have good reading and may—who knows?—regain the once firmly held conviction that the "House of Pretence" is, indeed, the font of all political wisdom. It is possible, on the other hand, that the politicians will so disport themselves as opportunists and office-holders at all costs as to bring Parliamentarism into ever deeper disrepute. On first appearances, however, the House promises to be a lively, stimulating, and really helpful one.

Trotsky.

It is commonly said that nothing now divides Tories from Whigs but the fiscal issue. But an instance of where the old Liberal or Radical spirit strongly and solitarily asserted itself occurred last week, when it was announced that the Labour Government had decided not to allow Trotsky to visit Great Britain. The decision was generally applauded—particularly by the Conservatives—but the old-fashioned Liberals were aghast at the inhospitality of the British Government and the violation of our traditions of granting asylum to political refugees.

Why the Home Office under Mr. Clynes acted as it has

done is something of a mystery. Of course there is the obvious explanation that, were the Labour Party to admit Trotsky, the old jibe that Labour man is but mild Bolshevik might receive fresh countenance. That is a poor explanation.

It is suggested, on the other hand, that the present Moscow Administration, with which the British Government wishes to cultivate cordial relations, would dislike such courtesy to be shown towards a man whom they have banished from Russia. That also is rather unconvincing.

It certainly is curious. But one really does wonder whether, as a certain Labour Member suggested, Trotsky should be classed with Garibaldi, Mazzini, and other rebels who found temporary disfavour at home. After all, such men did kindle emotions in Englishmen. But what is the average impression of Trotsky in this country?

Church and State.

There are few wise heads that are not shaking in perplexity over the decisions taken last week by the Convocations of Canterbury and York to ignore the double refusal of Parliament to allow the use of the Revised Prayer Book. No one knows what will be the outcome of the flouting by the Church of England of that Parliament by which it was established. At first sight it appears to point direct to Disestablishment; but that is a hasty and very possibly incorrect assumption.

The details of the problem will be remembered. Certain practices were being indulged in by Anglican clergymen in violation of the law. The Bishops attempted, in the Prayer Book which was rejected by Parliament last year, to bring some of such practices within the law again.

What is now to be done? The Archbishop of York says that the Church must do its best "apart from the law." One understands his position, one sympathises, indeed, with it. But how to defend illegalities? Will Parliament allow itself so to be humiliated as to see without interference those changes which it refused to sanction formally put into practice?

The position is a desperate one—else the Bishops, loyal Englishmen all of them, could not have counselled as they did. Manifestly the relationship between Church and State will have to be modified, possibly snapped. But who will grasp the nettle? That immortal man has not yet appeared.

King Willow.

The bat beat the ball both in the Oxford and Cambridge and in the Eton and Harrow match, but the first was a rather dull, the second a decidedly interesting draw. Unquestionably the 'Varsity elevens were on the whole poor elevens, with little of highest quality in either batting, bowling, or fielding. Enterprise, courage, and imagination were all too infrequently displayed: the off ball was left severely alone in every sense of the word. A draw was, therefore, a fitting result, in the sense that neither side deserved to win.

Eton and Harrow, on the other hand, had an excellent game, with Harrow—whom practically everybody wanted to see win—slightly inferior the whole two days and yet making a most gallant fight.

Of the Test Match, one ought to say only that South Africa had but half a team. They are a very popular side, whose fielding is brilliant, and though their skill is not tremendous, they play the kind of game which endears them at once to the English public. The English Selection Committee, by the way, did a very popular thing in playing Bowley and Woolley.

ALTER EGO.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

At a meeting in the Room of the Royal Society, Burlington House, on July 10, of the Central Asian Society and of the Persia Society, it was decided that the latter be merged in the former, on the condition that the Society's new name be the "Central Asian Society with which is incorporated the Persia Society."

THE AIR ROUTE TO INDIA.

The Alexandria-Genoa Section.

By ARTHUR S. MERTON.

Flying Boat G.E.B.V.G. Over Genoa. Imperial Airways started the Great Britain India service three months ago by the inauguration of the air-link Genoa-Alexandria. During the interval the Company has had time to perfect the ground arrangements, and it has been with the object of investigating the conditions under which the trans-Mediterranean service is now run that I decided to travel by it when going on leave, instead of, as usual, proceeding by sea.

The Alexandria-Genoa route is *via* Tobruk, Suda Bay, Athens, Corfu, Naples, Ostia, and Genoa, and is timed to take 3 days 4 hours, connecting at Alexandria with the Government Mail from India and at Genoa with the night train to Bale, whence the mail proceeds to London *via* Paris and Croydon.

The flying boat G.E.B.V.G. in which I am travelling, inaugurated the trans-Mediterranean service on March 3 last. This week's flight has in every respect proved a searching test of the efficiency of the ground organisation, the ability of the pilots and the air-worthiness of the machines.

Even before we left Alexandria we experienced a setback, for on account of the monsoon and other causes the Karachi mail was late. It did not reach Aboukir until the afternoon instead of during the morning and the transshipment of mails and passengers—two Japanese from Kobe—could not be completed until 5 p.m., so we left Alexandria 3½ hours late, which made it impossible to reach Tobruk that evening. To meet the emergency it was decided to stop at Mersa Matruh, about half-way to Tobruk, and continue to the latter place next morning. This eleventh-hour alteration proved a success, for here in a rest-house kept by an Englishman for the caravans proceeding to or from Siwa we passed an excellent night, with good meals, and by leaving early next morning, we were able to keep our contract and call at Tobruk and be off on our cross-Mediterranean journey at almost the hour we were normally due to leave that point. Here came the supreme test of all.

We had reached Crete and had to cross the island at Suda. We rose to 3700 feet and just as the pilot let his engines full out in order to start to cross, the middle engine failed. The machine with a sudden lurch dropped some 500 feet and the pilot only saved the situation by a skilful manoeuvre. We had to make a complete detour and pass round the S.W. end of the island to reach Suda. This took 1½ hours and made us a full two hours late in arriving there, going on two engines all the time.

For a little while it was uncertain whether we should be able to proceed that night, as it was doubtful whether the repairs could be carried out on the spot for us to reach Athens before nightfall. But the M.M. ss. *Imperia*, which Imperial Airways keep at Suda to provide accommodation for passengers and to serve in emergencies as a rescue ship—we found incidentally that she had steam up, so to speak, ready to come to our aid, and we needed it—unable with the flying ship's engineer to carry out the necessary repair-work very speedily and after a good lunch, which we badly needed after an 8 hour fast, we left for Athens at 5.15 p.m.—2½ hours behind time.

Our trying and tiring experience of the day had its consolation, however, in the fact that we passed into the Gulf of Athens, the sun set and our entry into Athens port synchronised with the disappearance of the flaming red sun-disc behind Corinth and the lighting up of Morean Hills in an exquisite pink-mauve mystic light. We reached Athens at 2.45 p.m., but still in a position to continue the scheduled timetable the following morning—an achievement of which in the circumstances Imperial Airways and its personnel may be justly proud. The

day had provided a wholly unforeseeable emergency, the successful meeting of which demonstrated the wisdom of using three-engine machines, the admirable ground organisation which provided relief ships and the means of repair just where it was wanted, the resistance of the *Calcuttas* and the endurance and skill of the pilot and crew. By this time our four passengers had been increased to ten, including Sir Arthur Evans.

The flying from Athens to Corfu is usually the most interesting and picturesque section of the voyage, since it follows the Corinth Canal past Corinth, through the Gulf of that name, past Lepanto, Missolonghi, Patras and round the coast northwards through the Ionian Islands to Corfu. But this time there was an added interest, for over the Dragoneri Isles we saw the Mediterranean Fleet at anchor, preparatory to paying a visit to Zante. We could count twenty-one large units below in addition to an aeroplane carrier with its deck laden with hydroplanes, and close by a swarm of submarine and torpedo-craft. We circled as a salute all round at a height of 1,100 feet, watching the crew drilling on the flag-ship and thoroughly enjoying the spectacle, and as we proceeded on our way to the north, two Moths started off in fast pursuit from the aeroplane carrier and escorted us on either side until we reached the waters round Corfu—a delicate compliment, which we fully appreciated.

Only a short stay at Corfu for lunch—far too short—and then away across the Adriatic and the instep of Italy, which we crossed in 27 minutes, up the West coast to Naples, where, with a magnificent view of Vesuvius in eruption, we landed at 5.30 p.m. To-day we left there at 10.15, on the last of the sea journey, and as the Tiber is too low to allow a landing for lunch at Ostia, we are making one "jump" to Genoa and have taken our lunch literally "*al fresco*" some 2,000 feet above Livorno. We are now within sight of Genoa where we shall arrive three-quarters of an hour ahead of schedule.

And so in half an hour this eventful journey will come to an end and this letter, which, written en route, proves the smoothness of the flying, will be carried on by the air mail *via* Bale and Paris. Its arrival in London on time in spite of incidents, which might well have caused serious delay, is an eloquent demonstration of the thorough efficiency of the Britain and India service. Punctuality is the essence of such a service. But punctuality must be accompanied by "safety first" precautions, and my experience has shown one that both these features are outstanding characteristics of the Imperial Airway's organisation.

I started out last Wednesday evening for Alexandria, an anxious air novice, never having been in the air before. I reach my destination after mid-air baptism inspired with the fullest confidence in air travel.

A Congress of Albanian Muslims from all parts of the country is being held at Tirana to discuss the introduction of reforms under the new Civil Code.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Blyth Hill, Bt., D.S.O., late Royal Irish Fusiliers, of the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W., formerly Governor of Berber and Bahr-el-Gazal, Sudan, who died on May 2, left £7,528, with net personality £7,418.

Engineers representing the Italian State Railways, who have been seeking oil at Tirana, recently reported important discoveries. One well which was sunk near Ben Kove to a depth of 1,200 ft. is now producing ten tons of oil daily. This output is expected very shortly to be increased.

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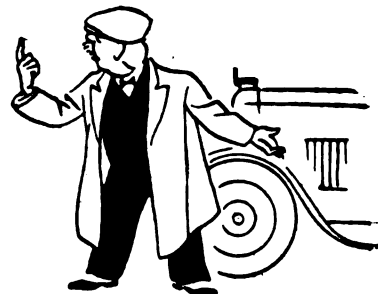
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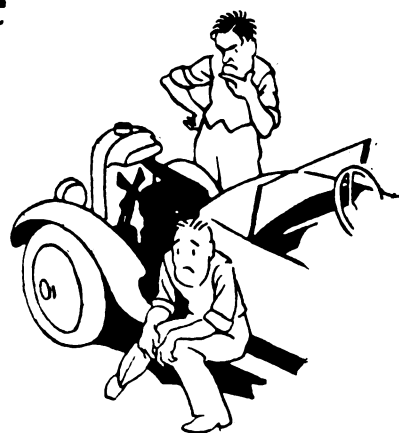
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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Growth of Tariffs.

Recent developments provide an interesting commentary on the proposals for reductions in tariffs of the Geneva Economic Conference. Since that Conference there have been a number of reduction in duties, notably in certain Near Eastern countries, and, as our columns frequently bear witness, the process is still going on, but what has been gained in one direction has been lost in another, and now, as if to put an end to all questions of tariff reductions, comes the United States Tariff Bill, which obviously aims at preserving the United States market for home manufacturers. As America is the world's creditor, it would be interesting to know the view of those responsible for the Bill as to how America's numerous debtors are going to pay their yearly instalments if America is unwilling to take their goods. There is also another aspect. The countries who will suffer by the proposed tariff are important customers of America, and if, as will certainly be the case, they resort to retaliation, America may find her tariff a very doubtful weapon. It is not a little difficult to understand America's viewpoint not only with regard to the question of protection, but with regard to other developments since the War. If it had been her object—which, of course, it has not—to make things as difficult as possible for European reconstruction, her policy in regard to War Debts and tariffs could not have been better calculated to achieve it. In the present case she has succeeded in giving an effective set-back to the movement to reduce tariffs; whether there will be other consequences in bringing the Empire and the European countries closer together must remain to be seen.

The New Regime in Roumania.

It is one of the great points in favour of the present Roumanian Government that, unlike so many other Administrations, they have lost no time in endeavouring to translate their pre-election pledges into action. The outstanding case in point is, of course, the new Mining Law, to which I have already referred, which is designed to make things easier generally for the companies exploiting the oilfields and to place foreign enterprise on an equal footing with native capital. An appreciative reference to the new legislation was made at the recent meeting of the Phoenix Oil and Transport Company by Sir Edward Manville, who pointed out that the law had been made much more flexible for foreign interests, and that it was the policy of the Government to do all that was possible in co-operating with foreign capital. A great handicap from which Roumania's oil industry still suffers—the excessive taxation—will naturally receive attention as soon as the Government is in a position to do so, but that is not likely to be just yet, for the rate of taxation is a reflection of Roumania's lack of progress since the War, and it must take some time before the steps taken by the present Government to further the progress of the country have marked results on the economic position.

Tea-Drinking in Egypt.

I referred recently to the surprising development in the consumption of Virginian cigarettes in Egypt. This is by no means the only instance of changing habits in this part of the Near East. Another of equal interest is discussed in a recent issue of the *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, this being the marked

expansion of the consumption of tea in the last few years. In Egypt as in so many other Near Eastern regions the staple drink has been coffee, and except among the Europeans tea has been regarded rather as a medicine than a beverage. A few figures will show how the attitude towards tea has altered. For 1913 the imports of tea totalled 965,971 kgs., as compared with 6,339,157 kgs. for coffee. For 1927 the figures were 3,929,606 kgs. for tea and 9,952,590 kgs. for coffee, while for last year the imports of tea were 6,517,188 kgs., as compared with 8,092,183 kgs. In this case, as in others, as our contemporary suggests, there is little doubt that the change is due to the War. It will be interesting to see how far it will go, and whether the rapid rise in the consumption of tea will go on until it has quite superseded coffee as the principal drink of Egyptians. Incidentally, this change has an important lesson for our traders, showing as it does how a market can be developed for a commodity which has not so far been in favour.

Rise in Tanker Freights.

Messrs. John I. Jacobs and Co. point out in their half-yearly report, extracts from which are given elsewhere in this issue, the change that has taken place in the oil tanker freight market during the present year. While it was believed at the end of last year that the worst of the depression had been seen, they point out that few would have anticipated an appreciation in freight rates of about 80 per cent. But that is what has happened, and while last December 12s. 3d. per ton was quoted, the rate last month was 22s. 6d. per ton. There has been an advance also in time charter rates, and it is evident that the rapid increase in the consumption of oil throughout the world has had the effect of reversing the situation which obtained last year when the available tanker tonnage was in excess of the demand for it.

Furness Withy.

A satisfactory report is forthcoming from Furness, Withy and Co. for the year ended April 30, the net profits being £653,393, as against £627,750 for the previous year. This result is the best achieved since 1921-22. The dividend is maintained at 10 per cent., but the allocation to depreciation is this time £250,000, as against £200,000, leaving the carry-forward at £264,957, as

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against £241,565. The accounts do not indicate to what extent this improvement in the results is due to the income from shipping, and for information on this point we must wait for the Chairman's speech at the coming general meeting.

COMMENTATOR.

NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 10.

Raising of National Bank's Discount Rate.

As a result of the demand for very considerable sums in foreign exchanges to meet the need of imports, which are tending to increase greatly to the detriment of the country's commercial balance, which is already seriously affected, the National Bank has decided to raise its discount rate from 9 to 10 per cent. The rate of interest for deposits of drafts and commercial bills is raised from 10 to 11 per cent.; the rate of interest for current debtor accounts is maintained at its present level.

Textile Workers' Strike.

Following the great strike of tobacco workers, which was terminated by a friendly arrangement brought about by the mediation of the Ministry of Labour on terms which gave the strikers an increase ranging from 10 to 15 per cent. on their wages, Bulgaria has witnessed the outbreak of a number of other strikes. For the most part they have been unquestionably due to Communist agitation. The most important strike has been that of the textile workers at Sliven, which has extended to the factories at Stara-Zagora, Stanimaka, Raikovo, and other places. However, Gabrovo, which constitutes with Sliven one of the two most important industrial centres in Bulgaria, has escaped this epidemic. As it was found to be impossible to bring about an agreement between the workers and the masters owing to the intransigence of the strikers, the Sliven manufacturers have had recourse to a lock-out. They have been less reluctant to apply this measure as the factories are going through a serious crisis as a result of the over-production in the industry which makes it impossible to dispose regularly of the products. It is interesting to note that while the tobacco workers' strike, which was known to be unaffected by subversive influences, benefited by a large measure of support of public opinion, that of the textile workers has been severely condemned in all centres.

Disastrous Storms.

At the end of June terrible storms burst upon Bulgaria, and have caused damage such as the population cannot recall ever having happened before. The disaster (for

such it is), which has affected eight departments, is to be attributed particularly to the serious hailstorms which accompanied the torrential rain, and which in many regions was marked by hailstones weighing a kilogram. Men and women have been killed, or have perished in the rapid inundations, without counting the victims of the lightning. There are places where the hail has been so violent and so prolonged that it has lain a metre thick. The storms have devastated the regions of Trn, Sofia, Orkhanye, Pleven, Sishtov, Bela, Popovo, Lovetch, Sevliyevo, Panagurishtë, Karlovo, Kazanlik, Stara-Zagora, and Nova-Zagora. The north of Bulgaria has generally suffered more than the south. The damage has been particularly severe in the districts of Trn, Pleven, Nicopol, and Svishstov, where all the crops have been destroyed and where there have been twenty deaths. The losses of the farmers are estimated at over 500 million leva.

The Government has taken swift measures to succour the unfortunate farmers, and at its instance the Agricultural Bank has immediately opened credits sufficient to carry out at least part of the requisite reparations and to proceed immediately, with the assistance of the agents of the bank, with the resowing of the fields with late crops so as not to lose the season entirely.

A New Danube Bridge.

The question of the construction of a bridge over the Danube has been for long a matter of discussion between Bulgaria and Roumania, but political vicissitudes and the difficulties of deciding on the locality of the bridge have hitherto prevented its realisation. Recently a new factor has entered into the question: that is the desire of Poland to divert a part of her exports towards the Ægean, and for that purpose to have a way of access to the south. That desire is supported by Greece, who has every interest in the increase of the trade of the Ægean ports. So negotiations have been entered into between these two countries and Roumania for the establishment of more or less direct communications with the Ægean. The new Roumanian Government, presided over by M. Maniu, who has more far-sighted views than his predecessor, has conferred with the Bulgarian Government and discussions are to be opened for the construction of a moving bridge between Giurgiu and Rushchuk, the cost of which will be borne by the two countries. In Roumania this project is linked with the construction of a canal from Giurgiu to Bucharest, which will constitute a branch of the Danube.

The construction of a Danube bridge, if it is realised, will necessitate the re-arrangement of the Bulgarian railway system and notably the union of the Bulgarian railways with those of Greece at Koulata, on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, so as to avoid the detour by Sofia, Nish, Skoplye. That will represent a great advance of enormous economic importance for the Balkans and the whole of Eastern Europe.

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The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
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Power of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

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growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and super-vises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

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GREECE'S TRADE BALANCE IMPROVING.

A large adverse trade balance has been a steady feature of Greece's commerce, and it is, therefore, not without significance that the returns for the first five months of 1929 showed a marked improvement in this respect. This improvement is no doubt to be attributed to a large extent to the part that the refugees are now playing in the national economy of the country. A particularly notable feature of the returns is the fact that the smaller adverse balance has been achieved in the face of a rise in the value of the imports. For the period in question—the five months ending May 31—the value of the imports was 5,541,000,000 drachmæ, as compared with 5,398,000,000 drachmæ for the same period of 1928, while that of the exports was 3,246,000,000 drachmæ, as against 2,323,000,000 drachmæ. Thus the adverse balance for the period was 2,295,000,000 drachmæ, as against 3,075,000,000 drachmæ.

The first place in Greece's imports for the period is taken by the United States with 18.2 per cent., Great Britain being second with 11.6 per cent., Germany third with 9.4 per cent., France fourth with 7.1 per cent., Canada fifth with 6.5 per cent., and Roumania sixth with 6.1 per cent. In Greece's exports the position of the countries is very different. Germany heads the list with 31 per cent., the United States is second with 17.4 per cent., Italy third with 10 per cent., and Great Britain fourth with 5.4 per cent. It is noteworthy that agricultural products still form the chief item in Greece's imports, the total under this head for the period being 1,644,976,000 drachmæ. As regards exports, the principal place is occupied by tobacco, the value of which was 2,154,942,449 drachmæ.

THE INDUSTRIES OF NORTHERN GREECE.

An official report gives some interesting details of the industrial production of Greek Macedonia and Thrace in 1928, from which it appears that the industries of that region showed a considerable development in that period. The chief product of the metallurgical industry is magnesite, of which the production amounted to 8,000 tons, representing a value of 12,000,000 drachmæ. The production of the machine tool industries included 1,600 tons of nails of the value of 8,000,000 drachmæ, 500 tons of metal articles of the value of 5,000,000 drachmæ, 175 tons of aluminium, copper, and tin articles of the value of 5,750,000 drachmæ, 3,000 beds, and 2,000 ploughs, while the work of repairing and manufacturing machines and tools was estimated at 6,000,000 drachmæ.

The building industry had an active year, the output including 30,000,000 bricks, 1,500,000 French tiles, 3,000,000 native tiles, and 60,000 square metres of

mosaics. The value of the output of this industry for the year was 35,350,000 drachmæ.

The spinning mills and the textile industry fill an important part in the manufacturing activities of these provinces, and in the period under review the value of the total output was 534,200,000 drachmæ. The production of the spinning mills amounted to 540,000 bales of cotton thread of the value of 129,600,000 drachmæ, of which 160,000 bales were employed in the local industry and 200,000 were exported to Yugoslavia, Roumania, and other countries. The remaining 180,000 bales were absorbed by local consumption. The manufacture of woollen fabrics amounted to 1,750,000 metres of the value of 210,000,000 drachmæ.

The manufacture of food products, alcoholic liquors, etc., is also of very considerable importance. Flour is the chief product, and represented in 1928 150,000 tons of the value of 1,050,000,000 drachmæ. The value of the production of the other items in this category was 304,606,000 drachmæ.

The chemical industry produces soap, paraffin, and various other products, its output in 1928 representing a value of 26,000,000 drachmæ, for the greater part of which the production of soap, totalling 1,200 tons, was responsible. The leather industry is of considerably greater importance, its production in 1928 amounting in value to 80,000,000 drachmæ. Paper and printing is another small industry of these provinces, the value of its production being about 20,000,000 drachmæ. The tobacco industry is, of course, one of some importance in these provinces, and in the year the value of the cigarettes manufactured was 122,000,000 drachmæ. The electrical industry also plays its part now, and in 1928 the production of electric current by installations in Macedonia and Thrace amounted to 16,000,000 kilowatts of the value of 88,000,000 drachmæ.

The value of the total production of the industries of Macedonia and Thrace for the year was 1,277,106,000 drachmæ, excluding the production of wheat, wine, and oil. Compared with the figures for 1927 of 1,225,675,000 drachmæ, this shows an increase of about four per cent.

AGRICULTURAL METHODS IN CYPRUS.

An article in a recent Agricultural Supplement to the *Cyprus Gazette* draws attention to the shortcomings in the system of threshing which is at present in use in the Island. It is pointed out that the heavy rains at the end of May caused considerable damage to the grain on the threshing floors, while the damp condition has caused deterioration of the straw, and that losses such as these could be obviated by the use of up-to-date methods of threshing. The present method is by the old-fashioned threshing-board, which has been used in the Island since mediaeval times. Recently it has been noted that some of the farmers are using a tractor to pull a large threshing-board, and while this is probably an uneconomic process, it is remarked that it shows initiative and points to the recognition that more modern methods are required. The use of power threshing machinery, it is pointed out, would result in a great saving of time and labour. Thus the animals, instead of being used for weeks or months simply to go round and round the threshing-floor, would be available for ploughing the land after the harvest and for cross-ploughing fallow land. As regards the relative

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.07½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.86
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.21½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 51/64—53/64
Brussels	Belga to £	85	34.90½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	818
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.84
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 51/63 - 53/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1.005½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85 1/64—3/16
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123.88
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	163½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.76
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	55½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.46½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 3/16—7/16

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values of straw resulting from the threshing-board and power threshing machinery, it is observed that straw threshed by the former method (1) is unclean and unwholesome; (2) the straw is cut so fine that animals have difficulty in digesting it; (3) a considerable part of the best material is blown away during the process of threshing and winnowing; (4) sifting has to be resorted to to remove dirt, stones, etc. On the other hand, straw threshed with power machinery is (1) clean and sweet; (2) wholesome and easily digested; (3) there is no loss in threshing; and (4) it can be fed direct to animals.

THE TRADE OF THE PIRÆUS IN 1928.

Last year there was a slight falling off in the amount of commodities exported through the Piræus, but on the other hand the imports through that port showed a considerable increase. The exports totalled 334,456 tons, as compared with 344,696 tons in 1927, and of this total only 94,623 tons were actually destined for foreign countries, the balance being dispatched to other Greek ports. Italy headed the countries of destination with 18,535 tons, as against 17,975 tons in the previous year, the principal items comprising this total being metals, 5,140 tons, and forest products, 5,951 tons. France was second with 15,807 tons, as against 28,054 tons, the principal commodity being spirits, 13,277 tons. Egypt was third with 12,571 tons, as against 8,462, the principal item here also being spirits, 10,734 tons. Germany was fourth with 11,619 tons, the chief item being vegetables. Great Britain's total was only 3,649 tons, which represented, however, a substantial increase on the total for the previous year of 2,818 tons.

Imports for the year totalled 1,823,681 tons, as against 1,760,689 tons in 1927, an increase of 62,992 tons. Of this total 1,527,095 tons came from foreign countries, as against 1,528,075 tons. The first place in the list of countries as regards imports is taken by Great Britain with 549,606 tons, as against 577,471 tons in 1927. Second comes American with 138,407 tons, as against 198,513 tons, while Roumania was third with 122,157 tons, as against 141,796 tons, and Canada fourth with 109,184 tons, as against 75,051. This development as regards Canada is one of the most interesting features of the year's commerce.

The net profits of the Imperial Bank of India for the half-year to June 30, 1929, were Rs.64,59,300, against Rs.71,38,500 for the corresponding half of 1928. The carry-forward was Rs.16,72,200, against Rs.11,56,600, making Rs.81,31,500, against Rs.82,95,100 at June 30, 1928. The governors have declared a dividend of 16 per cent. per annum, free of tax, absorbing Rs.45,00,000, transferred to reserve fund Rs.5,00,000, to pension fund Rs.3,48,000, carrying forward Rs.27,83,500.

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KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

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MODERATE FARES.

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Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*MASSILIA	July 23	*ICASTALIA	Sept. 10
*ELYSIA	Aug. 0	*ASSYRIA	Sept. 27

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.
† First and Third class passengers.

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NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA. 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLES, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,
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TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

BULGARIA.

Briquetting Factory.—The Administrative Council of State Coal Mines at Pernik, Sofia, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a complete briquetting factory with washing plant, for an output of 30 metric tons of briquettes per hour. August 30. (D.O.T.)

EGYPT.

Steel Burnishers, Etc.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of burnishers, steel; sieves corn; sponges; hobbles, rope; stones, grind; and shoes red to the Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo. September 9.

General Stores, Etc.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of general stores for 1929-1930, such as paints, cotton waste, ropes, chains, pipes, beltings, bolt and nuts, mild steel plates, joists, white metal aluminium ingot, tin ingot, upholstery materials, crockery, cutlery, electric materials, etc., required for Irrigation Services and Pumping Stations of the Mechanical and Electrical Department, Public Works Ministry, Cairo, July 30; and for the supply and erection of a pump and pressure filter required for Maghagha Pumping Station, Maghagha. August 7.

Ghafir Clothing.—The Ministry of the Interior, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of ghafir clothing (black drill belts, drawers, shirts). August 1. (D.O.T.)

Towels, Etc.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of towels, tassels for turbushes, collars and caps, to the Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo. September 2.

CYPRUS.

Gypsum Burning Machinery.—A firm in Cyprus desires to purchase gypsum burning machinery (rotary type). (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Centrifugal Pump.—H.M. Consul at Sarajevo reports that a local firm of engineers and contractors desire to receive quotations for the supply of a centrifugal pump with accessories. July 27. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 6) (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 25); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 1).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Cheshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 24).

British India Line.—S.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 27); s.s. Masula for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, July 27); s.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool August 3, Swansea August 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Bhutan for Calcutta (London, August 2); s.s. Rawalpindi for Bombay (London, August 2).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 24); s.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 3); s.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus (London, August 21).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Mardinian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool July 20, Swansea July 20); s.s. Algerian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Cattania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool July 20, Swansea July 25); s.s. Voluturno for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, July 31); s.s. Andalusian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, August 8); s.s. Oporto for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Malta*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 10). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syra and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, July 16.

The Stock Exchange has passed a dull week, though the improvement in the exchanges and the slight betterment in the monetary outlook for the immediate future produced a better tone in the gilt-edged market. There is, however, very little sign of public interest in the markets, and activity has been confined to one or two special sections. Dealings in the new Cables and Wireless stocks began and provided some interest, but elsewhere in the industrial markets quietness was the prevailing condition. Motor shares were flat on apprehensions of the withdrawal of the McKenna Duties and breweries weakened on the promised appointment of a Liquor Commission, but the downward movement in the latter was overdone and there was a distinct rally later in the week. A rise in the price of the raw commodity stimulated some interest in rubber shares and prices responded quickly, though how far the public is taking part is not certain. It must be remembered that a large amount of money is tied up in miscellaneous shares issued last year which have fallen to rubbish prices, a fact which is likely to act as a serious check upon any revival in speculative activity.

Bank Shares.

Banks, as a whole, have a very good reputation among investors. At present, as is well known, the leading banks, like the railway companies, have been built up by the amalgamation of smaller banks; this process, and the weeding out of the less stable institutions, has resulted in the existing joint stock banks becoming perhaps the most regular profit-earning concerns in the country. While this cannot be said of all the British banks whose business is mainly overseas, most of them are as sound as the British institutions concerned principally with banking in Great Britain, though careful selection is necessary

in the case of banks engaged in foreign or colonial business.

The attraction of banks for the investor is the security of the investment and the regular dividend. The large sums of money handled, in proportion to the capital and the large reserves, both disclosed and hidden—which are also earning profits—give the shareholders real sense of security and the regularity of the dividends is borne out by the unaltered payments of the last few years and confirmed by the unaltered interim dividends this half year. Among the "big four," National and Provincial ordinary shares can be bought to yield £5 7s. per cent. and Lloyds give a return of £5 5s. per cent.

A New Zealand Bank.

An increasing amount of attention is now being given to colonial developments. While sentimentalism in Empire matters may carry optimism beyond the limits of economic reality, there is good reason to suppose that by "getting together" the joint efforts of Great Britain and the Colonies can result in considerable material benefit to all concerned. One of the Dominions that is not so much in the limelight is New Zealand. That country has her own economic troubles and the position was very frankly and clearly stated at the recent meeting of the National Bank of New Zealand, by the Chairman, the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, who is incidentally one of New Zealand's leading scholars and economists. He pointed out that New Zealand is, not for the first time, suffering from unemployment and lack of cheap money for farm development, and many people were emigrating away from the Dominion, while the national debt is exceptionally heavy. The Hon. Pember Reeves is confident that New Zealand can solve these trouble as it has done in the past. Meanwhile, as so often happens, a period of general depression is one of banking success, and the National Bank of New Zealand, after paying a bonus of £11,800 to its staff, made a profit of £290,600, practically the same as last year, and the dividend at 12 per cent. and bonus at 2 per cent., both free of income tax, were unchanged. The bank's shares, which are well secured, can be obtained to yield £4 18s.

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Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

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TO BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
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CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.

COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.

BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.

DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.

DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.

EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.

PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.

CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.

HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.

BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.

SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros. & Co.

MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3.

The statutes of the new Albanian National (Orthodox) Church have been unanimously approved by a congress at Koritza.

The Port of Aden has been declared infected with smallpox as from June 30.

M. Neschitch, Yugoslav Minister to Bulgaria, returned to Sofia on July 2 after a long absence.

Bayreuth Municipality has decided to confer the freedom of the city on ex-King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, who for many years has attended the Bayreuth Festival.

At the first committee meeting of the International Red Cross Diplomatic Conference in Geneva on July 4 an Egyptian proposal to compel neutral States to permit the passage across their territory of convoys of sick and wounded was not accepted.

The Roumanian Minister of Agriculture, in the course of a recent speech, stated that the prospects of this year's harvest were very satisfactory. The following provisional estimate was given: Wheat, 258,150 wagons; rye, 31,770 wagons; barley, 248,600 wagons; oats, 124,330 wagons. The area under wheat was less than last year on account of the singularly unfavourable weather experienced during the spring, but in spite of this the needs of the country would be adequately covered. It was forecast that there would be a 9 per cent. increase over last year's harvest of rye, and an increase of 65 per cent. and 45 per cent. respectively for barley and oats. According to the estimates, over 180,000 wagons of barley, oats, and rye will be exported. Several foreign orders have already been received, especially for barley. The prospects for the maize crop are reported to be excellent.

Near East Markets

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The current issue of the Monthly Review of Barclays Bank, Ltd., contains the following market reports for June:—

Egypt.

During the past month the cotton market has been weak in sympathy with American and local crop news. The general trend of prices has been downward and dullness has been in evidence, especially in the case of stapled cotton. The Egyptian crop, amounting to nearly 8,000,000 kantars, including 2,500,000 kantars of Sakels, has been ample for all requirements. The decision of the Government to dispose of its stock of approximately 340,000 kantars by public auction was received with mixed feelings, but, on the whole, it was regarded as a bearish factor, especially as there is very little demand. Uppers have been in steady request, but ample supplies have kept prices comparatively weak, the only fluctuations being in sympathy with American. Cotton seed has been weak, under the influence of outside markets, but premiums for spot have been well maintained. It is said that the small stock of seed has been sold, and, should this prove to be true, it is thought, in some quarters, that higher prices may be expected for the new crop. There have been no signs of any special demand and local consumption has been slightly below normal. The demand for cotton goods has been moderate and prices have shown an easier tendency. Importers, at present, are disinclined to enter into important commitments, as the future course of the market is undecided.

The spot market for sugar has maintained a steady tone and supplies are normal, with arrivals light. The demand for export and local consumption has been satisfactory. The Java new crop market has ruled quiet, at declining prices, in sympathy with the fall in producing centres. In flour, the nervousness of the wheat market has undermined the confidence of operators and much hesitation has prevailed, while prices have declined. The effect of this situation has been to cause a certain amount of selling, but present quotations are attracting business. During the past month arrivals came in steadily, but the demand was active. Rice markets have been irregular; the demand has been normal, but shipments are shortly expected to arrive, and, consequently, holders show a considerable desire to sell. The demand for gunnies has generally been very slow and prices have ruled weak, under the influence of Calcutta. The turnover of business in cabots has been poor, owing to the absence of demand for export, although, as a result of the steadiness of the producing market, holders, at the time of writing, are not anxious to sell, preferring to await the future course of prices.

The onion season may be considered as practically over. The market has continued depressed and reports from up-country districts state that about 20,000 bags are at the railway station, awaiting shipment to Alexandria. It is not possible to give any precise figures regarding stocks in the hands of cultivators and merchants, as owing to the long period during which they have been left out in the sun or under cover, part of them has been damaged. Holders of stocks are keeping their supplies in the hope of an improvement in quotations, but, failing a rise, it is stated that stocks will not be shipped to Alexandria, as it would not be a profitable operation at current prices. Arrivals in Alexandria since the beginning of the season amount to 2,950,000 bags, against 3,505,000 bags last year. The coffee market has been active and prices have advanced. Cereals have been neglected and quotations are lower, owing to the advent of the new crop, which is abundant for all varieties.

The Sudan.

As usual at this time of the year, business in the Sudan has been very quiet, but there has been some movement in cabots and in the salt trade for Abyssinia. The sesame market remains unchanged and prices are still £E17 for white and £E16 for red f.o.b. Port Sudan. The Tokar cotton crop, the season for which has now finished, has been disappointing, but fair prices have been obtained. The picking of the Gezira Sakel crop has been completed and the yield has come well up to the estimate. In the gum market, prices have shown an advancing tendency, as the supply continues to be somewhat small. There is little change to report in the import market, apart from cabots. Most of the old season's coffee stocks have now been sold and the first arrivals of the new crop are expected towards the end of June. The country is well stocked

with supplies of tea and flour and there has been no change in the prices of these commodities.

Palestine.

The general trade position remains unchanged. A commercial agreement has been concluded between Syria and Lebanon and the Palestine Government, under which it has been agreed to admit, free of duty, goods which are the produce, or partly the produce, of the contracting countries. Weather conditions continue to be extremely favourable and good reports are circulated regarding the prospects of the crops. Harvesting is now proceeding and should be completed in July. Both cereal merchants and cultivators are showing a tendency to conclude advance contracts, although prices are receding, owing to lower quotations prevailing in Canada and Australia. The forward prices of oranges on the tree range from 6s. to 7s. per case. No changes are reported in the market for Colonial goods, with the exception of imported flour. Owing to large arrivals of this commodity from France, prices have fallen heavily and large stocks are lying unsold at the ports.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at May 31, 1929, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £E2,025,000; Reserve Fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,402,500; special reserve, £E1,340,625; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E14,237,051; Egyptian Government, £E17,200,850; Sudan Government, £E254,672; Mixed Tribunals, £E2,187,050; bankers' accounts, £E379,476; cheques and bills payable, £E259,173; sundry other accounts, £E1,620,559—£E41,966,505. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E22,327,003; sundry securities, £E17,130; advances on merchandise, £E2,855,514; advances on securities, £E4,273,465; advances otherwise secured, £E1,385,015; sundry other advances, £E1,176,788; bills of exchange, £E3,076,026; buildings and furniture, £E220,414; money at call and at short notice, £E721,500; bankers' accounts, £E287,407; sundry other accounts, £E1,004,596; Cash: Notes, £E1,467,838; gold, £E296,178; silver, nickel, etc., £E304,812—£E2,068,828—£E41,966,505. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E26,600,000—£E26,600,000. Gold, £E3,339,570; British Treasury Bills, £E9,960,430—£E13,300,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, and British War Loan, £E11,800,000—£E13,300,000—£E26,600,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The gross receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the year ended March 31, 1929, were £337,668. The average receipts per mile per year were £555 7s. 6d., against £514 17s. The passengers carried were 10,836,999, the gross receipts under this head being £202,893. The gross receipts from goods traffic were £127,210, and tonnage 641,070. The working expenses were £264,298, compared with £258,919. The ratio of expenses to gross earnings was 78.27, against 82.71. The net revenue was £73,369, which, with interest earned, £4,600, gives a total of £77,975. After providing for interest on debentures and for all fixed charges, and making provision for proportion of profits due to Egyptian Government, a balance of £34,873 remains, plus £32,285 brought forward. The board has decided to transfer to reserve against capital expenditure £5,000, and recommends a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the preference shares for the year, carrying forward £42,138.

BOMBAY, BARODA, AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

The gross earnings of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company for the year ended March 31, 1929, amounted to Rs.11,90,51,173, the working expenses totalling Rs.6,88,59,916. The net earnings were Rs.5,01,91,257, against Rs.4,33,97,235, and after deduction of taxes the company's share of the surplus is Rs.8,32,454, against Rs.6,61,207. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 1½ per cent., making 6 per cent.

The Yugoslav Free Zone in the port of Salonika was opened for traffic on July 1. A Greek Customs office has been opened at Ghevgheli.

It is anticipated that the export trade in Bosnian and Serbian prunes will not exceed 18,000 tons this year, compared with 25,000 tons last year, on account of last year's drought and the abnormal frosts early in the current year.

The production of crude oil in Roumania in May amounted to 387,277 tons, as against 359,463 tons in April, and 349,372 tons in May, 1928. The production of the principal districts of Roumania in May was as follows (in tons):—Prahova, 277,447; Dambovitza, 95,476; Buzau, 7,525; Bacau, 6,820.

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Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

Motoring in East Anglia.

Last week-end was one of the finest we have had this year for motoring. In the Eastern Counties we just escaped rain on Friday evening, and from then to the time when the lights o' London were sighted on Sunday we had powerful, blinding sunlight and cloudless skies from sunrise to sunset. And what a glorious country is this side of England when the sun is shining.

There is Cambridge with its ancient colleges and modern cement and other mills; there is Ely, still with an atmosphere of Hereward and mail-clad Normans; there is Newmarket, to some extent of departed glories and, so far as some of us are concerned, of departed riches, and there is old Bury St. Edmunds with its magnificent ruins—every stone of which tells eloquently some story of the past. And there is quaint old Thetford, and I am not sure, but I think I like Thetford most of all the grey old East Anglian towns. What an impressive sight it must have presented before the Red Cock crew in 1539, and the soldiers of the King pulled down altars and tore down priceless tapestries and burned all the ancient books they could lay their hands on and flung down the effigies from their niches and seized, on a commission basis, everything of value for their sovereign lord King Hal. To have the sacking of two great abbeys and twenty-four churches and their possessions is an opportunity that comes seldom; no doubt the zealous reformers made the most of their chances in those days when the Modernist was really and convincingly "modern." They stand by the river, grey sentinels awaiting the dawn, do the ruined shafts and pillars of the Cluniac church, whilst, across the river are the ruins of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, turned into a stable now.

Then there is the Castle Hill, described as one of the great mysteries of East Anglia, now no longer a mystery, thanks to half an hour's study of it from the top of its great mound. For these huge earthworks, easily the greatest in the Eastern Counties, rivalling Silbury in height and Old Sarum in extent, are merely the remains of a Norman castle, of the Motte and Bailey type, that was never completed! One sees the double line of banking starting on its encircling of the bailey, and the eye of the engineer can see where the work was stopped. It is true that an old map purports to show the banking compiled by one who saw more in his mind's eye than he saw on the spot.

Why the castle was started puzzled the mind. Some say it was to guard a ford across the Thet, which is simply rubbish, as the Thet is fordable anywhere, as also is the Ouse until much nearer the sea. Probably it was the attempt of some petty lordling to vie with the growing strength of the Church, and perhaps it was the monks of Thetford who ordered his work to cease. Or, as the castle was building, its lord may have been sent to the French or the Scotch wars and may not have returned. One thing is certain: it was not a stone-built castle, but a wooden erection that crowned the great motte—a fact which has utterly befogged those who, because they could find no stone foundations, assert that the mound was not a castle site but a place of mystery, thus allying themselves with those who declare it to have been built by the Danes, the Saxons, the Romans, or some gentlemen of Flanders who sought a firm foothold in the country.

Sand and heath and pine; what a country this is! The air is heavy and intoxicating with the scent of the gorse, the bracken, and the great Scotch pines that flank every hedgerow. The cattle seem to sleep, standing knee-deep in the rush-bordered rivers; a mass of yellow water-lilies and white, of mirrored skies and white flecked

clouds, and over whose glass-clear waters skim a myriad dragon-flies. The little by-roads, winding across purple heathland, are white with dust, but their big brothers are well tarred and as soundly made as any in the country. The hills are few, but the little villages, each with its square-towered church—we are a little way from the belt of round-towered churches that add so to the charm of North-East Suffolk—are many and beautiful; the land that is cultivated seems heavy with richness and lordly pheasants strut everywhere, side by side with frolicsome, playful rabbits. Black armies of starlings chatter deafeningly as the afternoon draws on; a few nagging gulls commence their flight back to the sea, and into the glorious sunny silence breaks the sound of a distant church bell. Such is Sunday in East Anglia, driving home from Thetford.

Motors and the Press.

It is difficult to see how the modern newspapers could manage without motor transport. Not only are motor lorries used to get the papers from the publishing office to the train and, later, from the train to the distributing points, but by means of the motor van papers can be delivered, practically, with the morning milk in places where, in the old days, they could only be delivered a day or so late. In order that the maximum amount of news may be in the papers, men are working on "copy," and rotary machines are running to the last moment. Where motors are available to rush the copies to the train, this "last moment" may be half an hour later than would otherwise be the case. Further, for short distance work, the motor scores every time, as door-to-door delivery can be made, if necessary. Motor vehicles are also, as Mr. H. J. Caveney said recently before the Institute of Transport, better suited for handling late news, and provide a duplicate delivery where trains are not available.

At all times newspaper transport is working against the clock and, should a breakdown occur in any department it is usually a simple matter to make up any lost time if a special fleet of fast cars is available for such an emergency.

Daily papers usually have their own fleets of motor vehicles and if a morning and evening paper is issued from the same office such fleets can be utilised to full advantage. Sunday newspapers, except in exceptional circumstances, cannot afford to run a fleet of distribution motor vans unless these vans are working on daily paper or other work during the week. Some of the biggest Sunday papers hire all the motor vehicles they use, and it pays commercial lorry owners, whose vehicles are at work all the week but idle on Sundays, to let out their lorries to such newspapers.

Where a newspaper motor service is well organised it should be possible for the manager to keep in touch with each and every vehicle whilst it is on the road. Should any break down, the driver has to report by the nearest telephone and await and act on instructions; even when everything is running right he has to make reports from the various towns through which he passes. Many Sunday newspapers print from two to three million papers between the hours of 6.30 p.m. and 5 a.m., and send them by road to places as far as 600 miles away.

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TANKER CHARTERING REVIEW.

Messrs. John I. Jacobs and Co., in their tanker chartering review for the half-year ended June 30, state:—

This period has witnessed an extraordinary change in the freight market. Whilst it was felt at the end of last year that the bottom of the depression had been left, it must have been few, indeed, who would have prophesied an appreciation of about 80 per cent. in freight rates. The tanker tonnage of the world received in 1928 an addition of approximately half a million tons deadweight yet the expansion of the petroleum trade is such that 1929 has already witnessed the marked improvement in freight rates mentioned above. The size of the oil tanker continues to increase, as witness the launching of several vessels up to 22,000 tons, whilst the supremacy of internal combustion engines for oil-carrying vessels is now unchallenged.

There are on order at the present time between 440,000 and 450,000 tons gross of motor tankers as against some 770,000 tons in 1927, just after the last boom period. A total of 646,851 tons of tanker tonnage was launched in 1928, of which rather less than 25 per cent. was steam-propelled. In 1914 the total tankers afloat did not exceed one and a half million tons, but by the end of 1928 this had increased to six and a half million tons.

In spite of the attempts which continue to be made to restrict the growth of the world's output of petroleum, it has risen during the last five years by 43,000,000 tons to 181,000,000 tons. The United States, whose increase for 1928 was very considerably below that for 1927, produces about 68 per cent. of the world's output, whilst Venezuela, with a production which has increased rapidly to over 15,000,000 tons, follows with 8 per cent., and Russia is third on the list with not quite 7 per cent.

It is worthy of note that cross voyages, especially for large boats, have markedly increased, and numerous fixtures have been made from the Gulf to South Africa, and from California to the Antipodes and the Far East, countries which until recently took the bulk of their supplies in packages. The engagement of tonnage, both chartered and otherwise, in these longer hauls, is one of the factors causing firmer freight conditions. If on so uncertain a market an opinion may be ventured, it looks as if there will be no return for some time to the conditions prevailing at the end of last year.

Time Charter.—The improvement has not been so marked as for voyage business. American charterers

have taken several motor vessels of about 13,000 tons d.w. to be built against a 10-year time charter, at a figure which averages 6s. 6d. on d.w., whilst British charterers have been fixing 11,000 ton motor tankers for 10 years at 6s. 7d. on d.w. For periods up to 24 months, the rate for steam tankers has risen from 4s. 9d. to 6s. 1½ per ton d.w., and Diesel vessels are now getting from 8s. to 9s. on d.w. During the whaling season tonnage is required for the Antarctic at considerably over these rates

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Negotiations are in progress for the establishment of a Czechoslovak-Roumanian Economic Institution at Prague and a Roumanian-Czechoslovak Institution at Bucharest.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended June 20 amounted to £E7,445, making the total from April 1 £E63,744, as against £E54,621 for the same period of the previous year.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended June 15 amounted to Rs.13,59,861, making the total from April 1 Rs.1,42,20,635, as compared with Rs.1,39,81,546 for the corresponding period of the previous twelve months.

Mr. Henry Bernard Turle, late senior partner of Messrs. Place, Siddons and Gough, stockbrokers, Calcutta, has joined Messrs. Cruickshank and Co., of Pinners Hall, E.C.2. The style of the firm will remain unchanged.

The gross profits of the National Bank of Yugoslavia for 1928 amounted to 123,137,704 dinars, an increase of 8,927,479 dinars compared with the previous year. The net profits were 79,150,341 dinars. The dividend of 400 dinars per share absorbs 24,000,000 dinars.

The Roumanian Ministry of Finance has issued an order permitting the weight of fittings, accessories, spare wheels, etc., to be deducted on weighing imported motor cars for the assessment of Customs duty.

On and from July 22 the address of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt (London Committee) will be Stone House, 128, Bishopsgate, E.C.2. Telegraphic addresses will be, for foreign telegrams: "Zerai, London" for inland telegrams: "Zerai, Ave., London," and telephone number, Bishopsgate 7552.

The Indian Store Department have placed orders for 20 locomotive boilers with Nasmyth, Wilson, and Co., Ltd., Manchester, and for 52 locomotive boilers for the Indian State Railways with the Hannover Maschinenbau, A.G., Hannover-Linden, Germany.

An Athens message states that the Greek Chamber has passed a Bill authorising the issue of an internal loan of 700,000,000 drachmæ (about £2,000,000) for the purpose of indemnifying the Greeks who suffered losses during the War.

The Westminster Bank announces a dividend of 10 per cent. on the £4 shares and the maximum of 6½ per cent. on the £1 shares for the half-year ended June 30. The dividends, 2s. per share and 1s. 3d. per share respectively, both less tax, will be payable on August 1. The rates are at the same level as last year.

It is announced that the board of directors of the Marconi International Marine Communication Company, Ltd., has appointed Marchese Guglielmo Marconi President of the company. The Rt. Hon. F. G. Kellaway, P.C., has been appointed Chairman in the place of Marchese Marconi. Mr. Kellaway will retain the office of managing director.

In connexion with the Zagreb Autumn Fair, which is to be held from September 6 to 17, there will be an International Exhibition of Medicine and Hygiene. This exhibition will comprise the following sections:—Hygiene; literature; surgical instruments, furniture for hospitals, etc.; apparatus for dentists, orthopaedic instruments and apparatus, Röntgen, etc.; pharmaceutical industry and specialities; chemists' shops and furniture; historical medical-pharmacy exhibition, old books, pictures, instruments, etc.

The domestic consumption of petrol products in Roumania for the first quarter of this year amounted to 374,550 tons, as compared with 33,460 for the corresponding period of last year, an increase of about 13 per cent. The details of consumption were as follows: Motor spirit, 17,878 tons; illuminating oil, 28,200 tons; lubricating oil, 7,860 tons; gas oil, 32,472 tons; and fuel oil, 108,015 tons. The stocks of oil products at the end of the first quarter of 1929 were as follows (in tons):—motor spirit, 150,037; illuminating oil, 107,131; lubricating oil, 87,792; paraffin wax, 68; fuel oil, 221,714, the total being 575,742 tons.

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Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

Low Temperature Carbonisation.

The utilisation of bituminous coal dust and smalls at the mines to give large-sized pieces of high-grade, free-burning, smokeless fuel, equal in value to graded lump coal, is of more importance to Great Britain than to any other country, while India with friable coal is also vitally concerned. Significant therefore is a "K.S.G." plant of one standard retort, 80 tons of coal per 24 hours throughput, now being installed in France at the well-known Mines de Lens, in the Pas de Calais area. The development of low temperature carbonisation and the possibilities as regards utilisation of the fines at the pit head, have been closely studied by the Lens coalowners, and it was decided that the "K.S.G." process offered the best possibilities, especially after extensive large scale tests with Lens coal carried out in 1927 on the "K.S.G." retort plant at the Karnap Collieries, Essen, which incidentally is now being greatly increased in size.

As a result a special Company, "Carbonia" has been formed with which is associated the Mines de Lens, Mines de Dourges, Mines et Houilleries de Marles, Mines de Sarre et Moselle, and the Mines de Vicoigne, Noeux, et Drocourt. This Company is erecting the "K.S.G." plant, and as usual the standard retort, with a throughput varying from 65-85 tons per 24 hours, is a rotary slightly inclined steel cylinder, 72ft. long by 10 ft. diameter, having an inner cylinder 85 ft. long and 5 ft. 6 in. diameter, while the speed is one revolution in 90 seconds, with 2½ hours heating and a maximum temperature of 925-1025 degrees Fahr. The yield follows the normal low temperature practice, from one ton of average bituminous coal of 25-35 per cent. volatile matter being 3500-5000 cubic feet of rich gas at 800 B.T.H.U., 3 gallons light oil scrubbed from the gas, 15-20 gallons low temperature tar, and 14 cwt. smokeless fuel with 10-12 per cent. volatile matter.

The site is at the Mines de Lens, and the gas will be mixed with coke oven gas and sold to the City of Lille, with the low temperature tar and smokeless fuel available as usual, the small coal to be used having only a value of about 80 francs per ton. Since the end of the War the devastated area of Lens has been completely reconstructed, the work having been commenced in 1921, and the Mines de Lens at the present time turning out with the latest plant and equipment about 4,000,000 tons of coal per annum.

There has been installed for example, 14 screening machines, 5 washing machines with a total capacity of 4,000 tons of coal per 8 hours, 331 coke ovens with complete by-product installations in three batteries, and an extensive equipment of briquetting machines, having a total capacity of 600 tons per day, and the use of low temperature carbonisation will enable a much increased

revenue to be obtained from the fines, at least double the present figure.

Wireless and Aviation.

The importance of wireless to aviation is demonstrated on the Marconi Stand at the International Aero Exhibition at Olympia. The wireless apparatus displayed ranges from long-range transmitters for use in aerodromes to light and compact sets for fitting in aircraft.

A new set that will interest sporting aviators, clubmen, and flying tourists has been designed along entirely fresh lines for use in light aeroplanes. This apparatus, which is a combined transmitter and receiver, will greatly simplify the problems of aerial touring for business or pleasure, and will enable amateur pilots to obtain very much the same weather and aerodrome report services as are available to commercial machines. It will also provide them with a means of position finding when they are flying over Europe or other parts of the world where there are aerodrome ground stations equipped with wireless direction finders.

The set is known as Type A.D. 22, and comprises a 75 watt transmitter for telephonic communication, and a receiver, combined in one light case. Telephone transmission is possible over ranges up to 75-100 miles, the receiver being capable of receiving telegraphy as well as telephony. The set can be mounted in any convenient part of the machine and easily operated through a remote control unit by means of Bowden wires. The A.D. 22, is designed for transmission and reception on a wave band of 850 to 950 metres, the international wave band, but a quick change switch is provided to enable the 600 metre ships wave length to be used in case of emergency. The total weight of the set has been reduced to about 60 lbs. including the microphone and telephones, generator and propeller, accumulator, aerial, and all other accessories.

Among other apparatus for aircraft displayed on the Marconi Stand is the popular and efficient "all purpose" telephone-telegraph apparatus Type A.D. 6H. Apparatus of this type is in use on aircraft in practically every country in the world. It comprises a transmitter of 150 watts power and a highly efficient receiver, and is suitable for both telephone and telegraph working to and from aerodrome ground stations up to distances of 100 to 300 miles. As in the case of all the Marconi aircraft sets, power is supplied by means of a wind driven generator, which may be also used to provide current for lighting the aircraft at night. The power supply may be arranged so that in the event of a forced landing the generator can be operated by the batteries or light petrol engine to enable communication to be established with the nearest ground station.

A long-range telephone-telegraph set is the Marconi Type A.D. 8, of 500 watts power, which has been specially designed for fitting in large types of aeroplanes, flying boats, and airships. With this set it is possible for aircraft to keep in touch by telephony or telegraphy with ground stations up to distances of 200 to 500 miles.

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Company Meeting.

THE P. AND O. BANKING CORPORATION.

A Valuable Clientele.

Trade Conditions in India and China.

The Earl of Inchcape, Chairman of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd., presided on July 12 at the Corporation's ninth ordinary meeting.

The report and accounts have been taken as read, his Lordship said the shareholders would have observed that the result of the year's operations had been much the same as that of the previous year, and that the board recommended the payment of the same dividend—namely, 5 per cent. per annum, less tax. The balance-sheet showed that the principal variation in their figures was a decrease in loans payable, which stood at £3,493,000, against £6,405,000. In view of the monetary outlook in the opening months of 1929 they had felt it would be prudent to lighten their holdings of investments and bills, and there was accordingly an equivalent decrease in these items on the assets side of the balance-sheet, their holdings of securities and bills having been decreased respectively by £1,903,000 and £1,623,000. Current accounts and deposits showed only a slight change on the previous year's figures, and now stood at about £7,250,000. Against these liabilities they held in cash and in money at short call and short notice £1,479,065. Advances to customers showed a satisfactory increase from £3,509,065 to £4,220,000. The other items in the balance-sheet showed little change on the previous year's figures.

Trade both in India and China had not been brisk throughout the year, and still continued somewhat inactive, but a good monsoon in India should help things, and, given settled conditions in China, the trade of that country, with its teeming population, should improve.

The Allahabad Bank.

Their affiliated institution, the Allahabad Bank, had had a good

year, and its business showed a steady expansion. The profit had been more than maintained, the dividend being at the rate of 12 per cent., plus a bonus of 6 per cent. Like all other institutions operating in India, they had felt severely the depreciation in price of Indian Government securities, which, as an Indian bank with capital and rupee deposits, and under management in India, were a natural outlet for a considerable portion of their funds. Higher money rates all over the world had in India, as elsewhere, reacted on the price of fixed-interest-bearing securities. But this was a temporary phase, and a recovery from the present level was to be expected. He would like to express the board's thanks to their managers and staff, both at home and abroad, for the zeal and devotion they had displayed in their duties.

The bank had now, he said, a valuable clientele, and he was satisfied that it had a good future before it. Starting from scratch in 1920, it had now a considerable number of customers. Every care was being exercised to avoid risks, and, while they might, as all banks did, find themselves with a few unsatisfactory accounts, ample provision had been made for any potential losses, and all bad debts had been written off.

The reports and accounts were unanimously adopted. The dividend recommended was declared.

The retiring directors were re-elected and the auditors were reappointed.

Mr. E. T. Hargreaves said he was sure everyone present would like to thank the directors for the able way in which they had conducted the business during the past year and the admirable results they had placed before the shareholders.

He wished also to say how pleased they all were at the further honour which His Majesty the King had conferred upon the chairman. (Hear, hear.) He had great pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Earl of Inchcape and his colleagues on the board.

Mr. McPhail seconded the vote, which was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment, said he could assure the shareholders that every attention was being given to the business of the Corporation, and he had no doubt whatever that, under the management of Mr. Gubbay, Mr. Preston, and others, the affairs of the bank would go on and prosper. He wished to thank Mr. Hargreaves for his kind congratulations.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE YUGOSLAV-ALBANIAN TREATY OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION.

The Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Albania and Yugoslavia, which came into force last month, provides for freedom of commerce and navigation between the Parties. The subjects of the Parties are to enjoy most-favoured-nation treatment as regards freedom to travel in the territories of the other and national and most-favoured-nation treatment as regards taxation in respect of their commerce, industry, professions, or occupations, and as regards the carrying on of their business, either personally or by means of agents. They are similarly to be accorded national and most-favoured-nation treatment as regards the legal protection of their persons, property, rights and interests. Commercial travellers and their samples are to enjoy most-favoured-nation treatment. National and most-favoured-nation treatment is accorded to the companies of the Parties in matters of taxation.

As regards import, export, and transit dues and formalities, the goods of the Parties are to receive most-favoured-nation treatment. Such treatment cannot, however, be claimed in respect of benefits granted with a view to facilitating frontier traffic, or of those resulting from a Customs Union. National treatment is accorded as regards internal dues. Special tariff rates for certain classes and descriptions of goods are contained in the schedules appended to the Treaty. Reductions are made as regards goods of S.H.S. origin in the case of certain carpets of wool, mixed or not with other materials, in the case of walnuts, hazel nuts, chestnuts, lambs and kids, eggs, eels, and cheese.

The ships of the Parties are to enjoy national and most-favoured-nation treatment. The coasting trade and the right to fish in territorial waters are, however, reserved to the national flag. An agreement is to be concluded later regulating traffic on inland waterways. S.H.S. ships are to be allowed as hitherto to carry passengers and goods between Albanian ports. Special regulations regarding frontier traffic are contained in an Annex to the Treaty.

The National Bank of Bulgaria raised its bank rate on July 27 from 9 to 10 per cent.

The negotiations for direct railway tariffs between Yugoslavia and Greece have resulted in an agreement being arrived at on all points under consideration.



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to the Secretary

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 10:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—With the exception of a moderate amount of support for new crop positions by Continental interests, trading in this market since we last wrote has been of a somewhat featureless character. During the earlier days of the week values showed a slightly hardening tendency, to ease subsequently to below last Wednesday's closing rates on poor Alexandria reports, the lowest being reached just prior to the publication of the American Bureau figures. Since this, a sharp recovery has been in progress, and whilst the weight of business put through has not been important, sentiment has been favourably affected by the firmer tendency displayed in other markets. In addition to this, we had the fact that the liquidation in progress during recent weeks, locally and in Alexandria, had left both markets in a position to respond rapidly to any outside developments. Without any particular support, values have moved quickly during the past two days, contracts have been rather scarce, and this rather gives occasion for thoughts of what might occur should trade interest start to develop. Unfortunately, at the moment there are no signs of this latter contingency; fears of a lock-out are curbing all enterprise, and spinners' purchases continue to be of a week-to-week character. Supply figures reveal a fairly strong statistical position, the local stock of desirable cotton, apart from Sudan Sakels being very restricted for this period of the season; near positions reflect this situation, as in spite of there being no carrying premium, July tenders so far only amount to 50 bales. The official condition report for July reads as follows:—**Lower Egypt.**—The high temperatures of June, although intermittently damp, were favourable to cotton plants. Lateness notified in May report remains about 10 days. Area in Sakellariadis and Zagora is approximately the same as last year. Pilon shows a slight decrease, whilst Maarad, Nahda, and Fouadi are slightly increased. Plants in general are in good condition. Some outbreaks of leafworm have been notified, but thanks to the rigorous measures taken damage is slight. Wilt has been more widely distributed than last year and attacks, especially on Sakellariadis plants, have been serious. Water has been sufficient and even abundant.

Upper Contract.—A much improved undertone has developed in this market during the past week. We ascribe this to two causes, the appreciation witnessed in the American markets since the Bureau report and to a much-improved demand for cotton out of the local stock. The Liverpool basis compares most favourably to offers coming to hand from Egypt, and the fuller realisation of this is attracting increasing attention from consumers in this and other countries. Should the "out of sight" figures continue on the present scale, the carry-over at the end of the season will be insignificant, and whilst a large new crop is at present in prospect we think present differences discount "bearish" possibilities for the immediate future.

Egyptian Spot.

More business has been done under this heading, and to this fact, coupled with a series of stronger futures markets, we owe a substantial all-round advance in prices. Whether or not the advance will be held remains to be seen and will depend almost entirely on the immediate action of the American markets. Since the publication of American acreage figures, our spot demand has shown a general improvement, but it has been in Uppers that the biggest increase in buying has occurred. Spot prices have been, and still are, very reasonable as compared with offers from Egypt, and buyers are taking full advantage of the fact at the present time.

Sakel.—A fair business has been done. Attractive cotton at within 200 points of the contract remains scarce, and full rates have had to be paid by buyers. The lower and top qualities have been somewhat quieter.

Uppers.—A good business has taken place, almost entirely at from 10 to 30 points on contracts. Supplies appear ample for the time being.

Pilon has been in good request at from 100 to 125 on July Uppers, but results have been rather disappointing. The better qualities have suffered from neglect.

Nahda, Maarad, and White.—Little demand has been met with. Sudan Sakel has moved off well. Most of the business has been done in the medium and lower qualities, but some improvement in the demand for the better qualities has been noted. Prices have been firm.

Tokar Sakel.—The demand for this cotton is practically non-existent and sales have been negligible.

C.i.f. business has been very quiet. Forwardings, owing probably to mill holidays, showed a falling off last week at 3,646 bales Egyptians and 1,528 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 3,800 bales Egyptians and 1,850 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel show an advance of 65 to 70 points. Uppers are 38 to 50, and Pilon 40 points higher on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 16:60d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11:35d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 12:40d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 4, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather active, but the tone has been changeable. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—**Sakellariadis:** July, 30.77 dollars, 0.78 dollars down; November, 31.27 dollars, 0.91 dollars down; January, 31.77 dollars, 0.89 dollars down; March, 32.17 dollars, 0.89 dollars down. **Ashmouni:** August, 20.39 dollars, 0.46 dollars down; October, 30.69 dollars, 0.56 dollars down; December, 21.18 dollars, 0.55 dollars down; February, 21.66 dollars, 0.52 dollars down; April, 22.06 dollars; June, 22.41 dollars.

Sakel.—After a firm opening prices once again fell away, and November was quoted as low as 30.85 dollars. The immediate cause of the decline was the publication of a fresh Government *communiqué* announcing that sales of the cotton held by them would be resumed. At the decline, some trade buying took place, which impressed the market favourably, and during to-day's session a part of the lost ground was regained. On Wednesday last the Government offered for sale 992 bales of Sakel, of which 645 bales found buyers. Taking into account the deterioration of the cotton, the prices obtained must be considered satisfactory. The demand from spinners, while still of only limited volume, has been more regular. It must also be noted that on the Liverpool spot market the figures of the daily sales have recently been appreciably higher. In spite of the undoubted improvement in the tone of the market at the close of the week under review, a rise of any importance seems unlikely for the present. The new crop is progressing satisfactorily; the stocks of Sakel both here and in Liverpool are far from being of negligible size, and, in addition, the dispute on the wages question in Lancashire are all factors which militate against a rise.

The Sakel Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,058 points, against 1,093 points last week and 1,361 points at this time last year.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE FOR "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.

Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.

Tel Aviv: Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

Librairie Steimatzky, Avenue Francais.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Baghdad: The Book Shop, New Street.

Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soutanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangere, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendo.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

Against the first July tender, dockets for 16,500 kantars were issued.

Uppers.—This market has followed the fluctuations of the Sakel market, but the decline has attracted the attention of spinners and their orders have resulted in a fair number of trade purchases. Most of the interest in this variety has emanated from the Continent during the last few weeks. A slight accentuation of the narrowing of the difference between Ashmouni and New York is to be noted, and at one time the difference between the respective October deliveries fell to about 2½ dollars. At this difference some straddle position were opened by purchases in Alexandria against sales in New York.

The Ashmouni/American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 235 points, against 273 points last week and 614 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 3,227 kantars, against exports 71,856; the stock in Alexandria stands at 2,065,932 kantars.

Spot.—During the past week the market has been very quiet, without any noticeable change in the range of the demand. Of the total sales of about 6,480 bales, we estimate Sakellaridis 3,190 bales, Ashmouni and Zagora 2,780 bales, Pilon 440 bales, and White 70 bales.

Sakellaridis.—The premiums for Medium grades, even with average staple, continue to harden. The greater part of the week's turnover has been done in the grades Fully Good Fair/Good and Better at about last week's premiums. Generally there is more interest being shown in Sakel, but the market is somewhat difficult owing to the poor selection on offer.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—There is nothing new to report here, as the demand still remains between Fully Good Fair and Good about, with premiums inclined to rise. The selection of cotton on offer

is getting poorer; premiums for the other grades have been unchanged.

Pilon.—Fair market, but buyers are having difficulties in finding staple lots. Premiums are much the same as last week.

White.—There has been a very small demand at last week's prices.

Other Varieties.—Have been very neglected.

Crop, 1929.—There is nothing fresh to report. The progress of the plant is satisfactory; temperatures continue to be favourable and water is abundant everywhere. The attack by the leaf worm is decreasing, and the damage caused this year by this pest has probably been less than last year.

Bonded warehouses are to be established in all Yugoslav ports where a main Customs office exists.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal Company from June 22 to 28 amounted to 21,230,000 francs.

The directors of the Southern Punjab Railway Company have declared an interim dividend of £6 per cent. on the ordinary stock in respect of the year ending September 30, 1929, subject to English income tax at 2s. in the £, payable September 11.

It has been arranged that the P. and O. s.s. Ranchi, which is to leave Southampton on September 7, shall anchor in the Solent from 2 to 4 p.m. on that day in an officially assigned berth at the western end of the course in order that her passengers may see as much as possible of the race for the Schneider Cup before she proceeds on her cruise to the Cyclades and Dalmatia.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on July 15.	Railways.		Prices on July 15.	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on June 26.
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.		Rs.
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	...	81½	Assam-Bengal	...	94	3½ Government Paper	...	69 9/16
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890	...	71	Bengal Doocars	...	182½			
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	...	88	Bengal Nagpur	...	94			
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94	...	82½d	Egypt Delta Light Rly.	...	44			
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907	...	28½	Nizams Gtd.	...	236			
Do. 7 p.c.	...	83½	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid)	...	42½			
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	...	72	Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb.	...	71½			
Do. 5 p.c. 1884	...	72	Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb.	...	60½			
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	...	55	Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds.	...	56½			
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	...	70	Southern Punjab	...	106			
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	...	70	South Indian	...	115½			
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902	...	58						
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	...	60						
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Loan issue)	...	77½						
Do. 7 p.c. 1924	...	100½						
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	...	91½						
Palestine 5 p.c.	...	102½						
Persia 5 p.c., 1911	...	84						
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext.	...	68						
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	...	45½						
Do. 7 p.c.	...	85½						
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	...	106½						
India 5½ p.c.	...	65½						
Do. 3 p.c.	...	56½						
Do. 5½ p.c.	...	100½						
Do. 4½ p.c.	...	87½						
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	...	17½						
Banks.			Shipping.		<th colspan="2">Cotton.</th> <th></th>	Cotton.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt...	...	7½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Pref.	...	8½	Bengal Napur	...	32½
Bank of British West Africa	...	4½d	Cunard	...	23 9/16	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	...	707½
Bank of Roumania	...	80½	Furness Withy	...	38 6/16	Bowditch	...	322
Barclays Dem. Col. Pf.	...	28 9/16d	Khedivial Mail Ord.	...	54 6/16	Buckingham and Carnatic	...	173
Chartered Bank of India	...	19½	P. and O. Deferred	...	54 6/16	Cawnpore Textiles	...	14
Eastern	...	6 11/16				Century	...	306
Hambros	...	10½				Central India	...	456½
Ionian Bank	...	6½				Elgin	...	91
Imperial Bank of Persia	...	11½				Klatau Makani	...	65
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	...	17½				Muir	...	342
Lloyds	...	61½d				New Ring	...	145
Mercantile Bank of India A	...	32½				Phoenix	...	300
Do. B	...	32½				Svadeshi	...	390
National Bank of Egypt	...	35						
National Bank of India	...	49½						
Ottoman Bank	...	11½d						
P. and O. Bank Corporation	...	8½						
Westminster	...	76½d						
Land.			Tea.		<th colspan="2">Jute.</th> <th></th>	Jute.		
Kassala Cotton	...	9½	Assam Co.	...	23 1/16	Alliance	...	561
Latiffah (Iraq) Estates	...	5/9	Bengal United Tea Ord.	...	11 1/16	Barnagore	...	287
Sudan Plantations	...	4 1/32	Bramapootra	...	35	Budge Budge	...	538
Mines.			British Indian Tea Ord.	...	34	Clive	...	394
Salaghat Gold Mining	...	5½	Cachar and Doocars Tea Ord.	...	11	Dalhousie	...	536
Burma Corp.	...	18 7/8	Carolina	...	4 1/16	Delta	...	565
Champion Reef Gold...	...	8 3/8	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	...	5 15/16	Fort Gloster	...	864
Mysore	...	12 9/16	Consolidated Estates	...	3½	Gourepore	...	448
Nandydroog...	...	15/6	Darjeeling Co.	...	23 1/32	Howrah	...	544
Oreogram Gold Mining Ord.	...	10/6	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	...	35 1/16	Kamarhaty	...	680
Oil.			Doocars Tea Ord.	...	31½d	Kankarnath	...	560
Angle-Egyptian B	...	2½	Dooloomram Tea	...	1	Khardah	...	603½d
Angle-Persian Ord.	...	45 1/16	Doom Dooma	...	41 1/16	Kinison	...	1,354
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf.	...	27½d	East Assam	...	4½	National	...	291
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf.	...	29 9/16	Empire of Ind.	...	23½d	Standard	...	437
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	...	95½d	Halem Tea	...	115 1/16	Union	...	706
Brit. Burmah	...	6 9/16d	Imperial Ind.	...	25 1/16			
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	...	43 1/16	Jhansie Tea Association	...	213 1/16d			
Do. 8½ Cum Pref.	...	26/3	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	...	34			
Hamilton's Oil Concessions	...	-6	Jorehaut	...	44½d			
Phoenix Oil and Transport (p.p.)	...	13½	Lanka Plantations Ord.	...	23 3/32			
Do. (l/-)	...	7½	Lungla (Syhet) Tea Ord.	...	17½			
Shell Transport	...	42 1/32	New Dimbula	...	7			
Steaua Romana	...	10 9/16	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	...	54½d			
			Nedeen	...	29 3/32			
			Ouvah	...	34			
			Pabbojan	...	515 1/16x			
			Standard	...	6			
			Scottish Assam	...	23 1/16d			
			Scottish Tea and Lands	...	34			
			Upper Assam	...	219 3/32			
			Insurance.		<th colspan="2">Miscellaneous</th> <th></th>	Miscellaneous		
			General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid)	...	15½	British India Corporation	...	3½
			London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid)	...	30½	Bengal Paper Mills	...	24
			Royal Exchange (£1½)	...	6½	Bengal Timber Trading	...	225
			Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid)	...	39½	Burn and Co.	...	397
			Trade Indemnity (£10)	...	13½	Cawnpore Sugar	...	164
						Champaran Sugar	...	124½
						Howrah Oil Mills	...	11½
						</		



The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	97	INDIAN NOTES	99	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLES —		Notes and News	111
Uneasy Democracies in the		King Fuad in Egypt	103	The Week's Finance	113
Balkans	100	The True Reformation of India	107	Shipping Intelligence	114
SPECIAL LETTERS—		THE WEEK AT HOME	108	The Aero Exhibition	115
Egypt	101	PERSONAL AND GENERAL	109	Sudan Gum Arabic Shortage	116
Turkey	102			Company Meeting—	
Calcutta	105			Bank of Roumania	116
				Engineering Topics... ..	117
				Cotton and Cotton Goods	119

Notes of the Week.

King Fuad's Visit.

Although King Fuad's present stay in England is unofficial, the fact that His Majesty has chosen to visit this country a second time in three years is not without significance. As a reflex of the good relations existing between Egypt and Great Britain, it gains additional importance from the coincidence that both the Egyptian Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs are in London at the same time, engaged in discussions which, it may be confidently anticipated, will advance the cause of Anglo-Egyptian friendship. When King Fuad came to the throne of Egypt, he had had no opportunity of making himself acquainted at first hand with Great Britain, and during the early years of his reign circumstances prevented him from leaving his own country for any length of time. His tour in Europe in 1927 has been followed this summer by official visits to other European capitals, and that he should again include England in his itinerary is an earnest of his Majesty's desire to make himself more fully acquainted with a country with which his own is so closely connected. No royal visitor to England at this particular time, we believe, can fail to be thrilled by the wonderful relationship that exists between the Throne and the people of this Empire; and King Fuad, we may hope, will be heartened by his experience here in his own self-imposed task of identifying himself with his people and the interests of his own country.

Ne Sutor Supra Crepidam.

Whatever views may be held on the relative merits of democracies and dictatorships, there can be no question that a group of Egyptian students studying in Great Britain can throw no useful light on the position in Egypt, nor are they doing themselves or their country any good by pushing Egyptian politics to the forefront in England. One of the serious blots on the Wafd régime in Egypt was the deliberate measures adopted to mobilise students as a factor in the mob pressure behind which the party sought to conceal its lack of statesmanship. The effect of these tactics of introducing politics by order into the class-room was seen in the sudden deterioration of

scholarship shown in examination results, and one of the steps that Mahmoud Pasha's Government found itself obliged to take was to forbid students during term-time to take any public part in political affairs. As this ban does not apply to England, the Wafd, continuing its attitude of complete indifference to the interests of the students themselves, would appear to have directed its attention to the Egyptians studying in London and to have arranged, through its Secretary-General, at present in this country, for the presentation of a petition to King Fuad, protesting against "the iniquities of the present unconstitutional Ministry, which had crushed their liberties under a relentless dictatorship and perpetrated among them a reign of terror for a whole year." The incident has clearly been stage-managed for the benefit of the British Government, which is credited, on the strength of the attitude of some of its extreme supporters, with a mentality on a level with that shown by the Wafd in its handling of Anglo-Egyptian relations.

Greco-Turkish Negotiations.

The protracted negotiations between Greece and Turkey for the settlement of the various matters connected with the exchange of populations, to which the two countries committed themselves in 1923, appear once more to have broken down. Only a single point remains at issue, as agreement has been reached on all the others. To what extent it is a vital question to either side is not clear; but to one or the other it serves as a useful *non possumus*. As a means of bringing pressure upon Greece during the negotiations the Turkish Government has seized property in Constantinople belonging to Greeks who left the city with duly authorised passports under the Sultan's régime after the establishment of the Angora Government. It now declares that the owners of these properties are not to be allowed to return, but the Greek Government refuses to accept this condition. Turkey's contention is that these Greeks are regarded as undesirable, and must, therefore, not be allowed to return; but it will be difficult to persuade the Greeks that Angora is not anxious to add to the country's impoverished exchequer the not unsubstantial amount of money that these

properties may fetch in the open market. The neutral members of the Exchange Commission have done their best to lead the two parties to an agreement, and there is no reason to suppose that they approve of the attitude now taken up by the Turkish Government. How the latter is to be turned from its decision, however, is not clear. It is not likely to accept arbitration on a question in regard to which it might find it difficult to enlist equity or common sense on its side. The Greek Government, on the other hand, is confronted with the dilemma that, whether it accepts the condition or does not, the result will be the same, that well-to-do Greeks will be deprived of valuable property in Constantinople. Time alone will bring the Turkish authorities into line with civilised nations in their attitude on the sacrificing of the future to the present. Already some of the more travelled of the Angora Government's staunchest supporters are discovering contradictions in Turkish policy. Under the heading "Inconsistencies," the Deputy-Proprietor of one newspaper laments the lack of character in the Turks that prevents them from doing things well. He is concerned for the moment with the tendency of officials to scrap anything that their predecessors may have started and then to do nothing themselves; but he is driven to generalisations and points out that even where the Turks are animated by good intentions, they show themselves incapable of carrying their wishes into effect. There can be no doubt that the Turkish Government desires to liquidate its quarrel with Greece; but it has not yet shown itself far-sighted enough to forgo present gains for the sake of the wider advantages that would result from a good understanding with its neighbours.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

A further intensification of the strained relations between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria has been provided by another "affray" in the south-eastern corner of Serbia. Two men described in the Belgrade accounts as criminals, who had escaped from Macedonia ten years ago and had joined the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation in Bulgaria, were shot near Shtip after they had wounded three Yugoslav gendarmes, two of whom subsequently died. It is typical of the state of feeling between the two countries that the incident should have evoked in the Belgrade Press articles against the Bulgarian Government, accusing the Bulgarian Prime Minister of giving assurances of his pacific intentions "at the very moment that he is secretly sending terrorist agents to perform acts of violence in Yugoslavia." Until the Yugoslav Government and people realise that the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation is as great an enemy to Bulgaria as it is to Yugoslavia, and far more embarrassing, the Macedonian problem will never be solved. The published details of the Shtip incident leave many points vague. The town Shtip is forty miles from the nearest point on the Bulgarian frontier. If the Yugoslav gendarmerie had shown in this Macedonian "danger zone" the vigilance which enables them seventy or eighty miles to the north to kill unarmed peasant men and women for irregular crossing of the frontier, it is difficult to understand why the two alleged emissaries of the Revolutionary Organisation were allowed to wander so far into Yugoslav territory without being detected. The trouble between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria is rapidly becoming a serious problem for Europe to tackle. If justice is to be done in the matter, it is obvious that the Great Powers directly responsible for the Treaty of Neuilly or the League of Nations will need to examine the whole question far more closely than the peoples mainly concerned seem inclined to do. The attempt of the Belgrade Press to connect the Shtip outrage with the question of Bulgarian estates on both sides of the frontier, but situated in a different part of that frontier, can only prejudice the Yugoslav case, as it suggests a habit of loose reasoning that must invalidate other arguments from the same source. The best solution of the Macedonian problem was to be found in the joint co-operation of the Yugoslav

and Bulgarian Governments in dealing with a difficult and complicated matter. The suggestion had to emanate from Belgrade, and as it has not been made, it is left to other Powers to cope with what has become a nuisance to Europe.

Archæology in Iraq.

The movement to found a School of Archæology in Iraq is going steadily forward, and an appeal for funds may, we presume, shortly be expected. Perhaps we may remind readers that this movement, which is being led in England by Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, was expressly foreseen and wished by the late Gertrude Bell, who, indeed, left in her will a sum of £6,000 towards the establishment of such a School. Manifestly it is a particular obligation upon Great Britain, who, after all, has been the pioneer in Assyriology—and what other nation can boast of such men as Rawlinson, Layard, Hincks, or Smith?—to preserve the relics and to explore the mighty past of Iraq. The political relations between Britain and Iraq are, moreover, such that this obligation is equalled by the opportunity. Already since the War there have been literally epoch-making discoveries in Iraq—discoveries which should interest Iraqis themselves as much as students all over the world. The Iraq Antiquities Law—a product, by the way, of Gertrude Bell's brain and enthusiasm—is operating satisfactorily, with its division, roughly speaking, of half of the objects discovered to the Baghdad Museum and half to the particular archæological expedition which made the discoveries. The prospects and conditions for such a School as is proposed are excellent. It only remains for subscriptions so to pour in as to make the School one worthy of the unique position of Great Britain in this regard and of Iraq as the possessor of peerless sites. For ourselves, we welcome with the greatest good will this attempt to set up for Iraq, and for the benefit of the whole world, such a cultural institution as is common enough where other nations are concerned but for which Great Britain too often relies upon individual effort and support. The interest of archæological students all over the world is assured for the project, but we should like to express the hope that Iraqis also, who very rightly are apt to concentrate upon their future, will, realising that the past has much to teach everybody, join in the movement with cordiality and eager support. Even now there is something in the complaint that the significance of archæological discovery in Iraq is not sufficiently explained to the average Iraqi, and we trust that, as this School is founded and its activities develop, the interests of the inhabitants of Iraq may be increasingly catered for.

The Trouble in Persia.

There are Persians, apparently, who fain would discourage all foreign reference to the revolt which broke out last month among the Kashgais and to its subsequent reactions upon other tribes. In calling attention to this revolt, therefore, THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA runs the risk of being called anti-Persian. There is another school of thought in Persia—though it may overlap with the first—which directly connects the recent efforts of the Teheran Administration to establish Persian prestige in the Gulf and to raise it in Southern Persia with the present tribal troubles. It is the British, in other words, who are charged with instigating the Kashgais and Bakhtiari to rebel. With such prejudiced people as these, who, it is to be hoped, are not in a majority in Persia, it is useless to argue: as we have said before, their attitude of mind is akin to that in Great Britain which blames the wicked Bolshevik for every sign of industrial unrest in the British Empire. As if industrial disputes did not long antedate the Bolshevik régime; as if tribal revolts in Persia did not long antedate the pretensions of Teheran in the South! No; it is not by silence when things go wrong in Persia and by fulsome praise when things go right that a British journal can show its esteem for the Persian people, its admiration for the immense achievements of the present Shah. We have no desire to denigrate Persia: on the

contrary, our enthusiasm is profoundly stirred, as the enthusiasm of every right-minded observer of the strivings of Persia must be stirred, by the endeavours of the Shah and of his people. But to suggest that there are no cogs on the wheels of progress, no flies in the ointment, that infallibility reigns for ever at Teheran, that the tribal instincts are necessarily and always inferior to those of the town-bred—that is not in our province, nor is it our intention. It is, indeed, if the right treatment of her tribal problem, as it is, for instance, with Iraq or the Hijaz, that the capital factor of Persia's progress reposes, and it is an obligation of any journal dealing with Persia to comment upon such aspects of this tribal problem as are prominently raised from time to time.

Syria and the League.

The report before the Permanent Mandates Commission at Geneva of M. Robert de Caix on the situation in Syria followed the lines generally anticipated. Political agitation, this spokesman of the French Mandatory Government stated, was now practically confined to the State of Syria itself, the Lebanon, the Jabal Druze, and the Alaouite country and Alexandretta now being quiet. Whether all these sections of Syria are in fact quieted or merely quiet, remains to be seen. M. de Caix had, of course, to point out that the High Commissioner had postponed indefinitely the establishment of a Constitution, nor did he throw any light upon when or how a way out of the *impasse* might be found. According to the reports of his speech, he contented himself with explaining the difficulty as being due to the pretention of the Syrian politicians that the mandatory system imposed on France only the duty of protecting Syria, without giving France the right of intervention in the government of the country. In one aspect, a definite advance was recorded. Economic progress in Syria was a fact, and there were signs of undoubted prosperity. This observation only shows with what care statements on either side, French or Syrian, must be examined. For quite recently, it may be remembered, there was reproduced in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* the speech of a prominent Syrian Nationalist who asserted that the trade of his country was in ruins, and that all the nation's markets had been lost. It is good to learn, from M. de Caix, that increasing interest is being taken by the Syrian people in economic questions—though one would scarcely have thought that a new phenomenon—and that its opinion on tariffs and other problems will be consulted.

INDIAN NOTES.

India's Waterways.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce is to be congratulated on the representation which it has made to the Government of India on the subject of the development of the waterways of India. It has urged that a Central Committee should be appointed to undertake a comprehensive inquiry into the waterways problem. This is a thoroughly sound recommendation. Indeed, such an investigation ought to have been made years ago, in order that the railways and the waterways might have been developed simultaneously. And as the Federation rightly insists, it is for the Central Government and not for the Local Governments, to move. At present the Government of India take up the position that the question of the conservation and development of the waterways is one for the Local Governments. But this is surely a mistaken attitude, for the waterways cannot be rightly regarded as provincial. A river such as the Ganges runs through more than one province, just as any one of the great railways runs through more than one province. And if the railway administration is centralised, as it rightly is, then the waterways ought to be similarly controlled by the Government of India. It is no new suggestion that the Central Government should take up the problem. The Federation is not the first in the field with it. As long ago as 1903 a distinguished Bengal Public Works Department

engineer expressed the opinion in an official report that the time had come when the subject of the waterways "should be dealt with comprehensively by the Government of India. It is too large," he said, "for the unassisted efforts of the local Governments. On this side of India, Bengal is the province more directly affected, but Assam has an interest very nearly as great as Bengal, while the United Provinces cannot be unconcerned in any scheme which is to provide a freer outlet for its waterborne trade." To these three provinces there must now be added a fourth—Bihar and Orissa—which was carved out of Bengal in 1911, and through which the main stream of the Ganges flows. There are, therefore, four local Governments to be considered regarding the waterways of north-east India alone; and there are waterways in other provinces, notably, Burma, the Punjab and Madras. Obviously the problem is one for the Central Government to tackle. Water-transport should be considered in relation to other modes of transport. The waterways are a national possession, and they should be developed as the railways are developed. But this is precisely what is not done. Railway construction is promoted, while the waterways are neglected. For example, the condition of the waterways in Bengal is, as the Federation points out, deplorable. Then again, complaint has been made for years past that railways are sometimes built in those areas the transport needs of which can be supplied by the waterways. All these matters ought to be thoroughly investigated by a central investigating authority whose recommendations, it is to be hoped, would lead to the inauguration of a well-considered and comprehensive policy for conserving and developing the waterways.

PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Howard William Kennard, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Belgrade, to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Stockholm. He has served among other places at Teheran and Tangier, and has been granted allowances for his knowledge of Persian and Arabic. Since 1925 Sir Howard has been Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Yugoslavia.

The following appointments have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Palestine.—Mr. S. S. Farragya, to be Telephone Superintendent, Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Cyprus.—Mr. R. N. Henry, to be Assistant Director of Education.

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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1929.

UNEASY DEMOCRACIES IN THE BALKANS.

A cynic, taking note of conditions in certain countries of South-Eastern Europe to-day, might be tempted to reflect that the "Ramshackle Empire" of Austria-Hungary had been broken up only to produce ramshackle kingdoms. The actual situation is, perhaps, not quite so bad as the epigram would suggest; but it remains a fact that neither the Roumanians nor the Southern Slavs have exhibited that instinctive unity of ideas and ideals which pre-War irredentist movements had led the world to expect when the component parts of Yugoslavia and Greater Roumania had been collected respectively within a single State. Whether the disruptive tendencies which have hitherto been so much in evidence in these countries imply a permanent incompatibility of temperament, or are merely the growing pains of a young State endeavouring to find itself, another decade will probably decide. Conditions in each case show a certain similarity. The old independent kingdom formed the nucleus of the new State, round which the liberated provinces hastened to group themselves, and in both instances this central unit has proceeded to consolidate power as much as possible in its own hands, under the conviction that such a course was essential to the stabilisation of the country. The over-centralisation that has resulted has been resented in the other sections of the amalgamation, and the feeling of national solidarity has given place to bitterness and a pronounced antagonism. If either country had been a democracy in the true sense of the word, it is probable that political power would have changed hands between the centralists and the decentralists early enough to prevent serious abuses on either side and to evolve a workable Constitution, within the four corners of which scope could be found for the progress of political thought. As things are, the centralists still hold the fort in Yugoslavia and bitterness among their opponents accumulates. It is only fair to the Dictatorship that longer time should be given it to bring about the readjustment which it has declared to be its aim; but the mere fact that it has had to resort to drastic measures to correct the abuses of the last ten years may tend to intensify sectional antagonism, and the prospects of unification do not become brighter, as the days pass.

In Roumania the shifting of political power came in the tenth year after the War on constitutional lines, but too late to prevent the intensification of political antagonism to a degree that threatens the smooth working of the Constitution. There is no reason at all to suppose that it is more than a coincidence that something in the nature of an armed plot should have been nipped in the bud by the Roumanian Government at the moment when the Opposition withdraws itself from Parliament as a protest against what it calls a treacherous attack on the part of the Government on the State and the national unity. A year ago the political party at present in power had also withdrawn from Parliament, on the ground that the Bratianu Government was in office unconstitutionally, as a result of electoral abuses, and that in no other way could the National-Peasant Party, confident in the support of the great majority of the nation, register the national disapproval by constitutional means. Some confirmation of the justice of this contention was forthcoming, when in

the ensuing election, under no duress, the electorate accorded an overwhelming majority to Dr. Maniu and his National-Peasant following. The present action, therefore, of the Liberal and other Opposition parties in absenting themselves from the Chamber and the Senate must be regarded mainly as an exhibition of the political bitterness of feeling in which the country is now involved as a result of the violence done to the democratic spirit during the previous ten years. The quarrel turns on the Bill for Administrative Reform that has been submitted by the Government to Parliament. This measure is based on the principles of decentralisation and local autonomy. The village is taken as the smallest unit for administrative purposes, a collection of villages constitutes a rural commune, and in ascending order in the scale come the district, the county (with a municipality as a separate administrative unit), and the province. Of the latter there are to be seven, each with its own special Administration, under a Director or Governor, with the rank of an Under-Secretary of State. The office of Prefect nominated by the Central Government—the sheet anchor of the centralist system—is to be abolished, and each county is to be administered under a President elected by the County Council. Each Province will have as its deliberative body a Council composed of county delegates and delegates from municipalities in the Provinces.

In view of the over-centralisation that has contributed so largely in the past to political bitterness between the Regat, or Old Kingdom of Roumania, and the new Provinces incorporated since the War, it is not impossible that the pendulum is now swinging too far to the other side and that the administrative reform proposed may in practice encourage separation or at least weaken the unification of the country. For any tendency, if it exists, in this direction, responsibility will attach to the predecessors of the present Roumanian Government, who drove home with such vindictiveness the centralist screw that it has now to be scrapped. In the circumstances, it might be thought, the Opposition would find it more consonant with statesmanship to attend the deliberations of Parliament, in order to bring reasoned argument to bear upon a subject of vital concern to the future well-being of the State. It is not on these lines, however, that party politics are as yet conducted in the Balkans. In the local autonomy now proposed the Liberals see the doom of the elaborate politico-economic system that they have built up over a long course of years. They might contemplate with indifference even a prolonged stay in the political wilderness; but Dr. Maniu's Government threatens the existence of that stranglehold on the nation's finances which, rightly or wrongly, they are supposed to have established. Both in Yugoslavia and in Roumania economic conditions help to embitter the political situation. The Serbs regarded it as a natural and reasonable state of affairs that they should be helped out of their own financial difficulties by the greater prosperity of the incorporated provinces. The Liberals of Roumania, or their all-powerful leaders, may have some far-sighted fiscal policy which, if capable of indefinite application without producing national bankruptcy in the process, might ultimately benefit the State as well as the authors, whose interests it will have served from the beginning; but during the first few years of its application the results have been disastrous to the country, for the present Government inherits arrears of payments amounting to over twenty million pounds, which will have to be met before the country's finances can be set on a sound basis. This unexpected financial burden necessarily renders the Government's position far more difficult than it had any reason to anticipate before it took office. With, therefore, the further insight afforded of the Liberal régime's mismanagement and the consequent aggravation of its own difficulties, the National-Peasant Party is the more minded to find in the Liberals a real danger to the State than merely opponents differing from it on this or that political theory. For Roumania also, therefore, unification may yet prove a long process.

'The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Alexandria, July 12.

On the Ausonia.

The High Commissioner sailed for Europe on July 11 on board the s.s. Ausonia, and a large number of the leading British residents went down to the docks to say good-bye. The weather this week has been exceedingly hot and sticky, and, in view of this, Lord Lloyd decided that summer suits should be worn on the occasion. The High Commissioner's thoughtful decision was much appreciated, as top hats and morning coats are oppressively hot in the summer.

The Ausonia was very full, as the summer exodus has begun, and when the Residency moves down to Alexandria next week, Cairo will be empty.

A remarkable precedent was created yesterday, when a meeting of the Council of Ministers took place on board the Ausonia. The Minister of Finance was already on board when a cable was received at the Ministry from the Prime Minister, in Paris, to the effect that a member of the Egyptian Aviation Mission in England intended to fly back to Egypt and needed a grant of £E3,000, and the Prime Minister desired the Minister of Finance to approve the credit. When the Minister of Finance received the message on board the Ausonia, he saw that all the other Ministers were also present, and so a Cabinet Meeting was held then and there, and the grant approved. There is a pleasing lack of red tape about the affair, and it speaks highly for the present Government's determination to get on with the work, whatever it may happen to be.

Roads and Railways.

The decision of the Egyptian Government to build a new railway from Cairo to Suez has evoked a storm of protest and a general demand that the project should be abandoned in favour of proper repairs to the existing road, in order that reasonable facilities for motor transport should be provided. Egypt has not yet learned that road transportation is becoming a serious rival to railways, and unless railway companies, whether State-owned or belonging to private interests, run their own road services, someone else will do so, and the railway receipts will fall lower and lower. At the present moment such a course is almost impossible, owing to the disgraceful condition of Egyptian roads; outside the chief towns a good road is quite unknown. The Suez road is especially important, as the railway line is not direct and the journey takes at least five hours, whereas the actual distance between the two towns is only 120 kilometres, on a good road a matter of considerably less than three hours. On a recent day, when there was no reason why traffic should be exceptionally heavy, forty cars made the journey. In the winter this number is often greatly exceeded, as tourists often land at Suez, hurry to Cairo,

spend a day or so there, and then catch their ship at Alexandria or Port Said. Given a good road, this number could easily be trebled, and in view of the general demand for road improvement, the Government must sooner or later take action. The leading newspapers are daily receiving letters in large numbers from all over the country on this subject. Decent roads will prove a great boon to Egypt, both commercially and for the pleasure of residents, as at present one of the chief drawbacks to life here is the impossibility of getting away from the scene of one's daily existence.

Government Cotton.

The sales of Government cotton are producing gratifying results, for, notwithstanding the depressed state of the market, very good prices have been realised for the medium-grade holdings. It would appear, however, that the Government are following a mistaken policy in putting up such small quantities. Before long the new crop will be on the market, and then their hopes of getting rid of the whole of their holding will be small. When the news was first published that this cotton was to be sold, many rumours were circulated to the effect that the cotton had badly deteriorated. This has proved grossly exaggerated, but there is a slight reluctance on the part of spinners to purchase cotton which has been in store for several years. In view of this it has been suggested that the Government should consign a certain amount of their stock to markets abroad, so that the consumers could investigate it first hand before they make purchases. In this way they could avoid the necessity of flooding the market with large quantities of cotton, in order to effect sales before the advent of the new crop, and by allowing buyers to inspect the qualities offered, could counteract the rumours which have been spread, obviously by interested parties.

Egyptian Finances.

The Egyptian Stock Exchange is rapidly falling into its deep summer slumber, and the impression has been rather in evidence that conditions are more than usually depressed this year. The end of the first half of the year has made it possible for some useful comparisons to be made, and from these figures it has been proved that, generally, prices are not very much lower than is usual in the middle of the summer. State Funds, such as Unified and Preference Debt, are certainly a little lower than usual, and have both fallen roughly £4 in the last six months. The only other shares to register any appreciable difference are the Crédit Foncier Lottery Bonds. These have all suffered very severe attacks, and prices are lower than they have been for some years. The reason for this is to be found in the ruling prices of cotton, which at 31 dollars is ten dollars lower than at the end of June last year. Everything depends on cotton, and the tone of the Stock Exchange almost invariably follows that of the Bourse. The position is, however, not as bad as some pessimists would make out, and the market is expecting better things shortly.

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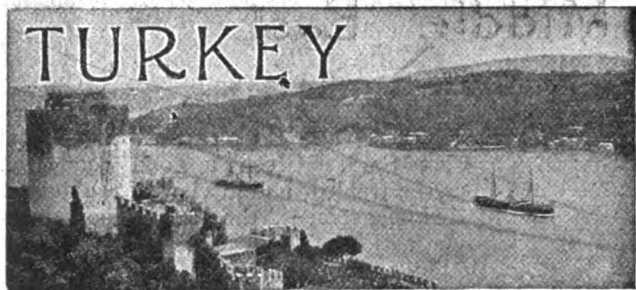
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Constantinople, July 9.

The New Customs Tariff.

It is becoming more obvious every day that the Turkish fiscal authorities, in drawing up and publishing the details of the new Customs Tariff, entirely failed to take into account one serious, though happily temporary, aspect of the projected measure, and that was the question of warehouse space in Constantinople and Smyrna. The inrush of goods imported subject to the old co-efficients has been so pronounced that every nook and cranny of warehouse accommodation have been utilised to the full. Matters have come to such a pass that goods weighing many hundreds of tons are lying water-borne for weeks in lighters moored in the Golden Horn, and the agglomeration of lighters has become so serious that traffic in that narrow waterway is being seriously interfered with.

There, under the shadow of cupolas and minarets, may be seen many old-fashioned craft—obviously mobilised for the occasion—laden with enormous cases marked "Ford—made in Canada," others of smaller dimensions bearing the superscription "Champagne—Epernay—tenir loin des chaudières," others again, whole lighter-loads of them, bearing such household names as Colman, Crosse and Blackwell, Reckitts, Morton, Lea and Perrins—all "made in England."

The whole of the ex-military depôts on the southern

bank of the Golden Horn, just without the outer bridge, have been allotted to imported motor-cars, chassis and spare parts, and in these picturesque surroundings may be seen pyramids of huge cases, mostly superscribed with the names of American manufacturers.

The Port Monopoly Administration, who are primarily responsible for warehouse accommodation and lighterage, have addressed an urgent message to the Ministry at Angora, stating that they are at the end of their tether and that they decline responsibility should goods continue to pour in by the shipload. They have also addressed a formal protest to the Constantinople Quay Company—an Anglo-French concern—for having failed to provide warehouse space ages ago in accordance with the terms of their concession. It is certainly too late for the Quay Company to remedy this defect at such short notice—even did the exiguity of the Galata and Stamboul quays permit of any such extensions, which, unfortunately, they do not.

The position, altogether, is an unenviable one for both the authorities and the mercantile community. One cannot help feeling that much confusion and trouble might have been avoided had time been taken by the forelock and had the competent authorities overhauled the existing machinery for discharging and storing merchandise before rushing through the new Tariff.

On the other hand, however, the crisis is scarcely likely to be of long duration, as the increased duties must almost inevitably have the effect of seriously curtailing imports into this country before many weeks have gone by.

Russo-Turkish Relations.

The controversy which has latterly arisen between Angora and Moscow over the interpretation to be placed on certain stipulations of the Russo-Turkish Trade Agreement has led, indirectly, to mutual recriminations in the Press of both countries. A trial has been proceeding for a week or two past in the Criminal Court at Smyrna against some twenty Turks and native Christians—some of them of good social standing—for communistic propaganda among the labouring classes. The prisoners are

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indicted, *inter alia*, with utilising letter paper bearing the scythe and hammer as a crest. All cans filled with petrol imported into Turkey from Russia incidentally bear the same device!

The Moscow *Pravda*, on information with respect to this trial received through the Tass Agency, has definitely come to the conclusion that the Turkish proletariat must be so rapidly absorbing and assimilating communistic ideals that it behoves the Turkish bourgeoisie to look to their laurels, unless they are to be irresistibly drawn into the movement.

The Turkish editors have risen as a single man against the insinuations of their Russian *confrères*—and, to anyone knowing the country well, the Turkish editors are undoubtedly right. Whatever may be guardedly said with respect to any possible anti-republican or, rather, pro-religious feeling in this country, it is perfectly clear that Communism, as a political creed, is never likely to flourish—to begin with, because the tenets of the Third International are mere “caviare” to the Anatolian peasant and town-labourer; secondly, because there is a strong suspicion in the mind of the common Turk—the man in the street—that Lenin, Krassin, Trotsky and their colleagues, whatever good they may have done in other respects, have certainly been inimical to the religious faith of the Russian people and that they have done their best to stamp out religious sentiments among the younger generation.

The Turkish editors end by saying that Turkish nationalism and patriotism will ever be a sufficient counterpoise to any efforts which the Third International may think it worth their while to waste their time on in Turkey.

Foreign Banking Activities in Turkey.

Notwithstanding the persistent effects of the most acute economic and financial crisis which has been felt in this country for many years past, and in spite of the recent liquidation and withdrawal from this market of several foreign banks, other financial establishments, without any experience of local conditions, appear to be quite ready to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors who have failed.

The Banque Franco-Asiatique, and an Italian bank— notwithstanding the poor results shown of late by the two other Italian banking establishments operating in Constantinople—and a Czechoslovak institution are about to open their doors to the public. One can only hope that they will have better luck than those other establishments which, not finding the game worth the candle, have liquidated and withdrawn from this country.

SUBIH BEG NASHAT.

We much regret to record the death of Subih Beg Nashat, who died in Angora on July 19. Subih Beg, a prominent Iraqi politician, was appointed to be Iraq's Diplomatic Representative in Turkey about eighteen months ago—since which date relations between Turkey and Iraq have been most cordial. He served in the Turkish Army during the War, and after the Armistice took a leading part in the formation of the young Iraqi State. For a time he was Minister of Finance, before being appointed to Turkey.

In the interests of economy reductions are being made in the Roumanian diplomatic Service, and the *Frais de représentation* allowed to Ministers abroad have been diminished, except in the case of Legations in London and Paris.

Mr. Henderson, Foreign Secretary, on July 19 received a deputation from the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, which suggested that the temporary Slavery Commission should be revived by a decision of the next Assembly; and that when it had been revived, documents in the possession of the British Government concerning slavery in Abyssinia should be sent in by the Government to the Commission. Mr. Henderson promised to give favourable consideration to the proposal for a revival of the Commission.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

After an all-night sitting the Greek Chamber of Deputies adjourned on July 16 until October.

The Dowager Queen of Roumania left Belgrade on July 16 by special train for Bucharest.

At the Javer Villa, Belgrade, on July 21, King Alexander received in audience the new Albanian Minister to Yugoslavia, who presented his credentials.

M. Venizelos, Greek Prime Minister, is spending a holiday in Crete accompanied by the Ministers of Marine, Communications, and the Interior.

Mr. Hoare, Counsellor at the Residency, Cairo, returned to Egypt on July 17 to act as British High Commissioner during the absence on leave of Lord Lloyd.

A message from Aden states that locusts which have been doing much damage in the Yaman have appeared in the country of the Abdali Sultan of Lahaj, where it is feared that they are breeding.

New postage stamps, both ordinary and service, are expected to supersede the present series in Iraq towards the end of August, when air post stamps of definite design for use over the London-Karachi air line are also due to make their appearance.

The trial of the Turkish Communists in Smyrna ended on July 16: 24 of them were convicted of having organised a secret society and engaged in subversive propaganda and were sentenced to periods of imprisonment varying from 18 months to four years and a half.

Albania will shortly issue Red Cross postage stamps bearing the portrait of King Ahmed Zogu and a commemorative series of stamps in connexion with the tenth anniversary of the Roumanian annexation of Transylvania will appear in the near future.

An unusual feature of the Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, to be held in Prague in August, will be the presence of women from the Balkan countries, representing the national sections of the League in Roumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia, as well as those from Tunis and India.

The first organised Australian pilgrimage which has been visiting the war zone in Gallipoli, left Constantinople for France on July 21. There they will visit the battlefields and lay wreaths on the graves in Paris of the Unknown Warrior and of Marshal Foch. This party, which numbers eighty, landed on July 18 at Anzac Beach. They visited Anzac and other cemeteries, and laid on the tombs wreaths and sprigs of mimosa, which they had brought from Melbourne. The pilgrims were unanimous in their praise of the Turkish authorities, who gave them every possible facility, both at Constantinople and in the Dardanelles. A number of the pilgrims crossed over to the Haidar Pasha Cemetery to lay a wreath there.



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KING FUAD OF EGYPT.

After a brief stay in Paris, King Fuad, who has been paying official visits to Berlin, Prague and Geneva, arrived in London on Saturday, July 20, accompanied by Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud, Prime Minister of Egypt, Dr. Hafiz



Bey Affi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Ahmed Hassanein Bey, Lord Chamberlain. At Dover his Majesty had been met by Abdel Malek Hamza Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, and Sesostri Sidarouss Bey, who travelled with the Royal party to London. At Victoria Station King Fuad was met by the Duke of Gloucester, on behalf of the King, Lord Lloyd, High Commissioner of Egypt, Abou Seif Radi Bey and M. Georges Cattai and other members of the Staff of the Egyptian Legation. A detachment of Egyptian Boy Scouts acted as a Guard of Honour, and in the large gathering of Egyptians who were present on the platform were Tewfik Doss Pasha, Ismail Pasha, Dr. Ali Ibrahim Bey, Abboud Bey, Habil Doss Bey, Egyptian Minister in Washington, and Abdul Rahim Bey, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. On alighting from the train King Fuad was greeted with the triple cry of "Long Live King Fuad I, King of Egypt!" from the Boy Scouts and the many students present. His Majesty was welcomed by the Duke of Gloucester and Lord Lloyd and, after shaking hands with some of the company, proceeded with the members of his suite to the Ritz Hotel, where he will stay while in London. A large crowd had assembled in the approaches to Victoria Station to witness King Fuad's arrival.

On Tuesday King Fuad was the guest of the Lord Mayor of London at Guildhall, and on Wednesday he was to attend a reception given by Sir Denison Ross at the School of Oriental Studies.

When he came to the Throne on October 9, 1917, King Fuad had been for many years prominently associated with the intellectual and moral renaissance of Egypt, rather than with its political development. At the age of ten he had left the country to be educated first at Geneva and afterwards at Turin, where he entered successively the International Institute and the Military Academy. In 1892 he returned to Egypt and became a General in the Egyptian Army. Subsequently he resigned his official duties in order to devote himself more completely to promoting the cultural development of Egypt. In 1906, as a result of the response to an appeal that he himself had launched, Prince Fuad founded the Egyptian University, and he remained its President-Rector until 1913. He was instrumental in gathering together a library of over 15,000 volumes, and he organised missions to this end to the Universities of England, Germany, France, and Italy. In 1911 he undertook a tour through Europe, visiting London, Paris, Berlin, Prague, Rome, Budapest and Vienna, collecting information, books and manuscripts,

and anything that could benefit the institution in which he has always maintained the liveliest personal interest. Most of the scientific bodies that exist in Egypt to-day either were founded by the present King, or are indebted to him for his personal interest in their welfare. The Royal Geographical Society of Egypt, founded in 1875, had led a precarious existence until Prince Fuad interested himself in it and made a live organisation of it. Thanks to his intervention the Ethnographical Museum was started, the exhibits duly classified and listed according to the most modern methods, the organisation of the Map Office overhauled, and the scientific investigation of the historical, linguistic and ethnographical problems of the Nile Valley was undertaken. Prince Fuad was also responsible for the foundation of the Institute of Applied Hydrobiology at Alexandria, for the Society of Political Economy, Statistics and Legislation (a vigorous body, which publishes *L'Egypte Contemporaine*), the International First Aid Society in Cairo and the Committee for the Preservation of Arab Monuments. The Egypt Promotion Association, which has for its objects the attraction of tourists to the Nile Valley and the improvement of facilities for their comfort, owes its initiation to Prince Fuad, who since he came to the Throne has remained its Patron. His Majesty in recent years has taken the leading part in making Cairo the centre for important international congresses, such as the International Geographical Congress, 1925, the Congress of Navigation, 1926, the Medical Congress, 1928, the highly important Cotton Congress of 1927, and the Statistical Congress, 1927. King Fuad, moreover, is convinced of the value of sport in forming national character and has interested himself in the construction of an Olympic Stadium at Alexandria.

King Fuad is now interested in the creation of an Arabic Academy, with a view to the preserving of the Arabic language and to deal with its easier transcription by the additional of capital letters and better punctuation. For suggestions on these subjects he has recently instituted a prize. He is also helping to gather each winter in Cairo the foremost writers in Arabic and poets, and a complete collection of the standard works of classic Arabic literature is being made. His Majesty is also anxious to create a Desert Institute both for scientific expeditions and research, including work in the folklore of the desert tribes, etc., and for sporting expeditions. He has for a long time been occupied with a scheme for the creation of an African Institute which will house in Cairo complete collections of exhibits relating to the African peoples. Specimens are being collected of everything produced from African soil, and in use by African tribes.

King Fuad was elected in 1927 "Membre Correspondant" of the "Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres," and during his present tour in Europe the Universities of Prague and Geneva have conferred upon him honorary degrees of Doctor in Philosophy and Political Science.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN "JOURNAL."

The last *Journal* (Part III., Vol. XVI.) of the Central Asian Society is an exceptionally attractive one. In addition to the full text of lectures delivered by Wing-Commander A. A. Walser on "Flying on the North-West Frontier of Egypt," by Dr. W. Filchner on "My Central Asian Expedition of 1925-28," and by Sir Denison Ross on "The New Middle East," there are entertaining and instructive articles on "A Trip to Alamut, Lahijan and Rasht," "The Bakhtiari Road," "A Noble Persian Author," and "The Trans-Desert Routes to the East." In the first of these is described a journey, organised by the late Captain G. J. Eccles, and undertaken last year to the Persian home of the renowned "Assassins" at Alamut. The article on the Bakhtiari road contains valuable material on the country lying between Isfahan and the Haft Kil oil-fields. Major Edmonds writes most amusingly on the history of the famous Walis of Pusht-i-Kuh, based on a book which he discovered, "Anis-ul-Musafir," by Ghulam Riza Khan, the Wali himself, and published at Bushire in 1911.

The review section, moreover, is strong and varied. For the expression of individual opinion alone it is well worth study.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

Calcutta, July 4.

The Chelmsford Club Speech.

Lord Irwin, in his speech at the Chelmsford Club, spoke of those less concerned to examine the merits or demerits of any particular policy than "to use any argument—good, bad, or indifferent which may in the opinion of some bring discredit upon the Government." His Excellency might with equal justice have said a word upon the unreasonableness of people. In his speech Lord Irwin said in effect: "I am going to London, and there, as faithfully as it is in my power to do, I will represent to His Majesty's Government the different standpoints of those who can speak for Indian political opinion. Trust me." An Indian publicist, commenting on that, has gone so far as to say that the Viceroy should have added "other and unambiguous declarations as to the steps he will courageously advise the British Cabinet to adopt," adding, "In the absence of a definite declaration of this kind, Indian politicians would be less than human if they refused to be misled by Lord Irwin's manifest sincerity." As if the Viceroy, at this moment, with the Statutory Commission's Report still to be presented, could decide with what stick, to put it so, to stand over the British Cabinet; as if the Prime Minister, who is reported to have said that the appointment of the Statutory Commission "had been desired by all three of the political parties in England," would allow the Viceroy to stand over him with a stick. There is reasonableness and there is unreasonableness. In political India unreasonableness is to reasonableness as a mountain to a child's heap of sand on the sea-beach.

Sir Malcolm Hailey.

I had this in my letter of April 25: "The views of the officials are those of which the general public hears least. They either speak *in camera* before such bodies as the Statutory Commission, or they do not speak at all." That is so, and it makes any utterance of a leading official all the more interesting. If that official is Sir Malcolm Hailey, formerly Governor of the Punjab, now Governor of the United Provinces, the man among the officials to whom the Viceroy is believed oftenest to turn for advice, the interest is the maximum. Sir Malcolm Hailey has been addressing the Legislative Council in his Province. India has entered irrevocably, he said, on the path of the development of responsible government through representative institutions. There were some who in the past had hesitated about this process. Sir Malcolm may well have been one of them. One sometimes feels that representative institutions are an absurdity in the East. The doubts of those who had hesitated had now "narrowed down to a desire for assurance on two points—protection of the interests of the minorities, and the safeguarding of order." Those last words bring one or two of the other "events" of this week—a statement issued by the Working Committee to the Statutory Commission. But to begin another paragraph.

Minorities and Law and Order.

The statement of the Working Committee has some very plain speaking in it. "The mentality exhibited by Pandit Motilal Nehru," it says in one part, "... is much more than that of a dictator ... the Pandit has gone mad over what he thinks to be the most valuable document ever produced (the Nehru Report, that is) for the welfare of the people of India ... He does not realise that the Moslems of India are no less determined to reject any constitution which does not recognise the obvious rights of the Moslem Minority." It cannot be argued that the Pandit and the other Hindu leaders are making a very great effort to "convince the minorities that their interests are in no danger at their hands," to put the matter in Lord

Irwin's words of last week. One does not know what they may be doing in private to convince the Moslem leaders that they need have no fear. They make speech after speech in public in which no attempt is made to argue that the Moslems have no ground for fear. There is a Moslem party that publicly agrees that there is none, but I have gathered that in private those Moslems express as much anxiety as the other Moslems as to the Moslem position in an India that had been granted Dominion Status. As for the letter of the Associated Chambers of Commerce on the subject of Law and Order, it will be remembered that, giving evidence in Calcutta before the Statutory Commission, the spokesmen of the Chambers said they were not agreed whether the control of the police should or should not be vested in Ministers responsible to the Legislative Councils. They have now written: "The majority view is now quite definitely opposed to the transfer of the control of police administration to an elected Minister responsible to the Legislature." The Bengal Chamber appreciate the dangers attached to the transfer of the police administration, though they think that without it provincial autonomy cannot have a proper chance of fulfilment, and would not be averse from a postponement; the Bombay and Karachi Chambers oppose the transfer; the Madras Chamber favours it for Madras, and the Coimbatore and Coimbatore Chambers support this view. The Tuticorin, Cochin, Tellicherry and Calicut Chambers oppose it. The majority is, then, clearly against the transfer.

Lord Sydenham's Letter.

In his letter to the *Morning Post* of the other day Lord Sydenham drew attention to the need to be "mindful to the welfare of the masses" in India. One publicist has this as a comment; "Does Lord Sydenham seriously think that even a reader of the *Morning Post* believes that Lord Sydenham cares more deeply for the (Indian) masses than the Indian politicians who, after all, are of the same race, and speak the same language, as the people they represent?" All that sounds very well as a debating point, but it is not unknown to observers of human nature that you can combine being of the same race and speaking the same language with a tolerably big indifference to the interests of masses of men. It is not unknown to readers of economic and social history that, if you belong to a class more than a little tinged with greed, you can be blinded by your class interest to concern for the masses. The British manufacturers of the earlier half of the nineteenth century, who employed women and children in factories and in coal mines, where the conditions of working were wretched, are known to have slept pretty soundly in their beds. Lord Sydenham may or may not have as deep an interest in the Indian masses as he makes out. What my Indian friends and acquaintances, speaking of the Indian politicians, say is that their interest in their own advancement is by far the strongest interest they possess; if it is not in many cases the only one.

The Indian States.

There have been informal conversations at Poona between the Viceroy and representatives of the Indian Princes and Chiefs, and eight resolutions, passed unanimously at a Conference of the representatives of sixty States, resolutions covering most of the ground covered by the Butler Committee's Report, have been published. There is nothing, I think, in these resolutions that I had not reported; but this may be quoted as evidence of the continued determination of the Princes not to let it be assumed that they are ready to acquiesce in any transfer of paramountcy rights from the Crown to a self-governing British India: "... this Conference expresses gratification at the Indian States' Committee's recognition (a corollary of the true constitutional position of the States) that the relationship between the Paramount Power and the Princes should not be transferred, without the agreement of the Princes, to any third party."

Mrs. Besant's "Virtual Insurrection."

If Lord Sydenham's letter has not been allowed to pass without criticism, still less has Mrs. Besant's prophecy that, if India is not granted Dominion Status "within a period of months rather than years," there will be a revolt in India. (My newspaper had "revolt" in one part of its report, and in another the wool-gathering printer had got it as "resurrection") The *Pioneer* had a leader on the subject. The heading and sub-heading show plainly what that journal thought of it. They were: "Mrs. Besant's Foolish Speech. An argument that must be avoided." "The atmosphere of negotiation," it says, and every sensible man in India will agree, "must not be unduly heated, all bitterness must be put aside, and the wrongs of the past must be forgotten in the hopes of the future." I would add myself that it is far easier to speak in those general terms of the wrongs of the past than to put a name to particular ones. The British record in India is an exceptionally fine one.

The Age of Consent Committee.

The Report of the Age of Consent Committee is said now to be in the hands of the Government of India. I have had conversations with members of the Committee. They were appointed to make recommendations regarding the age of consent, but in their view it was no use fixing the age of consent, if they did not also recommend the penalising of marriage below certain ages; for, they argued, if marriage below the age of consent is allowed, the law as to the age of consent will be frequently broken. For one thing, what the law is on the point of the age of consent being very little known, that law is often violated. The Report, it is said, will be published at the end of this month.

Miscellaneous.

The Central Banking Committee is now at work. Sir Osborne Smith, speaking in Bombay at the Institute of Bankers, said: "I share the general regret and feel some disquiet at the cumbersome dimensions of the Central Committee." I put it very much more strongly myself.

The Bombay mill-owners, headed by Mr. H. P. Mody, took advantage of Lord Irwin's presence in Bombay to confer with him for an hour about the strike in the textile industry. Viscount Goschen and Sir George Rainy were also present. What with the questions of tariff and exchange entering into it, it is a very thorny problem for presentment to a man just about to take leave of absence, and to go on board ship.

It was suggested that there should be a Karachi-Bombay air service, bringing Bombay twenty-four hours nearer London. A Calcutta-Karachi service will be the next thing.

Sir George Schuster is seeking a new way of securing sterling remittances to meet the Home Charges. To myself there seems no harm in what he has done, but I have seen it described as "so extraordinary an experiment," and the Finance Member, it is argued, should first have consulted the Chambers of Commerce. People, those who understand banking and other such questions

no more than they may be expected to, think continually of this or that Government action as decisive in prices, exchange, etc., not knowing that things are controlled by great and partly hidden changes in the relation of supply and demand, and that, if the Indian export trade is not considerably in excess of the import trade, no Government can prevent the exchange from weakening. Just as little could a Government prevent umbrellas getting wet when it rains.

EAST INDIA ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Kikabhai Premchand, a member of the Indian Central Committee which is co-operating with the Statutory Commission, will read a paper at a meeting of the East India Association to be held on Wednesday, July 31, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on "The Economic Position in India."

Earl Peel, the late Secretary of State for India, will preside and a discussion will follow the reading of the paper. Mr. Kikabhai Premchand is the senior partner of the well-known Bombay firm of Premchand, Roychand, and is exceptionally well qualified to speak with experience and authority on the subject in question.

LADY CHATTERJEE.

The High Commissioner for India and Lady Chatterjee were at Home at the Indian Gymkhana Club, Oswestry, on July 16, when a cricket match between the Club and the M.C.C. was played. Among those who accepted invitations were:—

The Maharaja of Burdwan, the French Ambassador, the Belgian Ambassador, the Persian Minister, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, the Belgian Commercial Attaché, the German Commercial Attaché, and the Italian Commercial Attaché, the High Commissioner for Australia and Lady Ryrie, the High Commissioner for New Zealand and Lady Parr, the High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia and Lady Newton, the Agent-General for Quebec, the Agent-General for Victoria, the Agent-General for British Columbia and Mrs. Pauline, the Agent-General for Ontario and Mrs. Noxon, the Agent-General for Tasmania and Mrs. Snowden, the Marquess of Reading, Lord Harris, Lord and Lady Melchett, Lord Southborough, the Duchess of Atholl, Lord and Lady Peel, Viscount and Viscountess Burnham, Lord and Lady Lamington, Sir John and Lady Simon, Sir Arthur and Lady Bannerman, Sir Leslie Wilson, Sir Basil and Lady Blackett, Field-Marshal Sir Claud and Lady Jacob, Sir Zulfiqar and Lady Ali Khan, Sir Charles and Lady Bayley, Sir Louis and Lady Dane, Sir Clement and Lady Hindley, Sir Sankaran Nair, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Whitley, Sirdar S. S. Uderoi, General Sir Havelock and Lady Hudson, Sir Maneckji and Lady Dababhoi, Sir Stephen and Lady Demetriadi, Sir Harry and Lady Brittain, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir Montague Barlow, the Nawab of Patudu, Sir Campbell Rhodes, Nawab Sir Umar Hayat Khan, Sir Trevor and Lady Dawson, Sir Reginald and Lady Clarke, Sir Alexander and Lady Murray and Miss Murray, Sir Norman and Lady McLeod, Sir Dorabji and Lady Tata, the Hon. Gertrude Kinnaird, Sir Phiroze Sethna, Sir Austin and Lady Low, Sir Binode and Lady Mitter, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Rajah, Sir John and Lady Miller, Sir Walter and Lady Wilson, Sir Thomas and Lady Smith, Sir Edward and Lady Chamier and Miss Chamier, Mr. T. B. W. Ramsay, Sir Charles and Lady Wakefield, Sir Aruthur and Lady Knapp and Miss Knapp, Sir Hugh and Lady Keeling, Sir Selwyn and Lady Fremantle, Sir John Cumming, Sir Reginald and Lady Craddock, Sir George and Lady Forbes, Lieutenant-General Sir William and Lady Furse, Sir W. and Lady Foster, the Rani Sahiba of Sherkot, Sir Cowasjee and Lady Jehanghir, Munshi Iswar Saran, Colonel and Mrs. S. W. Paddon, Nawabzada Iftikhar Ali Khan, Sir Peter and Lady Clutterbuck, Dr. and Mrs. A. Suhrwady, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Stewart Patterson, Dr. R. P. Paranjpye, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Goodenough, Sir Arthur and Lady Froom, Colonel and Mrs. Crawford, and Sir Dawson and Lady Miller.

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THE TRUE REFORMATION OF INDIA.*

By P. R. CADELL, C.S.I., C.I.E.

It is a commonplace, though it is often forgotten in practice, that the future of India depends on the improvement of the conditions of village life. Over seventy-five per cent. of the population lives in the villages, and from them come not only the people that produce the crops, but the greater part of the labour required for industrial enterprise in the towns and ports, and all the soldiers of the Indian Army, with the exception of those drawn from the equally rural population of the countries on the Indian border. All that is the best in India is centred in the villages; yet the conditions of village life are profoundly discouraging. These two little works, written by an Indian civilian who, with the assistance of his wife, has devoted himself to village uplift in one district of the Punjab, are of great value as indicating the lines on which the required regeneration can be arrived at if not attained.

The conditions of life in the ordinary Indian village are appallingly insanitary and archaic, and in particular the filth of the village houses, the dirt in which the children are brought up, and the inferior position of the female sex, from its earliest infancy. In one of the books under notice, the author casts his observations and suggestions into the form of dialogues which might have been held, could Socrates have visited a modern Punjab village. It may be objected that the dialectic triumphs of Socrates over the villagers are too easy, and that more might be advanced by them in their own defence; but the same objection could be brought against the Platonic original.

In any case the polite acquiescence of the villagers in their visitor's criticism, their ready agreement with the superiority of the changes which he urges, and the entire oblivion into which his advice is allowed to sink when he has left the village is certainly typical of Indian rural mentality. Mr. Brayne rightly emphasises the absence of any spirit of self-denial and public service in Indian schools and colleges; and the want of the class of helpers supplied for English villages by the Parson or the Squire or the retired professional man.

The only permanent adviser of the Indian village is the subordinate Government servant, and every beneficent activity of the local Government means an increase in the number of inspectors and subordinates. Too often these are entirely selfish, and are regarded by the villagers as enemies rather than as instruments of Providence. A perusal of these books may seem melancholy reading; but Mr. Brayne is the reverse of being a pessimist. The critic acquainted with Indian conditions would, in fact, be inclined to think that he is too sanguine on many points, such as, for example, the power of local co-operation to prevent the fragmentation of holdings. It is on co-operation that Mr. Brayne places his main reliance; and on the development of public spirit through the Boy Scout movement; and on the influence of the village school. The last, unfortunately, depends on the character of the village schoolmaster.

Education is now entirely in the hands of Indian Ministers, and, however excellent their intentions, no improvement in administration, or in the class of men forthcoming as teachers, is yet to be seen. The education of the girls is, as Mr. Brayne insists, a first necessity; in the absence of money to provide separate schools, and with the impossibility, in Indian village conditions, of obtaining schoolmistresses who will be free from the breath of scandal, however unjust that breath may be, Mr. Brayne is doubtless right in thinking that the only way of teaching girls, and of removing the inferiority complex of sex that so unjustly attaches to them, is co-

education in the boys' schools. Yet one cannot wonder that it appears to the villager a desperate remedy.

The great defect of the modern Indian legislature is a lack of courage in passing the necessary measures for social reform, and to an even greater extent a failure to provide money for the proper execution of such measures. Mr. Brayne has done a great work in his district; but it would be interesting to know what the result of his activities has been on the finances of the District Local Board. He himself has done his utmost by creating an Uplift Fund for the district; but it remains to be seen whether the Fund, and the bulk of the Uplift movement itself, will survive his transfer from the district. His books have, however, far more than a local interest; and it is pleasing to find that they have been published, and are apparently selling, in six Indian languages or scripts. No better introduction to the study of what is really India's greatest problem could be recommended for the English or for the Indian reader.

LIABILITY OF NON-RESIDENTS TO INCOME-TAX.

IN THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA'S issue of May 16 reference was made to an important statement by the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury on the liability of visitors from the overseas Dominions to income-tax during their stay in this country. Although Mr. A. M. Samuel stated that the many letters which had appeared in the Press had been written under a misconception of the position, his assurance that the circular issued by the Board of Inland Revenue on the subject in February was not capable of bearing the interpretation placed upon its provisions has by no means relieved the widespread feeling of dissatisfaction with the new regulations which is undoubtedly causing many people to spend their leave outside this country.

During the past week THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA understands that representations have again been made to the Board of Inland Revenue on the subject. In the course of a reply dated July 19, the Board states:—

"I am to remind you, first, that the circular recently issued by the Board on this subject was not a declaration of policy, but a statement of the law—as they understand it—and, secondly, that the Board are not the final authority: appeal lies to the Special or General Commissioners—tribunals entirely independent of the Board.

"To ask, as you do, whether there is a 'likelihood of relief being granted' is to ask whether the law is likely to be altered. That is a question on which the Board can express no opinion. The law is made and altered by Parliament, on the advice of H.M. Ministers. All that can be said is that the existence of the widespread feeling in India to which you call attention is a matter that would naturally be brought by the Board to the notice of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"I am, however, to add that evidence continues to reach the Board that this feeling is still largely—though admittedly not entirely—based on the mistaken idea, to which currency has unfortunately been given, that any Indian Civil Servant, Indian Army officer, or other person in business or employment in India who comes to this country on leave makes himself by so doing liable to British tax on his total income, whatever his circumstances may be and however short the period of his visit.

"It is perhaps worth while to repeat that this idea is quite unfounded. Such a person, coming home on leave every second or third year, incurs no liability whatever to British tax by spending his leave in this country if he has no place of abode here and is not here for six months in the year. And even if he has a place of abode here, or, having none, is in this country for six months or upwards in the year, the liability he may incur by coming home does not extend beyond the income that is remitted to or brought into this country or is received here."

* "The Remaking of Village India." By F. L. Brayne. (Oxford University Press. 3s. 6d.) "Socrates in an Indian Village." By F. L. Brayne. (Oxford University Press. 7s. 6d.)

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Heat-Wave.

It takes, they say, a good deal to upset the equilibrium of the Englishman: he does not like heat of any sort. But during the last week or so he has had to endure much of it, and has been decidedly uncomfortable. Discards of every sort have been indulged in—coats and hats and waistcoats—and if there had been anything more in man's attire that could have been dispensed with, that would have gone too.

In the Carlton Club, one hears, they played cards in their shirt sleeves; judges, of course, left off their wigs; one gallant fellow in a West End theatre appeared after the interval without his coat, only to be so frowned upon by the bare and low-necked women as to have to put it on again! Bus conductors and the like have been working in open-necked cricket shirts. And yet—Mr. A. J. Cook, asking for a meal at a restaurant while in his shirt-sleeves, was refused!

The fact is that, since we men cannot, it seems, change our dress (which we ought to do, poor weaklings that we are) we must change our manners. Unblushingly, that is to say (because it would make us hotter), we must allow ladies to gaze on manly forms in shirt sleeves. When, oh when, will the great reformer arise to make life possible without the tyranny of the collar-stud?

In these panting, gasping circumstances little attention, as may be imagined, has been given to politics, and the House will rise this week without a regret from the reading public. For what do we care, when drought is at hand and the heat still sizzling, what Mr. J. H. Thomas did or did not say about Mr. Guy Boothby, what overtures Mr. Churchill did make to Mr. Lloyd George to defeat the Government, what corrections the Chancellor of the Exchequer did provide to the Minister of Employment? All we do is to babble o' green fields (which are no longer green), and to think on thirst-quenching drinks (which do not exist).

The Drought.

The drought seems to be really serious—not so much because of the lack of rain experienced during the last month or so as because during the whole time since Christmas the rainfall has been below normal. In any case, the Metropolitan Water Board is rationing water supplies, and has already inhibited the use of water for such "luxury" affairs as sports grounds, gardens, motor-cars, and so on. The hose is, in fact, entirely prohibited in London.

As if to comfort us, it is officially announced as probable that we are in for a spell of dry summers. And, of course, the more we are forbidden to use water, the more we want it.

A Worker of London.

Just picture the plight of the average worker in London. After a stuffy, sleepless night, he travels up by the 8.15 from the suburbs, through increasing dust and soot to town. There, in varying degrees of perspiration, he puts in his allotted time, snatching what comfort he can from unenticing meals. Towards the evening, he makes his way to the railway terminus, where he finds that the train in which he travelled up and in which he has to return has been left standing in the sun all day. In this he has to journey, through tunnels as dirty and suffocating as though they had been conceived in Cimmeria, back towards his uncool home. On his faltering return, he finds his lawn parched, his flowers drooping dizzily, and, as likely

as not, a child out of sorts with the heat. This is the kind of purgatory he has been in for some days now. Who shall say that our London citizens are not heroes?

Another Merger.

Those who can travel by road of course do so, but the one really cool spot in a motor-bus is outside under a covered top. For the inside of uncovered buses is generally better than the outside.

Talking of trains and buses, I am interested to see that in Scotland, which is inhabited by so practical a race of people, a provisional agreement has been reached, between the Scottish Motor Traction Company (the biggest motor-transport concern in Scotland) and the L.M.S. and the L.N.E.R., that there shall be no competition between rail and road. The Railway Companies have agreed not to compete by way of passenger road services within an agreed area (the greater part of Scotland), but will co-operate with the Motor Traction Company, the conditions being that this Company shall be reconstructed and that the Railways shall acquire a substantial interest in the capital.

One wonders whether the Motor Traction Company will be like the young lady of Riga! One also wonders whether the thrifty Scots passengers will stand to gain or lose. Mergers are so very, very fashionable nowadays, but it would not be wrong, I think, to say that they create the greatest enthusiasm among those who direct them, not among the humble consumers who look on in amazement at the gigantic transactions, and then—pay the price. The latest move in favour of a merger, by the way, is being advocated day and night by Lord Beaverbrook, who wants Free Trade within the Empire—a dream which most people, apparently, regard as beautiful if practicable, but absolutely impracticable. It may be that Lord Beaverbrook is over-apt to judge the Empire by the opinions of Canada; certainly no very considerable encouragement for his proposals has so far been forthcoming from India or Australasia.

Trotsky.

I referred briefly last week to the Labour Government's refusal to admit Trotsky into this country. The Home Office has received increased criticism since I wrote. Two very powerful journals, for instance, have charged Mr. Clynes with a misreading of the traditions of England in connexion with political refugees, and for myself I should not be surprised, if all goes well from the Labour point of view with the negotiations with the Russian Government, if the man whom Stalin banished does eventually find a home, like Karl Marx himself, in the British Museum.

But certainly there will be an outcry if the Home Office does reverse its present attitude. The Conservatives, for example, assert that Trotsky is quite unique in the category of political refugees, and that to admit a man one of whose main aims for many years was alleged to be the disruption of the British Empire, would be criminal folly.

Charing Cross Bridge.

At last, it seems, after years of talk, we may get a bridge at Charing Cross worthy of the Thames and of London. For the L.C.C. have agreed with the Directors of the Southern Railway upon the removal of Charing Cross Railway Station and Bridge. The shareholders have now to accept the proposal that the cost of this removal shall be borne by the public, as also that of a fine road bridge in its place and of a new station, hotel, and railway works on a better site than the existing one.

It looks as though the shareholders of the Southern had an excellent bargain, and that the present generation of Londoners will be having to pay for the mistakes of their ancestors in authority. In any case, the scheme is one which is raising considerable enthusiasm, among both practical men and artists, to whom the present Charing Cross Bridge has always been an unescapable eyesore.

ALTER EGO.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 25, 1929 (New Style).

July 12, 1929 (Old Style).

Saphar 17, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tammuz 17, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Prince of Wales received the Yuvaraja of Mysore at St. James's Palace on July 17.

The Maharanee of Baroda, who has been staying at Grosvenor House, left London last week for Paris.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir John Chancellor (High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, Palestine) was received by the Prince of Wales at St. James's Palace on July 19.

Lord Lloyd, High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, who arrived in London on July 19 from Cairo via Genoa and Paris, is staying at the Carlton Club.

Captain C. G. Prior has taken over the Political Agency at Bahrain from Lt.-Col C. C. J. Barrett, who is officiating as Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

The Raj Rishi Shri Sewai Maharaj Dev of Alwar left London last week for a fortnight's tour on the Continent. He will return to London at the end of the month.

Sir Albion Banerji arrived last week at Whitehall Court from his prolonged tour in the Near and Middle East, Russia, Norway, and Sweden.

Mr. Philip Taylor, of the *Sphinx*, left Alexandria with Mrs. Taylor and their daughter on July 11 by the s.s. *Ausonia* for Genoa, whence they arranged to motor to Scotland.

The Council of the Egyptian University has nominated Dr. Copland, Professor of History of the Middle Ages at Liverpool University, to the same Chair in the University of Cairo.

The Egyptian Association of Great Britain were at Home on July 22 at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Avenue, to meet the delegates to the Egyptian Congress.

Sir Jagadis and Lady Bose left London last week for Geneva, where Sir Jagadis is taking part in the session of the League of Nations Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

Sir John Simon, Chairman of the India Commission, entertained his colleagues of the Commission and members of the Indian Central Committee at lunch at Wadham College Hall, Oxford, on July 19. Sir John is a Fellow of Wadham.

Sesostri Sidarouss Bey will leave London at the conclusion of the visit of King Fuad to London, to take up his new post in Athens, where he has been appointed Egyptian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

A dinner was given by his Majesty's Government at the Carlton Hotel on July 16 in honour of Dr. Refik Bey, Turkish Minister of Health. Mr. Arthur Greenwood took the Chair. The guests present included the Turkish Ambassador, Sir Arthur Robinson, Assim Ismail Bey, Mehmet Ali Sevki Pasha, Lord Monk Bretton, Sir George Newman, Sir Arthur Stanley, Sir Ronald Lindsay, Feridun Bey, Lord Monteagle, Sir Malcolm Belevingne, Dr. Andrew Balfour, Sir Edward Harding, Sir George Buchanan, Mr. G. W. Rendel, Mr. J. S. Pearse, Mr. James Morgan, Dr. M. T. Morgan, M.C., Mr. A. K. Helm, Mr. W. L. C. Knight, Major E. N. S. Crankshaw.

Dr. Affi Bey, the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, left London on July 18 for Paris.

Sir Robert and Lady Waley Cohen arrived at Caen Wood Towers, Highgate, on July 22 on their return from New York.

Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, Egyptian Prime Minister, and Dr. Affi Bey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, who left London on July 16 for Paris, returning with King Fuad last Saturday, gave a dinner, followed by a reception at the Egyptian Legation on July 23.

At a dinner given by the Turkish Ambassador and Mme. Ferid Bey at the Turkish Embassy on July 17, to meet Dr. Refik Bey, Minister of Health to the Turkish Republic, who arrived in London on July 14, the guests included the Belgian Ambassador and Mme. de Cartier de Marchienne, the American Ambassador and Mrs. Dawes, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Greenwood, Lady Moira Combe, Lady Dawson, Lady Peacock, Mrs. Philip Snowden, the Hon. Sir Ronald Lindsay, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Mr. John Walter, Mr. Helme, Dr. Assin Bey, and Sevki Pasha.

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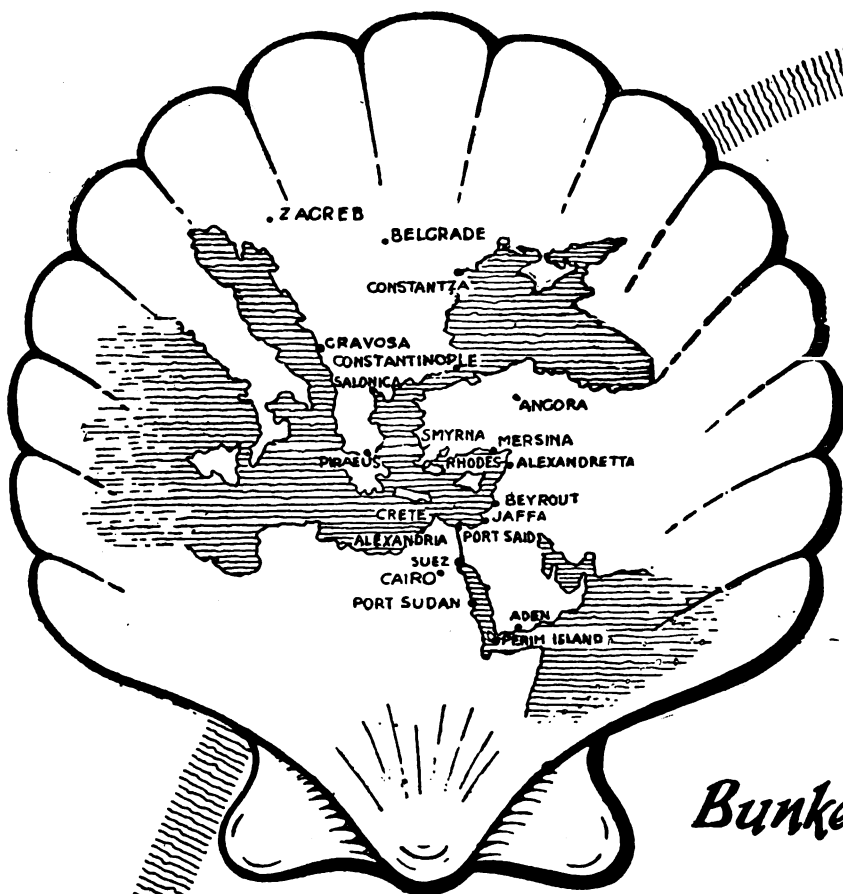
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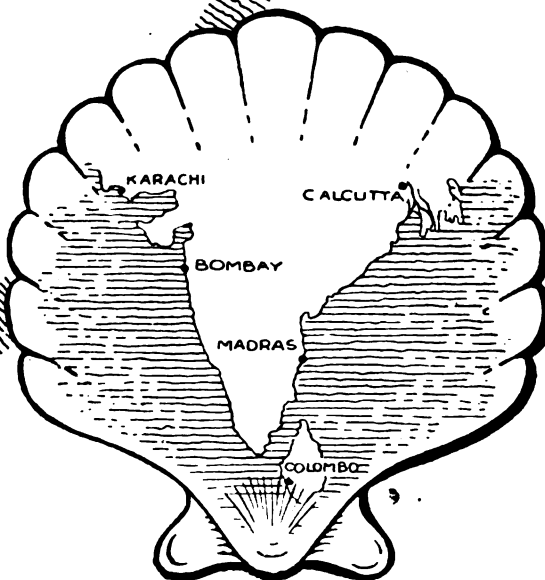
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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Conditions in Roumania.

The difficult position with which the Maniu Administration is confronted was the subject of detailed comment at the meeting of the Bank of Roumania last week. Trade in 1928 was unfavourable on account of the partial failure of the harvest and the currency shortage. Then the revenue receipts up to the end of December last fell far short of the estimates, the deficit to be covered being $7\frac{1}{2}$ milliards of lei. For 1929 the estimated receipts are slightly lower than in the previous Budget, and the Government has endeavoured to meet the position by increasing certain taxes and creating new ones. There was an adverse trade balance on the year of five milliards of lei, as against a favourable balance of four milliards for the previous year. This, of course, was due in the main to the bad harvest, which has coloured all Roumania's activities. It is very satisfactory to know that so far the prospects for the current harvest are excellent, and that it is expected to be the best harvest since the War. Roumania badly needs a series of good harvests to bring about a recovery from the effects of the War. Another unfortunate factor in the past year was the world oil situation, which had a serious effect on the Roumanian industry and prevented it from being of the assistance to the country that it would otherwise have been. It is fortunate for Roumania that at this juncture she should possess a Government which realises the needs of the country, has an adequate policy to meet the situation, and is determined to carry out without delay the necessary measures. But the work of reconstruction is bound to be long and arduous even if in the next few years the conditions are really favourable for the country. The task before the Government can be estimated from the fact that the improvement of the railways alone will entail an expenditure of about £26,000,000.

Egyptian Market Possibilities.

On a number of occasions I have criticised our manufacturers for not showing more enterprise with regard to the Egyptian market, which should be of particular interest to them as it is not only developing but also, as I have pointed out in recent weeks, has in various ways changed its character since the War. An instance of this change is given in the current issue of the *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, which points out that while in the past it was practically impossible to buy English silverware and cutlery in Egypt, there has been an improvement in the local taste, with the result that there is now a demand for British goods. While it is very satisfactory to know that the Egyptians have begun to appreciate the merits of our silverware and cutlery as compared with the commodities which have been imported from European countries, one would like to see this demand reflected to a greater extent in the trade figures than it is, and it will be the duty of our manufacturers to endeavour to bring that about by paying the necessary attention to this highly promising market.

Albanian National Brewery.

At the statutory meeting of the Albanian National Brewery last week Sir Harry Eyres was able to give a satisfactory account of the progress of the installation work. Contracts were signed in April for the supply of

the requisite brewing and refrigerating plant, and it is anticipated that the whole plant will be installed before the middle of next month. The work of constructing the brewery premises at Scutari is proceeding rapidly, and should be completed by the late autumn. A condition of the concession was that brewing should start not later than December 31 next, but to provide for contingencies application has been made for an extension of the period, and the Albanian Government has agreed to extend the date to May 31, 1930. An important point to which Sir Harry Eyres referred is that the enterprise enjoys the support of the Albanian Government, the local Press, and the people of Scutari so that the company will enter on its undertaking in the most favourable auspices.

The Indian Market for Cotton Goods.

The announcement that the Government of India have decided to appoint Mr. G. S. Hardy, Collector of Customs at Calcutta, to examine the possibility of substituting a system of specific duties for the existing system of *ad valorem* assessment of cotton piece-goods, gives a very clear indication of the lines on which the Government consider that further useful aid can be given to the Bombay cotton industry. The salient facts with regard to the cotton goods market in India are that in recent years the outlet has declined while the imports from foreign countries have increased. Thus the Japanese trade in grey and coloured printed or dyed piece-goods amounted to 352,000,000 yards for the year ended March 31 last, as against 241,000,000 yards for 1926-27. The effect of these two factors on the Bombay mill industry has been disastrous, and it is not surprising that there should have been a demand for further protection for the home market. The question which is now to be examined was raised before the Tariff Board, when doubt was expressed as to the consequences of specific duties with regard to the consumer, and it was pointed out that such a scheme could only be worked out by an expert with a very close knowledge both of Indian and imported piece-goods. A system of specific duties would affect Japanese and other foreign imports, but would touch Lancashire hardly at all as the Lancashire trade is in the higher grade goods with which the Indian mills do not compete.

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Capital Authorised	-	-	-	£1,000,000
Capital Paid up	-	-	-	£600,000
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Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
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The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Persons of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

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Head Office — SOFIA — Founded in 1865

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97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, July 23.

Nothing unforeseen occurred this week to relieve the expected dullness of the stock markets. Indeed, such new factors as the week produced were mainly of a nature calculated to induce caution. Further gold withdrawals and the weakness of sterling exchange maintained the anxiety over the monetary outlook to the discomfort of the gilt-edged market, which was also inclined to be uneasy over the unrestricted proposals of Mr. Thomas to lend Government credit for unemployment schemes. Possibility of war in the Far East did not help matters, although it was not taken very seriously. In the industrial sections public interest is at a very low ebb indeed, and the speculative spirit seems for the time being to have been effectively scotched by the bad experiences which hosts of speculators have suffered during the past eighteen months. The holiday season now being upon us, there seems no reason to expect the markets generally will emerge yet a while from the doldrums. The flicker of interest in some leading industrials caused a week ago by New York buying proved to be very slight and transient.

Industrial Company Profits.

The *Economist's* quarterly analysis of the profits of British joint stock industrial undertakings shows for the first time for two years a decline, the profits of 639 companies whose reports appeared during the past three months recording a decrease in the aggregate of 0.7 per cent. The period covered by the majority of these reports is the calendar year 1928. During the twelve months the reports of 1,742 companies were analysed, and these showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in aggregate net profits. This compares with the increase of 5.8 per cent. disclosed twelve months ago, from which it would appear that there has been a definite downward trend in industrial company earnings. The figures, however, include rubber, tea, oil and nitrate companies, which cannot be taken as representative of the British industry, and a classification of the figures into groups shows that the first three of the four groups mentioned recorded declines of 44.1, 21.4 and 3.8 per cent. respectively. Of the total net profits disclosed in the past quarter, 60.4 per cent. was distributed in ordinary dividends, 23.1 per cent. in preference dividends and 16.5 per cent. was reserved. The average rate of ordinary dividend for the past year works out at 10.3 per cent. as against 10.5 per cent. a year ago, conspicuous declines being recorded by the rubber and tea groups, namely from 112 to 6.2 per cent. and from 28.4 to 22.2 per cent. respectively.

The Royal Mail Affair.

Royal Mail Steam Packet ran into a squall last week. The first cloud on the horizon was seen over a month ago when the auditor referred to the book values of investments in allied companies, and to depreciation of the fleet having been allowed for at a lower rate than usual. The Royal Mail accounts and balance sheet are far from being very informative, especially for a company with such ramified interests. It was not unnatural therefore that weakness developed in the company's ordinary

shares. A further fall occurred last week, and from various quarters a re-assuring statement was asked for from the chairman, Lord Kylsant, but this was not forthcoming, although the general manager did definitely deny the truth of the rumour about a reconstruction of the company. The further weakness was apparently due to the knowledge of a disagreement between the chairman, Lord Kylsant, and his brother, Lord St. Davids, a trustee of the first and second debenture shareholders. Lord St. Davids in a circular to stockholders said that in the appointment of a successor to his joint trustee, Lord Abercorn, he was not consulted, and that his request for an interview with the auditor was refused and that the issue of the second debenture stock with which his name was associated was made without his foreknowledge, and he thought the position in which he found himself as trustee for two different securities of the company an undesirable one, and he was anxious about the resignation of the auditor. The resignation of the auditor has since been explained and is not a serious matter, but the other points have received no reply. However, at the second debenture stockholders' meeting the two brothers, to the delight of news hunting editors, nodded to each other and eventually left the meeting together. The R.M.S.P. has now entered calmer waters, and its shares have rallied. Last year the company made a profit of £457,216, showing a reduction on the previous year of £32,654 only partly accounted for by the additional debentures. The earning on the ordinary shares was 4.4 per cent., but 5 per cent., as in the previous year was paid. There was no allocation to reserve, and the carry forward was £26,284 less than the year before. The ordinary shares, assuming the same dividend, can be brought to yield £10 per cent. and the 5 per cent. second debentures give a return of £6 4s. per cent.

Tin Producers Association.

Elements of rationalisation are at last manifest in the tin industry. A month ago a powerful £1,000,000 capital company was formed, the British-American Tin Corporation, to deal in tin and to finance tin producers, and last week directors of British companies, representing an annual production of about 170,000 tons, formed the Tin Producers Association. The formation of the association is the outcome of a movement for co-operation in the tin industry, the case for which was vividly set out in a letter to a London newspaper a month ago. It was then pointed out that for April and May of this year the price of tin had been round about £200 a ton or £65 below the average of the last five years, that the sources of supply, which are limited in number, are being depleted while the need for tin is increasing, and also that price fluctuations are as embarrassing to the consumers as they are to producers. These reasons are more than enough to justify co-operation, but it is yet too early to say whether co-operation of all producers—including foreign producers—will be forthcoming, and it should be remembered that the British producers in Malaya where working can be carried on at a profit even at recent prices which has meant loss to others, may see no reason to join any price fixing movement. Price improvement and stability will be attempted, if it can be agreed upon, by restriction of output. If this occurs investors in tin companies will gain, but the failure of the rubber restriction scheme makes onlookers cautious, if sympathetic.

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A P. AND O. INNOVATION.

Third-cabin to Australia.

The P. and O. Company announce the introduction into their mail steamships Mongolia and Moldavia, each of 10,500 tons gross, of third-cabin passenger accommodation. In these vessels second saloon passengers will no longer be carried, and the arrangements for third-cabin travellers consist in the conversion to their use of the former second-class accommodation, including existing and additional cabins with two berths or four berths and a few six berth cabins; the former second-class dining, smoking and music rooms; and the former second-class promenade deck. Third-cabin fares to Australia have been fixed at £38 and £50, and there is to be in these ships a new minimum first-saloon single fare of £100 to Australian ports. The necessary work on the Mongolia is well in hand, and she will sail from London to Australia, via Marseilles and Ceylon, on September 6. The Moldavia will enter the new service in April next.

This innovation has followed rapidly on the recent internal reconstruction of the five 13,000 ton P. and O. Branch Line steamers of the Baradine class and the fitting of those vessels with auxiliary turbines on the Bauer-Wach system, with resulting extra power and speed which, incidentally, has admitted of their employment, at certain seasons of the year, as mail carriers working conjointly with the vessels running under contract with H. M. Government. Among the concerns which provide regular liner services between the United Kingdom, Mediterranean ports and the Commonwealth, the P. and O. has, ever since the institution of "Steam to Australia," occupied a foremost place, and the company's improved arrangements for third-class passengers may be regarded as a reflection of the higher standards of comfort which, in these later years, people have learned to enjoy. It will be no disservice to the need of an increased volume of overseas movement that such measures as those outlined above have been so quickly undertaken.

In March last 36 motor cars and 13 motor trucks and omnibuses were registered in Iraq.

It is reported that fruit crops in Bulgaria are on the whole good. Apples are particularly promising and heavy quantities are expected to be available for export. Apricots are also promising, but plums are expected to be only average, although quantities of both these fruits are expected to be exported. Cherries, raspberries, as well as dried plums, apples, and pears will also be available for export. Table grapes are expected to give the best yield this year in spite of the severe winter, and in North Bulgaria as well as Plevna, Leskovitz, Goma, and other districts record crops are expected.

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LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.

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Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*ELYRIA ... Aug. 9	†ASSYRIA ... Sept. 27
*ICASTALIA ... Sept. 10	†BRITANNIA ... Oct. 11

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.
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SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLES, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,

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TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Boiler Feed Pumping and Filtering Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of boiler feed water pumping and filtering plant. August 7. (D.O.T.)

Electric Lighting Installation.—The Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of an electric light installation and distribution system for the town of Kafr-el-Cheikh (Gharbieh Province). September 23. (D.O.T.)

Humidifying and Ventilating Plant.—The Egyptian Prisons Administration at Delta Barrage, near Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a complete humidifying and ventilating plant, and a few miscellaneous items comprising belting, wooden spools, paper tubes, etc., for a cotton spinning factory. August 27. (D.O.T.)

Steel Pipes, Etc.—The Ministry of the Interior Municipalities and Local Commissions Section invites tenders for the supply of steel pipes, sluice valves, hydrants, and drinking fountains. September 16. (D.O.T.)

Machine Tools, Etc.—The Prisons Administration, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of machine tools, engines (Diesel and semi-Diesel), boilers and electric batteries, etc. September 28. (D.O.T.)

Jetty.—The Director-General, Posts and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of pilgrim jetty at Tor as per conditions specified in the cahier des charges obtainable from Secretariat Department (Arsenal) against payment of five Egyptian pounds per complete set. October 1.

Paper, Etc.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper Bristol and binding materials required by the Government Press. September 14.

INDIA.

Bucket Elevators.—The Indian Stores Department, Engineering Branch, Simla, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of power-driven bucket elevators suitable for handling surki in a dry and finely pulverised form. August 12. (D.O.T.)

THE SUDAN.

Touring Cars, Etc.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of 3 four-wheeled touring cars complete and of 2 four-wheeled lorries, chassis without bodies, up to 30 cwt. capacity. August 10.

TURKEY.

Galvanised Iron Wire.—The Department of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 250 tons of galvanised iron wire as follows:—245 tons 4 m.m., 2½ tons 2 m.m., 2½ tons 1.5 m.m. September 1. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 6) (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 30); s.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 7).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 10); s.s. Masula for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Glasgow July 26, Liverpool and Swansea July 27); s.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Brindisi, Bari, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool August 3, Swansea August 7); s.s. Bantria for Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, August 31).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Bhutan for Calcutta (London, August 2); s.s. Rawalpindi for Bombay (London, August 2).

Prince Line.—S.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 3); s.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus (London, August 21).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Volturno for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa* (Liverpool, July 31); s.s. Andalusian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, August 8); s.s. Oporto for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Malta*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 10). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syra and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

THE AERO EXHIBITION.

A Wonderful Display.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The number of flying events in Great Britain this year, ranging from the opening of the England-Egypt-India service and the display at Hendon to the coming Schneider Cup Race, combine to make 1929 a landmark in aviation, and it is peculiarly fitting that this should have been the period chosen for the International Aero Exhibition at Olympia. It is nine years since the last exhibition in London, and in the interval the progress in the science of aviation has been remarkable. The exhibits at Olympia show the latest chapters in the history of the development of flying, and, it may be said at once, are a veritable revelation of the triumph of an industry which is only about twenty years old, if one goes back to its really serious beginnings. The Exhibition is naturally attracting crowds, but it is not yet drawing the multitude that it will when flight has really caught the public imagination. What is said of the Motor Show that it fills London will be said in subsequent years of the Aero Exhibition.

So far the progress of flying has been on very much the same lines as the development of motoring (which, be it added, only dates from the 'nineties) with this exception that the advance in aviation promises to be much more rapid. It was not until recent years that the motor manufacturers began to produce the cheap machine. The aeroplane manufacturers are already treading this road, and machines are on view at the Exhibition at no greater price than £370, and no doubt in subsequent years prices will be steadily reduced until the point is reached when every person who can now afford a motor-car can turn to flying instead. It may be said that the day of popular flying is still far off, perhaps a generation or two. To that view I can only reply that it is impossible to visit Olympia and seriously maintain such a proposition. If the Exhibition demonstrates anything, it demonstrates beyond argument that aviation has now passed the stage when only the specialist could participate in it, and that it is nearing the point when it will be as popular a pursuit as motoring is at the present time. It is very probable indeed that aviation has in store for it in this country

at any rate a greater measure of popularity than is possible for motoring.

Some of the exhibits are dealt with elsewhere in this issue by our Engineering Correspondent, and I shall therefore confine my remarks to some of the outstanding features of the Exhibition. The exhibits lend themselves to the broad division of military aircraft and machines for commercial purposes, and the former naturally catch the eye more prominently at Olympia because their construction has the greater popular interest. The fighting machines are of all types from the huge Handley Page "Hare" Day Bomber to the single-seater fighters and seaplanes. Among the single-seater fighters are the Fairy Firefly II. and the Hawker Hornet, which are members of a class which is still on the Secret List of the Air Ministry. Both machines have the new Rolls-Royce F engine. Of commercial machines there is a wide variety, ranging from enormous passenger-carrying aeroplanes to light machines. In this class special interest attaches to the cabin of a new forty-seater air liner of a type shortly to be used by Imperial Airways, which is shown on the Handley Page Company's stand. Only the cabin is shown, as space is not available for the wings of this aerial monster to be shown, but a small scale model of the complete machine is on view and enables a very good idea to be obtained of the power and grace of the machine and of the impressive sight that it will present in the air. The machine is a biplane of all-metal construction, and has four air-cooled radial engines totalling approximately 2,000 h.p. Handley Page automatic slots are incorporated in the design of the wings. The biplane, which has been specially designed for the England-India service, will have a crew of three. It may be mentioned that the largest passenger aeroplane at present in use only carries twenty passengers, so that the introduction of this new type constitutes a very appreciable advance.

The stand of Imperial Airways contains a number of most interesting features. There is a section of the cabin of an Argosy type air liner, enabling the public to test the seating accommodation while watching through the cabin windows a panorama of scenes taken on the England-India route. Another feature is an "Automatic Guide to Air Travel," which gives information about any air journey in Europe by depressing a push button. Samples of the varied types of merchandise carried by Imperial Airways are also shown to illustrate the important part played by this concern in commerce. Another stand of particular interest is that of the Gloster Aircraft Company, who, besides showing a single-seater and other machines, exhibit the Gloster "Survey" twin-engined all-metal biplane which is designed as a land plane specially for survey and photographic work, but is readily adaptable as a seaplane. The biplane has two Bristol "Jupiter XI" air-cooled radial commercial type engines. There is a special photographer's cabin, and there are three separate camera positions, providing for photographs at all likely angles. At the stand of the Dunlop Rubber Company a complete range of Dunlop wired type tyres for aeroplanes are shown as well as Dunlop well base wire wheels. It is an interesting fact that Dunlop tyres fitted to aeroplanes equal all other makes put together and that of the total wire tyres fitted 91 per cent. are Dunlop.

The Greek Government is to send a second Note to the Turkish Government on the subject of the alleged seizure of Greek property in Constantinople.

From telegraphic information received from H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople the Board of Trade understand that the new Turkish Customs Tariff will come into operation on October 1 next. Pending the enforcement of the new tariff, however, it is expected that provisional increases in the present tariff rates will be enforced from the end of August, by way of increase of the co-efficients applicable to the basic tariff duties. It is understood that a co-efficient of 8 will be applied in cases where the present co-efficient is 5, and that a co-efficient of 15 will be applied in cases where the present co-efficient is 9 or 12.

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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained from the following:—

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COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.8.

Company Meeting.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.

Unfavourable Trade Conditions.

The annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania, Limited, was held on July 17 at Winchester House, E.C., General the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence, G.C.B., presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The year 1928 has not been good for trade in Roumania, owing to the continued bad harvests and the shortage of currency, which has been particularly noticeable among the rural population. The straitened circumstances which resulted, with the inevitable reaction on trade in general, are reflected in a diminished banking business. Profits for 1928 show a decrease and the balance available is £11,162 14s. 2d., as compared with £12,223 in 1927.

Since the close of the fiscal period covered by the accounts now presented, conditions in Roumania have not improved. Many firms have sought the shelter of a moratorium and the outlook is very uncertain. In view of the prevailing state of affairs the directors have deemed it advisable not to declare a dividend and to carry the surplus for the year 1928 to a contingency account.

The rate of exchange remained stable until towards the end of November. The pound sterling at the beginning of last year was 792 lei, and until the end of November fluctuated between that rate and 807. At the beginning of December the leu had a set-back and in Bucharest the rate reached 835 lei to the £. Thanks to the intervention of the National Bank of Roumania on the home and foreign markets the leu rapidly returned to its former level of 807 to the £, where it was maintained until the end of 1928. In February, 1929, the leu was stabilised at 813.6 to the £.

The National Bank of Roumania during 1928 has endeavoured to help all branches of national enterprise by making the best possible use of the means at its disposal. The fiduciary circulation, previously limited to 21 milliards 71 millions of lei, amounted to 21 milliards 211 million five hundred thousand lei on December 31, 1928. In accordance with the agreement concluded with the Government on October 31, 1928, the National Bank was authorised to purchase foreign currencies with the lei resulting from the increased issue.

Treasury receipts from January 1 to December 31, 1928, amounted to 30½ milliards of lei. The estimated revenue in the State Budget of 1928 was 38½ milliards of lei. Thus, up to the end of December last, there was a deficit of 7½ milliards of lei, due partly to the extremely poor maize crop, which caused a reduction of revenue from export duties, and partly to revenue falling short of Budget estimates. This deficit will be reduced by receipts to come in during 1929 on account of the 1928 Budget, estimated at 2½ milliards of lei. The remaining deficit will be covered by bringing in the credit of 75½ million marks resulting from the settlement of outstanding debts with Germany, and by other resources.

The Budget estimate for 1929 amounts to 37½ milliards of lei; and amongst measures taken to provide for this, the Government has eliminated certain expenditure and has revised the system of taxes, augmenting some and creating others. It must be added that the following are excluded from the general State Budget:—Railways, 13½ milliards of lei; posts, telegraphs and telephones, 2 milliards of lei; pensions, 3½ milliards of lei. All obligations arising out of loans, whether pre-War or post-War, have been recognised by the Government and have been arranged for on an agreed basis.

An adverse trade balance of over 5 milliards of lei is shown for 1928, while in 1927 there was an excess of exports over imports of 4 milliards of lei. The exports in 1928 totalled 27 milliards of lei, against 38 milliards of lei in 1927. The imports amounted to 32 milliards of lei, as against 34 milliards of lei the preceding year. The exports from Roumania to Great Britain during 1928 were valued at £1,752,500, while in 1927 they totalled £2,376,000. The imports into Roumania from Great Britain in 1928 show a slight increase, amounting to £2,859,000, as compared with £2,683,000 in 1927.

According to official statistics maize provided the worst crop since the War. Official statistics show that during last autumn the superficial area for all crops was augmented, except that under wheat, which showed a marked diminution. It is, however, understood that steps have been taken by the Ministry of Agriculture to make up the deficiency in wheat by spring sowings. A telegram has just been received from our Manager in Bucharest stating that:—"Present indication estimated surplus available for export barley oats 30,000, maize 200,000, other crops 45,000 wagons. Too early accurately estimate maize but crops showing well. Anticipated best harvest since War."

For the year under review circumstances were not favourable to the oil industry. There was an increased production, but a continued fall in prices in world markets. With regard to refining, fresh progress is shown in the quality of the products, thanks to new installations for cracking, and to the improvement of the system already in use. The total production for the year 1928 reached 4,265,194 tons, and the export of petroleum products in 1928 amounted to 2,340,000 tons, valued at 8 milliards of lei.

During 1928 progress has been made in renewing rolling stock so that transport by railway has been better than in former years. Large sums in the general State Budget were earmarked for this renewal; but the available resources proved insufficient for completing the network of railways and for linking up the junction lines between Transylvania, Bucovina, and Bessarabia with the Old Kingdom as well as with the Danube and Black Sea ports. At present Roumania has only 11,000 kilometres of railway lines, which is not sufficient to carry the normal traffic of the country. To carry out the work necessary for making railway transport equal to the demands of the country would entail an expenditure estimated at 21½ milliards of lei, or about 130 million dollars. The funds needed for this work were expected to be raised by means of a foreign loan.

It must be borne in mind that, from the point of view of our banking development, the economic structure of Roumania has considerably altered since 1916—the year of entry into the War. Former recognised channels of employment for funds have diminished and new ones have to be employed. In such circumstances it is necessary to approach with caution departures from well-tried and established practice. The period of transition has its difficulties, and banking progress must consequently be slow.

Since the conclusion of the financial year to which the last Budget related, a loan of 101 million dollars has been floated, the main object of which was the stabilisation of the currency. Part of the proceeds are to be devoted to work on the railways. The achievement of this, as well as the realisation of the programme of the new Government, can have only a beneficial effect on the economic life of the nation; and given a succession of good harvests—so vital to the country—an important stage will have been reached in the adaptation of Roumania to the changed conditions which she has to face as a consequence of reforms introduced to meet the demands of the rural population and as a result of the acquisition of new territory.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

SUDAN GUM ARABIC SHORTAGE.

Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, in their report dated June 30, state:—

Arrivals in Kordofan Stations (El Obeid, Nahud, and El Odaiya only, all other stations having completely given out) amounted during the month of June to 795 tons, about half of which was rain-damaged gum, as against 856 tons last year—a shortage of 61 tons, or about 7 per cent. This month's arrivals have been the lowest recorded since 1923, during which season commenced the series of crops averaging 20,000 tons. It is noteworthy that arrivals during the month have been constantly decreasing from week to week, the arrivals of the last week being 140 tons, as against 200 tons for the first week.

The shortage in Kordofan and Tendelti this season to date as against last season remains about 4,500 tons; with the shortage of inferior Hashab estimated at about 2,000 tons, the total shortage in Hashab gums as against last season would amount to date to about 6,500 tons.

The month's prices at El Obeid have been characterised by violent and almost daily fluctuations. From the 1st to the 6th prices gradually fell, the fall amounting to 4s. 9d. per cwt. From the 9th, when the market reopened, to the 20th the turn the market took was on the whole an upward one—with the exception of one or two falls on the 10th and 17th which changed to still wider rises on the following days—the total rise during that period equalling 12s. 9d. per cwt. Since then, gradual and almost daily falls to the extent of 6s. on the total have set in. The net increase during the month amounts, therefore, to 2s. per cwt.

Demand has been greatly curtailed by the exceedingly high prices which have been ruling for gum for some time. On the other hand, arrivals are small and there is no real excess of supply as against demand at the present time.

Talha.—The total increase in price during the month equalled 4s. per cwt.

To the end of May exports of Hashab are down 2,200 tons. Bleached exports are 20 tons less, whilst Talha is up 660 tons against the first five months of last year. The net difference on all qualities is about 1,580 tons down. The shortage in arrivals will show up to a greater extent in the export figures for the coming months. Last year as much as about 7,700 tons of Hashab were shipped from June to November, the bulk of which was made up from stocks in the country, whilst this year present arrivals are no more, but rather less, than those of last year, and there can be no doubt that stocks are almost non-existent in the country.

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Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

The Aero Show.

The Aero Show at Olympia, certainly the most representative yet held in any country, is filled with interest from an engineering point of view. With one or two exceptions, which the general public is not supposed to know about, the latest products of engineering skill are on view and one is able to see, with a technical eye, the great strides that have been made since the War. Everything at the exhibition was in a complete state and every machine could have been taken away and flown without adjustment; every appliance could have been fixed in place and used in its proper manner. So far as I could see there were no oddities included; nothing of a freak nature. It is evident that the authorities made up their minds that nothing should be shown that was not of the highest grade.

From an engineering point of view I was very much taken with the excellent workmanship embodied in the A. B. C. Robin, a small, saloon bodied, single seater monoplane, with a two-cylinder engine, giving out, I should say, about 30 h.p., at 2,000 r.p.m., and which is about the same engine as is put in the A. B. C. cars. At its price of under £400, it is a really good proposition and as it should attain a speed of about 100 m. p. h., and be as easy to manage as a motor cycle, one can picture quite a number of young sportsmen taking a fancy to it. It is a striking contrast to some of the giant bombers that are on view, and in comparison looks much as a baby two-stroke motor cycle would look against a Leyland "eight," but it represents a decided step in the right direction. Perhaps the Aero exhibition would have appealed more to the general public had more exhibits been of that character; the machines and parts that were on view rather conveyed the idea that the future of aviation was in the direction of bombing towns wholesale and that passenger-carrying work and "joy-flying" was more or less a dream. Actually that is far from being the case; private flying is the pastime that offers a real prospect to the industry.

The de Havilland Moth series were also of the highest class, although they were evidently production work. They are none the less soundly designed and constructed; indeed, I think that were I ever to attempt to fly, I would prefer to take my chance on a production-made bus rather than on a specially made machine. I have given my reason for preferring mass production products and so need not return to that subject. Amongst other fine machines may be mentioned the Blackburn Bluebird, the Parnall Elf and the Westland Widgeon two-seater. All these might be regarded as being in the touring machine class, and as such appealed to a very high percentage of the visitors. Amongst the big fellows a word of commendation must be given to the Avro Five which, viewed simply from the point of view of its body work strikes a very high note. The big liners, so far as body work is concerned, are becoming more and more elaborate every day. They seem to be the last word in comfort, if not actual luxury, and it is difficult to see what refinements can be added to next year's models. The armchair type seats that are used seem to me to be just the thing for the motor coach, as they are more comfortable and are certainly lighter than the metal seats with upholstery. This weight-saving in big aeroplanes seems to me to be a move in the wrong direction, and that any disadvantage accruing from having such things as seats, fittings, controls and so on fairly heavy and so, broadly speaking, more reliable, could easily be off-set by adding a trifle more to the engine power. I remember we did that sort of thing during the War; made little brass cups to hold all the neat little brass screws that embellished the nicely French-polished woodwork of our machines, whilst the Huns

made their flyers out of corrugated iron and old dog-kennels, with the engines hefty enough to drag them anywhere. Still, there are differences of opinion on this point, and weight-saving just now is being practised in every direction in the aviation field.

So far as accessories, supplies and so on are concerned, we have the British Petroleum Company, Ltd., who display their "B.P." aviation motor spirit, the new "B.P." motor spirit, and the "B.P." commercial motor spirit. At this stand are exhibits showing the various methods of refining, storing, and distributing these products. Shell-Mex, Ltd., show a remarkable firm that gives a condensed, but at the same time extraordinarily complete, history of twenty-five years' flying. As one of a little band of journalists who was growing rather weary of waiting for a certain gentleman to fly the Channel during a warm July, away back in 1909, I was literally fascinated with the incidents shown in connection with Bleriot's historic flight. Actually, I found I had forgotten almost everything regarding male and female costumes. Can it be possible that we were the fellows who looked so quaintly dressed and were those fantastically attired young ladies, the fairy-like damsels who sometimes shared our lonely Channel watch. Then, also amongst the accessories and components, I found K. L. G., the makers of the sparking-plug which has always given such consistently fine results. If there should be, amongst my readers any airman, motorist or motor cyclist who does not know the good points of the K. L. G. plug, I strongly advise him to lose no time in getting particulars. The Superflex fuel piping people make a good show and I should think their piping would be just the thing for car work. Bendix-Perrot brakes also made a good show, and ought to be better known. When one comes to think of it, a set of thoroughly good brakes is quite as essential on an aeroplane as on a car, especially when landing in a restricted space. Other interesting stands were those of Auto-Auctions, Ltd., and of S. T. Lea, and even at the risk of over-running my space, I must mention the Auto-Giro, which is, I suppose, classed as a light or passenger carrying plane, although it looks rather heavier, with its luggage compartment, than I imagined it would.

Sewage Treatment.

Quite a lot has been written of late regarding small sewage plants, and it may be as well to remind readers that there are so many factors upon which results depend, that it is not only a difficult matter to compare one system with another, but such comparisons would also be unfair, unless every condition was similar. Just lately, reports have arisen of nuisances being experienced at certain activated sludge plants, and in common fairness it must be mentioned that there are a large number of similar plants in connection with which no complaints have ever arisen. A committee appointed to inquire into this matter has reported that from the observations of its members, no odours or objectionable conditions develop up to the point of disposing of the sludge. There is no nuisance

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connected with the treatment of the sewage, and if due precautions are taken in the final disposal of the sludge or residue, no complaints whatever are likely to arise. The report says that the sludge drying beds usually used are apparently inoffensive, and that it is the lagooning process, often carried out where local conditions are suitable, that occasionally causes odours to arise. The working up of the sludge into fertiliser is at times accompanied by a marshy odour which is not seriously offensive, and which apparently can be kept under such control that the plant cannot be charged with creating conditions any more objectionable than those attending many other industrial works. As everyone knows, or should know, the manufacture of fertiliser from activated sludge requires a good deal of technical skill, and it also requires a good deal of educational work and propaganda before a ready market can be found for the cake. Considerable capital outlay is required for plant and advertising purposes, but the inherent value of the material is such that the revenue from sale will quickly offset the cost of manufacture and, before too long a period elapses, begin to show a handsome profit.

Road Making.

In view of the extensive road making programme which it is believed may be inaugurated shortly in this country it is interesting to note that a well-known civil engineer with more than usual experience of his subject, has been carrying out a number of investigations with a view to standardising road making as far as possible. He says, as a result of his inquiries, that on hard surface roads the crown should be very light, about one inch for roads 18 or 20 feet in width, and so on in proportion. This hardly seems sufficient to many engineers and in all probability, no disadvantages but some advantages might be reaped from having it quite double that figure. The pavement surface, he says, should be free from humps and hollows, with a tolerance of not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in the longitudinal distance of 10 feet. The pavement should be finished with a belt of wood float, giving it a granular surface, whilst the shoulders should be well constructed and maintained level with the edge of the pavement, with a slope away from the pavement not so great as to cause a vehicle to overturn if driven on to it nor such as would prevent a vehicle from returing easily to the pavement. No doubt a good many engineers will be grateful to this gentleman for so kindly giving them such valuable information.

Mechanical Stokers for Small Water Tube Boilers.

Very interesting in steam generation practice is the progress that is being made by the smaller water-tube boiler in fields where hitherto practically no advance has been recorded, that is both the ordinary industrial establishment and the Mercantile Marine, as distinct from large Power Stations and the Navies of the World. In this connection a striking paper was read at the recent World Power Conference (Fuel Conference) 1928 by H. T. Bakker of the Koninklynke Paketvaart Maatschappij of Amsterdam, which gives much new information concerning the "Underfeed Type E" Stoker.

It appears that this Steamship Company, well known in the East and chiefly engaged in inter-insular traffic in the Dutch East Indian Archipelago, have 136 ships with a gross tonnage of 266,000 of which 10 are Diesel engine

vessels and 126 steamships. Of the latter 27 vessels, representing 47 water tube boilers and a consumption of 40,000 tons of coal per annum, are being operated with great success by the "Underfeed Type E" stoker.

The essentials of the matter are that with ordinary hand firing and smaller water-tube boilers the average results obtained by the Koninklynke Paketvaart Maatschappij are 58.5 per cent. steam generation efficiency, while with the stokers this figure is 80 per cent., representing an enormous saving, the CO₂ for example averaging 12 per cent., and the funnel temperatures 480-570 degrees Fahr. (250-300 degrees). In addition there are many other advantages, including no smoke, far better labour conditions in the firehole, and steady steam pressure.

Very interesting also is that the Koninklynke Paketvaart Maatschappij has a total consumption of 400,000 tons of coal per annum, of which about 60 per cent. comes from their own mines in East Borneo. This coal is of tertiary or semi-lignitic character, averaging 50-52 per cent. fixed carbon, 34-38 per cent. volatile matter, 2-3 per cent. ash, and 7-10 per cent. moisture, with 11,700 to 12,600 B.T.H.U. per lb. In spite of such figures, however, it is extremely difficult to burn this semi-lignitic coal with ordinary hand-firing, but there has been no trouble at all with the stokers, and further ships are to be fitted.

It will be remembered that the "Underfeed Type E" stoker is specially designed for industrial conditions on small water-tube boilers of any size up to 2½ tons or say 45,000 lbs. of water evaporated per hour, the essential principle being a grate with a trough in the centre at right angles to the front of the boiler, containing a steam driven ram. The grate slopes down on each side, that is parallel with the front of the boiler, being composed of hollow firebars with a slight reciprocating motion, and the air supply—by means of a forced draught fan—is on particularly ingenious lines. Part of this goes direct into the trough through tuyeres and the rest down through the inside of the bars and then into the wind-box below, and up between the bars in a highly pre-heated condition, thus giving most efficient combustion to the coked material in the latter stages, the final ash and clinker being taken from dumping places at each side, while the bars are also kept cool.

PROPOSED REVISION OF INDIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF.

The Government of India in a *communiqué* issued on July 22., announce that they have decided to appoint Mr. G. S. Hardy, Collector of Customs at Calcutta, to examine the possibility of substituting a system of specific duties for the existing system of *ad valorem* assessment of cotton piece goods. The *communiqué* adds they have also decided that, in order to give effect to the promise made by His Excellency Lord Irwin when he received a deputation from the Bombay Mill-owners' Association at Poona that their representations would be considered, Mr. Hardy should simultaneously ascertain and report what changes have taken place since the Tariff Board reported on the volume of imports, classes of goods imported and the extent and severity of external competition with products of Indian mills.

Those interested in either branch of the inquiry are requested to communicate with Mr. Hardy direct. Such communications may be addressed to the Cotton Tariff Officer, Custom House, Calcutta.

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Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) announce that they have received the following cable from their Cairo branch:— "The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Finance announces that the total imports for Egypt for the month ended June 30 are £E4,009,004, against £E3,982,049 for the corresponding month last year and exports £E3,185,501, against £E4,119,026 for June, 1928. Cotton exports were £E2,566,466, against £E3,395,474."

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 17:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—During the sessions immediately following our last report, conditions in this market continued to be quiet, with a somewhat heavy undertone ruling, values at that time inclining to the easy side, owing, in part, to the disturbed trade outlook, and also to the then declining tendency in both the Alexandria and American markets. At the lowest, the November option ran back to 15.50d., but, at this figure, more outside support started to be shown, both local and Continental speculative sources furnishing buying power. With good recoveries since in operation in Alexandria and America, our market has taken a strong upward turn, to-night's closing rates showing gains of 22 points for near and 20 to 34 points for new crop positions on the week.

Whilst developments in the trade dispute have taken a more favourable turn, inasmuch as negotiations on the wages question will now probably be commenced, the general outlook remains far from satisfactory in the fine count section. Sakel values are generally admitted to have been held at too high a level during the present season, and we rather hold with the spinners' standpoint that any material advance at the present juncture would be prejudicial to the return of a normal flow of business. The latter might readily be experienced with the removal of present complications and the establishment of an economic level in the value of the raw material. From this point of view it is to be hoped that the markets will be free this season from any form of Government intervention, and on this account it is rather disturbing to hear rumours of purchases of new crop contracts against recent sales made out of their old stocks. Most of the speculative buying recently attracted to our market has concentrated on new crop positions, January especially being favoured; in spite of this the current position continues to move up, and with an absence of adequate supplies of the tenderable qualities we are quite prepared to witness July closing in to a parity with Novembers before the end of the month. Private crop reports confirm the satisfactory progress outlined in last week's official communication.

Upper Contract.—Only a moderate amount of business has transpired in this market during the past week, and values have been governed by the fluctuations witnessed in the American markets. A steady demand for cotton out of the local stock continues to be experienced, and although a further hardening in basis has taken place, we remain well below prices quoted for similar qualities in Alexandria. Crop reports are still very satisfactory, and whilst it is yet early to form any definite opinions, reports from private sources are beginning to hint at a record yield. Weather conditions in America will probably govern prices in our market for the time being, and until clearer ideas of the staple crop from that country can be obtained we do not care to advise commitments.

Egyptian Spot.

There has been a material falling off in the demand during the past week, all sections of the trade adopting a waiting policy owing to the uncertainty regarding the labour position. In some quarters a strike is regarded as inevitable, but it is encouraging to note that the Ministry of Labour is trying to initiate negotiations, and it is hoped that between now and the 27th inst. some means will be found to obviate a general stoppage. In the meantime, until a clearer view of the outcome can be obtained, it appears useless to anticipate any expansion in business in actual cotton.

Sakels.—The demand for this variety has been very moderate and sales have been mainly confined to odd lots ranging in value from 100 to 200 on contracts.

Uppers.—The bulk of the week's business has been confined to this cotton, prices paid generally being in the neighbourhood of 20 to 40 on. The basis for G.F. to Strict G.F. continues to harden, and supplies of these in quantity will probably be difficult to find in few weeks time.

Pilion continues in steady request, and good stapled lots of this variety are becoming increasingly difficult to pick up.

Nahda, Maraad, and White have been slow of sale, only very few local spinners utilising these cottons at present.

Sudan Sakel is receiving more attention from both local and Continental spinners. Actual business has not been important, but there are signs that this cotton would move off freely given normal trading conditions. The lower grades in particular appear very reasonable in comparison to Sakel values.

C.i.f. business has again been very quiet. Forwarding to spinners amounted to 7,219 bales Egyptians and 1,883 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales, 1,900 bales Egyptian and 1,550 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakels are unchanged to 15 points advance; Uppers 4 points, and Pilion 10 points advance on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 16.75d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.39d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.50d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 1, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been exceptionally active, with irregular fluctuations, and at the close to-day the tendency was undecided. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: July, 31.60 dollars, 0.83 dollars up; November, 32.07 dollars, 0.80 dollars up; January, 32.62 dollars, 0.85 dollars up; March, 33.02 dollars, 0.85 dollars up. Ashmouni: August, 20.67 dollars, 0.28 dollars up; October, 21.04 dollars, 0.35 dollars up; December, 21.55 dollars, 0.37 dollars up; February, 22.03 dollars, 0.37 dollars up; April, 22.46 dollars, 0.40 dollars up; June, 22.86 dollars, 0.45 dollars up.

Sakel.—We have had a succession of active markets. The trade for some time past has not taken any interest whatever in this market, which is but natural considering the indifferent attitude of spinners regarding fresh business either in new or old crop. The Government has resumed its sales, and a fair proportion of the cotton offered has found buyers, at prices which we consider satisfactory to the Government.

The publication of the first American Bureau report giving 48,457,000 acres as the area planted with cotton, against 46,695,000 acres last year, was below the figure anticipated by the market, and this was a big contributing factor to the rise in prices towards the close of the week. In our opinion, this acreage estimate should not be construed as bullish, for, reverting to seasons 1925-26 and 1926-27, we find that the average of the acreage for these two seasons was about equal to the estimated acreage for the current season, and the average of the 1925-26 and 1926-27 crops was over 17 million bales. Naturally, the final figure of production of the crop now in the ground depends on weather conditions and boll weevil damage during the next three months; nevertheless, the possibility of a crop as large as the average of the two seasons mentioned above cannot be dismissed.

We give below the statistical position of Sakel in Egypt as at the

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE FOR "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.

Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.

Tel Aviv: Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

Librairie Steimatzky, Avenue Francais.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Baghdad: The Book Shop, New Street.

Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.

Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soutanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangere, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendo.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

end of June:—Stock Alexandria, 900,000 kantars (including the Government cotton). At the same date last year, the stock of Sakel in Egypt was 950,000 kantars. We would add, for purposes of comparison, that exports of Sakel for the period July to August last year amounted to about 380,000 kantars. The stock of Egyptian Sakel in England at the end of June was 61,000 bales, and of Sudan Sakel 94,000 bales, against 56,000 bales and 45,000 bales respectively at the same time last year. All things considered, the position seems rather heavy and the probability is that prices will decline further.

The Sakel/Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,103 points, against 1,058 points last week and 1,366 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—Price movements in this market have been less pronounced, speculators as usual preferring the Sakel market for their operations. The trade demand has not been a prominent feature. We give below the statistical position of Ashmouni and Zagora in Egypt at the end of June:—Stock Alexandria, 740,000 kantars. At the same date last year the stock of Ashmouni and Zagora in Egypt was 710,000 kantars. We would add, for purposes of comparison, that exports of Ashmouni and Zagora for the period July to August last year amounted to about 460,000 kantars.

The Ashmouni/American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 259 points, against 235 points last week and 521 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 1,080 kantars, against exports 116,286 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,950,726 kantars.

Spot.—The past week's markets have been very quiet indeed and the total sales only amount to about 5,300 bales, of which we estimate

2,140 bales Sakellaridis, 2,725 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 290 bales Pillion, 90 bales White, and 55 bales Nahda.

Sakellaridis.—The demand has moved towards the higher grades a little and there has been a fair turnover in the grades Fully Good Fair/Good and Good. Buyers are paying big prices for medium grade cottons, which are still in great demand. Premiums are much the same for the other grades.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—There is a good demand for anything between Fully Good Fair and Good, but offerings are very poor; premiums remain unchanged.

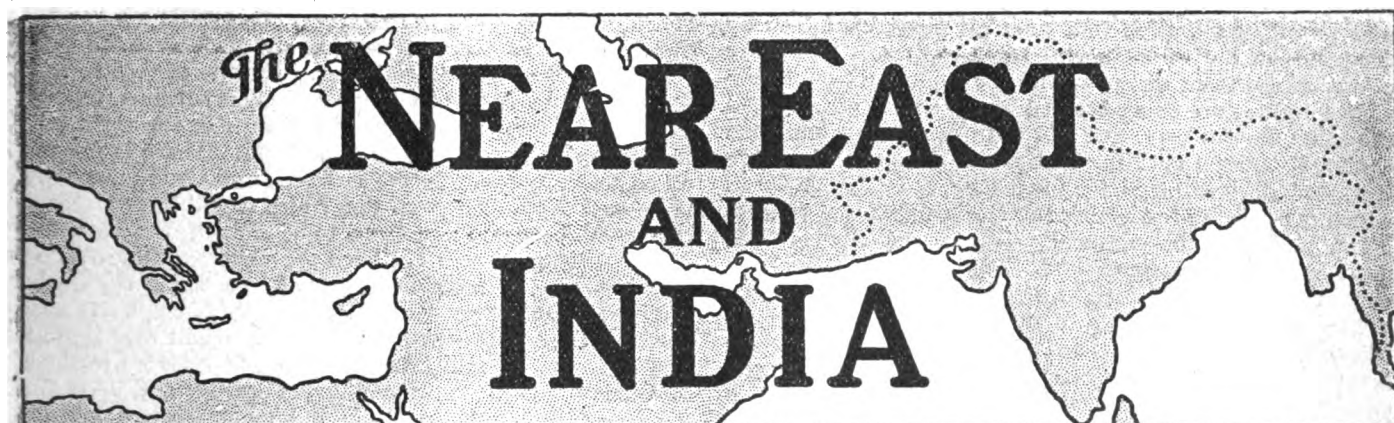
Pillion.—In fair demand, and most of the business has been for Fully Good Fair/Good and Good. Premiums have not altered as compared with last week's.

Crop, 1929.—Crop information received this week shows practically no change from that of last week; the continual fine weather is favouring the normal growth of the crop, and there is now little fear of any further damage from the leaf worm pest. Water is plentiful. If the prevailing favourable conditions are maintained, it is probable that the present crop will give a yield per feddan higher than that of last year; this remark applies equally to the fields of Lower Egypt as to those of Upper Egypt.

The number of passengers carried by the Hellenic Electric Railways Company, Ltd., in May was 3,033,746, an increase of 144,487 on the corresponding month of 1928. For the first five months of this year the passengers numbered 13,949,195, an increase of 677,941 on the 1928 figures, while the gross receipts were £93,404, an increase of £3,913.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on July 22.		Prices on July 22.		INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on July 3.	
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.			
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	...	81	...	Assam-Bengal	...	3½% Government Paper	...	1,427½	Rs. 67½
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890	...	71	...	Bengal Doonars	...	Imperial Bank of India	...	99½	
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	...	88	...	Bengal Nagpur	...	Bank of India	...	18½	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94	...	82½	...	Egypt Delta Light Rly.	...	Central Bank of India	...	5 as	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907	...	28½	...	Nizam's Gtd.	...	Coal.	...	464½	
Do. 7 p.c.	...	83	...	Ottoman (Smy t. Aid)	...	Baraboni	...	15½	
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	...	72	...	Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb.	...	Bengal	...	22	
Do. 5 p.c. 1884	...	72	...	Do. 5 p.c. 2nd Deb.	...	Burrakur	...	22½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	...	55	...	Piraeus Athens and P. 1st Bds.	...	East Indian	...	33	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	...	70	...	Southern Punjab	...	Equitable	...	42½	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	...	70	...	South Indian	...	Pench Valley	...	60	
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902	...	57½	...	Rubber.	...	Raneengunge	...	31½	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	...	60	...	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord.	...	Standard	...	705	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	...	77½	...	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	...	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	...	322	
Do. 7 p.c. 1924	...	100	...	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	...	Bowreah	...	173	
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	...	91	...	Hewagum Rubber Co.	...	Buckingham and Carnatic	...	1½	
Palestine 5 p.c.	...	102½	...	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	...	Cawnpore Textiles	...	305	
Persia 5 p.c. 1911	...	84	...	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	...	Century	...	456½	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext.	...	68	...	Shipping.	...	Central India	...	91	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	...	45	...	Anchor 5½ p.c. Pref.	...	Elgin	...	65	
Do. 7 p.c.	...	84½	...	Cunard	...	Khatav Mankhi	...	342	
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	...	106½	...	Furness Withy	...	Muir	...	146	
India 3½ p.c.	...	64½	...	Khedival Mail Ord.	...	New Ring	...	300	
Do. 3 p.c.	...	55½	...	P. and O. Deferred	...	Phoenix	...	387½	
Do. 5½ p.c.	...	100	...	Tea.	...	Svadeshi	...	540	
Do. 4½ p.c.	...	87½	...	Assam Co.	...	Alliance	...	281	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	...	18½	...	Bengal United Tea Ord.	...	Barnagore	...	528	
Banks.	...	7½	...	Brampootra	...	Budge Budge	...	382	
Agri. Bank of Egypt	...	4½	...	British Indian Tea Ord.	...	Clive	...	533	
Bank of British West Africa	...	40½	...	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord.	...	Dalhousie	...	563	
Bank of Roumania	...	80½	...	Carolina	...	Delta	...	857½	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl.	...	28½	...	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	...	Fort Gloster	...	435	
Chartered Bank of India	...	19½	...	Consolidated Estates	...	Gourepore	...	56½	
Eastern	...	6 11/16	...	Darjeeling Co.	...	Howrah	...	658½	
Hamros	...	10	...	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	...	Kamarhatti	...	560	
Ionian Bank	...	6½	...	Doonars Tea Ord.	...	Kankarrah	...	603½	
Imperial Bank of Persia	...	11½	...	Dooloomram Tea	...	Khardah	...	1,630½	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	...	17½	...	Doom Dooma	...	Kinnison	...	29½	
Lloyds	...	63½	...	East Assam	...	National	...	439½	
Mercantile Bank of India A	...	32½	...	Empire of Ind.	...	Standard	...	690½	
Do. B	...	33½	...	Halem Tea	...	Union	...	3	
National Bank of Egypt	...	35	...	Imperial Ind.	...	Miscellaneous	...	2 3/16	
National Bank of India	...	49½	...	Jhanzie Tea Association	...	British India Corporation	...	41½	
Ottoman Bank	...	11½	...	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	...	Bengal Paper Mills	...	225	
P. and O. Bank Corporation	...	8½	...	Jorehaut	...	Bengal Timber Trading	...	397	
Westminster	...	75½	...	Lanka Plantations Ord.	...	Burn and Co.	...	164	
Land.	...	4 1/16	...	Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	...	Cawnpore Sugar	...	12	
Kassala Cotton	...	9½	...	New Dimbula	...	Champaran Sugar	...	104	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates	...	5/9	...	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	...	Howrah Oil Mills	...		
Sudan Plantations	...	4 1/16	...	Nedeeem	...	ALEXANDRIA	...		
Mines.	...	5/-	...	Ouvah	...	Prices on July 12, supplied by G.L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.	...		
Salaghat Gold Mining	...	18½	...	Pabbajan	...	Agricultural Bank of Egypt	...	£725 32	
Burma Corp.	...	8 3/4	...	Standard	...	Alexandria Water Co.	...	£730	
Champion Reef Gold	...	12 9	...	Scottish Assam	...	Assoc. Cotton Ginners	...	£15½	
Mysoor	...	15 9	...	Scottish Tea and Lands	...	Behera Ord.	...	£F21½	
Nandyaoreg	...	10½	...	Upper Assam	...	Ciments d'Egypte	...	Fr. 120	
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	...	10½	...	Insurance.	...	Div.	...	£ 180	
Oil.	...	2 21/32	...	General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid)	...	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte	...	£ 116	
Anglo-Egyptian B	...	43 1/16	...	London & Lancs (£5, £1½ paid)	...	Credit Foncier Egyptien	...	Fr. 903	
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Steaun Romana	...	10 3/4	...	Oriental Telephone	...		...		
	...		...	Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord.	...		...		
	...		...	Waring & Gillow	...		...		



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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	121	INDIAN NOTES ...	130	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE —		Notes and News ...	135
Lord Lloyd's Resignation ...	124	Wahhabi Arabia ...	130	Notes from Bulgaria ...	137
SPECIAL LETTERS—		PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	131	The Week's Finance ...	139
Egypt ...	125	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	132	Motors and Motoring ...	140
Rumania ...	125			Engineering Topics ...	141
Yugoslavia ...	126			Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	142
Cyprus ...	127			Company Meetings—	
Calcutta ...	128			1. Furness, Withy & Co. ...	143
				2. Egyptian Delta Light Railways ...	143

Notes of the Week.

Methods and Men.

St. Paul's injunction that all things should be done decently and in order can hardly be said to have been followed by the British Government in its method of effecting a change in its representation in Egypt. It must, therefore, not be surprised that the circumstances of Lord Lloyd's resignation have been held to suggest over-anxiety to secure an effect which had been denied Ministers in the realm of domestic politics. It would almost seem as if the new Foreign Secretary had said to himself: "Here is a prancing Pro-Consul. We really must show the world that we at least have nothing to do with such things." Hence the early telegram "of such a character that I think most people would have accepted it as an invitation to terminate his position." The gravamen of Lord Lloyd's offence was that a wide divergence of view had been revealed, by a perusal of Foreign Office papers, between the position taken up by the previous Foreign Secretary and that taken up by the High Commissioner in Egypt. The latter had argued too fully and pressed the point of view of the "man of the spot" too much. Altruism in party politics is so rare that full credit must be given to the present Government for its efforts to accord posthumous peace to Sir Austen Chamberlain; for Mr. Henderson was careful to state that he had nothing personally against Lord Lloyd and that there had been no discussion with him of the present Government's policy in regard to Egypt. Even if Mr. MacDonald's Cabinet scented in the air a certain incompatibility of temperament between itself and Lord Lloyd, it might have recalled the fact that it was dealing with a distinguished public servant, who had held the post of High Commissioner in Egypt for four years. During that period Egypt had presented the striking spectacle of an Eastern country enjoying complete freedom from internal unrest and undisturbed by Communist doctrines. As a successful Administrator Lord Lloyd has a strong record.

Cui Bono?

It is to be hoped that the negotiations with the Egyptian Government will not be rendered more difficult, or, perhaps, entirely abortive, by the encouragement which Lord Lloyd's resignation will have given to the extremists of the Wafd in Egypt. For many years now they have been instilling in the ears of those Englishmen who listened to them how much they hated Lord Lloyd and what an obstacle he was to an harmonious understanding between Egypt and Great Britain. For the past year, however, they have hated the present Egyptian Government much more, and they may now be inconsiderate enough to believe that, as they have got rid of Lord Lloyd—for it may be taken for granted that Mr. Henderson's concern for Sir Austen Chamberlain's troubled hours will be represented by the Wafd as a triumph for the propaganda work of their agents in England among the Labour Party—they may still hope to be rid, somehow or other with the help of the British Government, of Mahmoud Pasha. The latter, in spite of marked achievements during his year of office, has still a difficult furrow to plough, and it would be a signal disservice to the man with whom it is hoped to negotiate a final settlement of the Egyptian question, if precipitate action over what may be regarded as a side-issue, should stultify his own work of appeasement in Egypt and so retard the development of Anglo-Egyptian friendship and co-operation.

Treaty Discussions.

Mr. MacDonald in his contribution to the debate in the House of Commons on Friday wisely left alone any considerations of the methods adopted to secure Lord Lloyd's resignation, and set himself to reassure public opinion on the subject of the conversations now in progress with the Egyptian Prime Minister in London. The situation, he explained, is being explored. There are the four Revised Points, and in connexion with each one of them there have been many proposals as to how they should be

handled. The Sarwat Treaty provided for a revision of the military occupation of Cairo at the end of ten years, and this matter was at that moment being examined by the heads of the three Service Departments. "All other points of the same difficulty and the same variety of possible solutions are being treated in the same cautious and the same careful way, and not until everything has been explored, and not until the best proposal that can be made has been devised, will the instrument, which is vital, which is living and to which the Government will commit itself, make its appearance." From the British side nothing better could be desired. The Egyptian side, however, must not be lost sight of, if the two Governments are to advance in common to the single goal. There can be no question that it was not the intention of the present Egyptian Government to raise at this moment the matter of a full settlement of the points at issue between Egypt and Great Britain. The Egyptian Parliament is suspended; Mahmoud Pasha has been in office for a little more than a year, and there has not been time for the Egyptian people to rid themselves of the habit of instinctive surrender to intimidation that characterizes them and of which the Wafd extremists made such wide use in obtaining their hold on the country. There is reason to hope that the people can gradually be weaned from this abject and ignorant subservience and acquire self-respect and a more independent spirit. Three years, however, were earmarked for the process. In any conversations regarding an Anglo-Egyptian Treaty Mahmoud Pasha, no less than Sarwat Pasha two years ago, must base his attitude on the terms for which he considers it possible to win acceptance in Egypt. To this end, if a document should be drawn up in London, within the next few days or weeks, elections would have to be held in Egypt and they would turn on the Treaty or no Treaty. The Wafd has made it clear that the latter is still its slogan. It will be heartened by the prospect of an early restoration of Parliament, and many of its numbers who were screwing up their courage to leave the Wafd will now postpone action to see how things go. The good intentions of the British Government in proposing settlement with the Egyptian Government are above challenge, but it remains to be seen whether it is thereby serving the real interests of Egypt in the long run.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

In the interest of friendly relations between all the Balkan States we cannot but regret that the Yugoslav Government should have considered it necessary to lodge a formal protest in Sofia against the amnesty accorded to Dr. Radoslavoff, who as Bulgarian Prime Minister at the outbreak of the War was responsible for Bulgaria's co-operation with the Central Powers, and to follow up this action by denouncing the Pirot Conventions. By the terms of the Treaty of Neuilly Bulgaria was required to hand over to Allied tribunals for judgment persons accused of acts contrary to the laws and customs of war. It is held in Yugoslavia that Dr. Radoslavoff comes within this category on account of Bulgarian excesses in Serbia and that Bulgaria was allowed to deal with him on behalf of the Allies; and that consequently she has no right to amnesty him without the previous consent of the Allies. There may be enough in the contention to enable international jurists to range themselves on opposite sides and to argue convincingly to their briefs; but a far more important point for the consideration of Belgrade is whether it was worth Yugoslavia's while to raise the matter at this stage, in view of the fact that the granting of an amnesty to Dr. Radoslavoff, who is seventy-five years of age and a broken, discredited man, can do no harm to anybody, unless it be to the Bulgarians by recalling the part that they played in the War. Europe is wearied of Balkan petty-mindedness, which is continually seeking causes for quarrelling and making mountains out of molehills. What is required is for one country to set an example of superior mentality, and so to try to remove from the Peninsula the reproach that has given rise to the term "Balkanisation."

Yugoslavia must regard it as a compliment that she is expected to set this example. She would find more general readiness to listen to her constant complaints about Bulgaria, if she had shown herself at any time since the War really superior to her neighbour. Europe cannot remain for all time divided into Allied and enemy camps, and be expected to regard the Allies as always in the right and the enemy States always in the wrong. There is far too much stone-throwing in the Balkans, and Dr. Radoslavoff is at best a poor target. The Allies would have risen as one man to help Yugoslavia to deal with the *komitaji* nuisance, if there had not been the uncomfortable feeling that Yugoslavia herself was gravely to blame for initial maladministration in South Serbia. An attempt has now been made to improve the state of affairs in that region, and if a more dignified attitude could be adopted towards Bulgaria's minor shortcomings, Yugoslavia would find Europe more ready to sit in judgment when a serious offence is committed or threatened. As things are, there is a tendency to dismiss every incident as "six of one and half a dozen of the other" and to anathematise both countries for their continual "scrapping."

Greco-Turkish Relations.

The protracted negotiations between the Turkish and Greek Governments over the exchange of populations, with its various ramifications, have finally broken down, and Turkey now declares herself free to complete the seizure of Greek property in Constantinople, valued at £400,000. This is a goal that, as far as can be judged from the Turkish Press, the Angora Government has long had in view. The rupture in the negotiations has taken place over the refusal of Greece to admit Turkey's right to forbid the return to Constantinople of Greeks who left during the Allied occupation with Ottoman passports, and whose property is now to be seized. The question is clearly one for arbitration, if Turkey seriously considers that she stands to suffer from the return of these people. Greece has suggested arbitration, and, if Turkey refuses, she will have already condemned herself. The seizure of the Greek property might serve a useful purpose in the country's present straits, but in the long run it will only render more difficult the recourse to foreign financial help that sooner or later Turkey must have, if she is to prosper.

The Situation in Southern Persia.

If the report be correct that the situation in Southern Persia is much improved, no one will welcome the fact more than the British, who, though they are supposed in unintelligent circles in Teheran to be the villains of this particular piece, are obviously vitally interested in stable government in Persia. We have done our modest best to scotch this ridiculous rumour of British backing to the revolt of the Kashgais and Bakhtiari, and we are glad to see that the opportunity has been taken in the House of Commons finally (as is to be hoped) to dispel this story of British malevolence towards the Teheran Government. The statement from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs we reproduce elsewhere in this issue. On the actual situation in Southern Persia news still remains scanty, but we welcome the report, published by the Persian Legation in London, which records the hope that further military steps will not be necessary. The seriousness of an expedition against such a powerful tribe as the Kashgais is adequately realised in Teheran, even if their susceptibilities are not at all times adequately considered. When reasonable terms of submission for the "rebel" chiefs have been discovered, it is profoundly to be hoped that a new orientation of policy towards the larger tribes of Persia will be made by Teheran. The attempts to "Teheranise," that is, to tyrannise, these tribes can never be successful; a different approach altogether must be made if they are to become, what they might very well become, a firm buttress of Persia's new and greater order. If there is for any length of time smouldering discontent among the tribes, it would not be difficult for the large class of merchants, who are already inclined to

groan under taxation, and for the partly neglected clergy to add fuel to a dangerous fire. There is, as we have pointed out before, no positive side to this revolt that can be discovered; it is for the Teheran Administration to see that none develops out of the negative attitude now being displayed by certain tribes.

The Tribes of Teheran.

As was remarked in an interesting article in *The Times* of July 26, the question of controlling the tribes in Persia is the most important of the moment. It is, of course, a problem by no means peculiar to Persia. In many other countries in the Middle East the chief difficulty of statesmen is presented by the precise way in which nomadic tribes, an integral and essential part of the population, shall become settled on the land and at peace with their neighbours. For without question the process, whether in smaller or greater degree, of Westernisation, which most of the Middle Eastern rulers have inaugurated or have encouraged in their domains, is incompatible with the complete conservation of tribal habits. Lamentation there may be over the passing of the picturesque nomad, but, if Western forms of governance, and, to a certain extent, Western ways of living, are to prevail, that passing is certain. But only if Western forms of governance are to prevail! If, in the name of democracy, the old kind of autocracy is indulged in—which perhaps as often as not means tyranny; if centralisation implies, in the East, corruption, oppression, and aggrandisement on the part of the stranger; if new taxation be devoted to projects in which the tribes can have little interest—then may tribal resistance to absorption in the body politic be long and vigorous. There are signs that Teheran has mis-handled this particular problem in Persia. The treatment by the Central Government, or by its local officials, of certain of the tribal leaders has sometimes been calculated to have but one result: the upspringing of a hundred other leaders, even more resolute against the Government, to take their place. But it is yet to be hoped that the Government will have learned a lesson from its experience during the last few years with the tribes. It is not very intelligent, after all, always to ascribe these repeated ebullitions against the Government authority to foreign intrigue, and we trust that Persia will henceforward look inwards rather than outwards for the source of her internal troubles. She has in abundance the intelligence and tact to solve her problems; let her, instead of applying wholesale doctrinaire formulæ, now and constantly use them. An amazing difference would very soon be noticeable—of that we are convinced.

An Earned Promotion.

We cannot let the departure from Iraq of Mr. B. H. Bourdillon, Counsellor to the High Commissioner, who, as we have already recorded, has been selected for appointment as Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, pass without some comment upon his remarkable record, both in the pre-Sharifian Mesopotamia and in monarchical Iraq. For twelve long years Mr. Bourdillon has faithfully served the interests of the British and of the Iraqis. His name has not, perhaps, been so much in the public eye as has that of other Englishmen in the East, but there are few who have so stoutly upheld at once the prestige of the Briton and the true interests of the inhabitants of Iraq as this unassuming Counsellor. His ability was proved time and time again. Often, it may be recalled, he had to act as High Commissioner, and frequently during the absence of the High Commissioner, decisions of the utmost importance both to Iraq and Great Britain were taken. They have all been justified by the result. Unquestionably it is to Mr. Bourdillon more than to anyone else that the smooth relations between the Residency and the Iraq Government have been due. His popularity with all sections of the Baghdadi community, nay, of Iraq's population, has been very considerable, and he will have left the country with the feeling that a worthy work has been worthily performed.

The importance of his new post in Ceylon is likely, we believe, rather to increase than to diminish, and in wishing him well in his new sphere, we have little doubt, in our own minds, that those abilities which were so conspicuously placed at the service of Anglo-Iraqi relations will soon be shining refulgently farther East.

The Process of Zionism.

It must generally be admitted that there are few more interesting studies in the recent history of international affairs than that of Zionism, the main creator of which, Herzl, died almost exactly twenty-five years. Herzl foresaw vividly a Jewish State in Palestine, under the British ægis if possible. At least he was trying, in the 'nineties of last century, to gain British support for his ideas. But although his was by no means a voice crying in the wilderness, and although the torch he held high has been waved, fitfully or faithfully, by an increasing number since his death, it is beyond question that the nature of the Zionism which he advocated has largely changed. For one thing, his advocacy of a Jewish State in Palestine was a direct protest against the anti-Semitism of Europe: the present Jewish movement in Palestine derives from no such impulse. For another, his whole ideal of a "Jewish State" is, if present indications of how the Sixteenth Zionist Congress, now in session at Zürich, will vote, are correct, destined to be banished. For the non-Zionists who are to be admitted into the Extended Jewish Agency will have no truck at all with Jewish Nationalism, and it is scarcely a rash prophecy that they will give a powerful impetus to the movement, already visible even among Zionists, for making of Palestine rather a spiritual and cultural centre than a purely Jewish "home." This change in Zionism—though, admittedly, you will find numerous Jews who will never admit that the ideals of Zionism can ever change—has not been lost on the Arab population of Palestine, who are now far less afraid than formerly of Jewish numerical domination. Unquestionably there has been a toning-down—a watering-down, as those Jews who are opposed to the conduct of Dr. Weizmann like to call it—of Jewish intentions in the Holy Land, and it is for this Sixteenth Congress to confirm the change. Whether the present state of Zionism will long endure, or whether, twenty-five years hence, there will be as great a difference from to-day as to-day there is from the death of Herzl, no man can foretell. Greater elasticity has come into the movement; whether that is capable, as the Zionists hope, of indefinite expansion throughout the world of Jewry, or whether, being of the nature of elastic, it is doomed to perish—as the gloomy ultra Jewish Nationalists think—remains to be seen.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1929.

LORD LLOYD'S RESIGNATION.

Three separate issues are involved in Lord Lloyd's resignation: his own record as High Commissioner in Egypt, the relations between the British Government and its representatives overseas, and the relations between Egypt and Great Britain. It seems unfortunate that progress in regard to the third, which is eminently desirable, should be considered attainable by his Majesty's Government only by impugning the value of Lord Lloyd's services to Egypt and to the Empire, and by challenging the established interpretation of the duties of representatives of the Crown. The dropping of a pilot is a normal occurrence when a ship puts out to sea; if, however, he is unceremoniously pitched overboard, uneasiness is apt to be created in the minds both of the passengers and of the crew. Lord Lloyd went to Egypt in October, 1925, with a definite mission. In November, 1924, the assassination of Sir Lee Stack had marked the zenith of the controversy with Great Britain. The unlooked-for severity of the British method of dealing with this crime had shaken the confidence of the Wafd, and Zaghloul Pasha was content for a period to leave the administration of the country in the hands of his political opponents. There was no indication, however, that he or his followers had abandoned their policy of uncompromising hostility to Great Britain; rather were they preparing to indulge it in more subtle ways than by crude murder, and for this reason the protection of foreign interests might well call for a higher degree of vigilance and an intimate knowledge of Egypt. Lord Lloyd, there can be little doubt, was selected for the post, which Mr. Baldwin has described as one of the most difficult posts to which an Englishman can be sent, on the strength of his special qualifications and previous record. To reach the desired goal in Anglo-Egyptian relations, a treaty of friendship, alliance and co-operation, he had to forestall any mischief contemplated by anti-British elements, lest further embitterment of those relations might ensue, and at the same time he had to support those Egyptians who showed themselves willing to co-operate with Great Britain, while always pointing the way to administrative efficiency and progress as the surest foundation for the treaty in view. When the draft Treaty that had been accepted by Sarwat Pasha was summarily rejected by the Wafd, Lord Lloyd contrived to bring home to the Egyptians the disadvantages under which they laboured by sacrificing good government to the obsession of mere anti-British tactics, that led the country nowhere. The outcome of his policy was the establishment of Mahmoud Pasha's Government, which decided to eliminate political controversy until such time as Egypt should acquire the administrative efficiency which Lord Lloyd had consistently held in view, to justify a satisfactory treaty with Great Britain. Up to this point, therefore, Lord Lloyd's policy had had the effect of strengthening the better element in Egyptian public life and of enabling it to assert itself against the strongly anti-British extremists of the Wafd. The relations between the late High Commissioner and the present Egyptian Government were correct; if they had been too cordial, it might have proved an embarrassment to Mahmoud Pasha and a disadvantage to Egypt.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has justified his action in dispensing with the services of Lord Lloyd in Egypt on the ground that he found in the Foreign Office papers dealing with the period of his High Commissioner-ship evidence of a very wide divergence of view between the position taken up by his predecessor, Sir Austen Chamberlain, and Lord Lloyd. On the five occasions specified by Mr. Henderson, when the differences of opinion were most marked, there would seem to have been a lengthy exchange of views between the two men, that testified to the conscientiousness with which each discharged the duties of his office—Lord Lloyd at pains to press the point of view of the man on the spot, Sir Austen Chamberlain no less anxious to understand or to criticise, until he could pronounce the Government's final verdict, to which it became Lord Lloyd's duty to give effect. The importance of Egypt's relationship to the British Empire can be held to render such a procedure essential in the interests of the two countries. There has been no time for any difference of opinion to arise between Mr. Henderson and Lord Lloyd, for the former had had, indeed, no opportunity of expounding to the High Commissioner the new Government's policy in regard to Egypt. In these circumstances, it might be thought, a more conventional method could have been adopted with advantage of announcing Lord Lloyd's resignation than by means of question and answer in the House of Commons—a method that showed little consideration for the high office held by Lord Lloyd or for his services to the Empire. Behind much of the angry comment to which Mr. Henderson's action was subjected in both Houses of Parliament lay the evident concern lest the new Government should be committing itself to the doctrine that the man on the spot is not asked to think for himself or have views of his own, but is merely to pass on decisions that have been taken in England without reference to any opinion that he may have formed.

More important than any personal aspect of the controversy that has arisen over Lord Lloyd's resignation is the question of the future relations of Egypt and Great Britain. It is an axiom with both parties that there can be no final settlement which is not ratified by both Parliaments. The Egyptian Parliament has been suspended, because it was a negation of constitutional government, and the object of Mahmoud Pasha's Ministry is to direct the attention of the Egyptian people to the benefits of material progress and efficient administration, until they are weaned from the oligarchic traditions associated with the Wafdist régime. For the time being, therefore, the Egyptian Government had no thought of raising the question of a treaty with Great Britain, but was prepared to be content, if it could obtain a modification of the Capitulations. When, therefore, the new British Government proposed to link up with the latter question the wider subject of an Anglo-Egyptian treaty, the Egyptian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, who are in London, could only fall in with its desire that they should formulate their views on the future of Anglo-Egyptian relations. Although the spokesmen of the Wafd maintain that Egypt will have nothing to do with any treaty negotiated by Mahmoud Pasha's Ministry, there can be little doubt that, if the treaty conforms closely enough with Egyptian aspirations, it might serve as a useful electoral issue for the restoration of Parliament. It remains, then, to be seen whether the British Government is able to offer the Egyptians a sufficient advance on the terms of the 1927 Draft Agreement to justify Mahmoud Pasha in going to the country on a new treaty. The 1927 Agreement might have fared better, if it had not insisted upon a hard and fast ten years' military occupation of Cairo. Egyptian *amour propre* will be met by a withdrawal of the British troops to the Canal Zone, and it will come as no surprise, if the British Government is now found willing to acquiesce in this scheme. None of the other points at issue present insuperable difficulties, when once the crux of military occupation has been arranged in a manner that will safeguard British interests without too patent an affront to Egyptian susceptibilities.

'The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Alexandria, July 19.

The Wafd's Agitation.

The Arabic Press has been extremely agitated this week on the subject of the proposed Anglo-Egyptian negotiations. Certain of the local newspapers received cables from their London correspondents stating that negotiations between Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha and the British Government were imminent, and although nothing official has been announced, that was quite sufficient to set up a stream of articles and interviews on the subject. The Wafd has been doing an immense amount of propaganda, both in England and here in Egypt, and the deluge of telegrams which have been sent to London newspapers, the British Government and the Egyptian Prime Minister, in London, have been directly inspired by the Wafdist Committees. *Al Balagh*, the Wafdist organ, during the early part of the week was issuing special editions as fast as they could be produced. Some of their leading articles are so incredibly stupid that one cannot imagine what Egypt's fate would be should the Wafd get back to power, but as their propaganda is primarily aimed at the entirely ignorant fellah, it is no doubt fairly efficacious. On the other hand, their methods, including the inspired telegrams, newspaper articles, interviews, and so forth, are so amazingly obvious that a certain number of their more intelligent supporters are turning away in disgust.

Prince Omar Tousoun, who is very popular with the more fanatical classes, and whose opinion carries a certain amount of weight, gave a long interview to *Al Ahram* this week, in the course of which he said: "My personal opinion is that negotiations on questions relating to Egypt should be preceded by a settlement of the Sudan question. Negotiations which take place before Egypt's rights in the Sudan are established would be putting the cart before the horse."

There is a general impression that parliamentary life will be resumed as soon as the Elections Law is modified. The alleged modifications will take the form of putting elections on the two degree basis, as opposed to the present open form. This reform is bitterly opposed by the Wafd, who, on the present method, would undoubtedly be returned to power, but whose chances would be considerably lessened were the electorate to be composed of the more intelligent classes only.

Wireless Telephones.

Negotiations were begun some months ago between the Marconi Company and the Egyptian Government with a view to the installation of a wireless telephone service between Egypt and England, capable of extension to other European countries at a later stage. One of the local newspapers has now published the news, which it states it has obtained from a very reliable source, that these negotiations have been completed and that the Egyptian

Government has approved the project. It states that the service will be inaugurated in the near future and that the following rates will obtain:—PT500 (five pounds sterling) for the first three minutes, with a charge of PT150 (one pound ten shillings sterling) for each additional minute. The Government to receive PT10 (two shillings) for each minute taken. There is bound to be a certain demand for this service, especially between Alexandria and Manchester, for the rumoured charges are not excessive when compared with the present cost of urgent telegrams to England.

Wireless does not as yet play a very important part in life in Egypt, although certain of the European newspapers are obviously obtaining a large portion of their news "from the air." As there are no laws governing wireless in Egypt, there is nothing to stop them; the only people to suffer are those news agencies which broadcast for their Indian stations.

The New Customs Tariff.

The Egyptian Customs Administration is working extremely hard in order to prepare its officials for their duties in connexion with the new Customs tariff, which will be inaugurated at the beginning of next year. Some time ago it was decided to send missions to France, to study the working of their system, and three delegations were sent. It is now thought that the officials who have already visited France are in a position to teach their more ignorant brethren, and so a series of lectures have been proposed, to be delivered by members of the missions sent to France and senior officials of the Customs Administration. It has also been decided to form a museum of samples of all articles imported, excluding such articles as engines and machinery, for the instruction of Customs Estimators. There is certain to be a considerable amount of confusion at first, but the authorities are doing their best to prepare their staff for a type of work which will be entirely new to them.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 21.

Administrative Reform.

During the last fortnight there has been great activity in internal politics. The Administrative Law, one of the fundamental measures pressed for by the National-Peasant Party while in opposition, was placed before Parliament and caused a great commotion. The National-Peasant Party announced that the basis adopted in this Law was the only one capable of stimulating into activity the political life of the country, by a distribution of responsibility and a better choice of the local administrative organs. Ever since they came into power it has been the main preoccupation of the National-Peasant Party to proceed as soon as possible to put into practice the policy that they had always upheld. After long reflexion and consideration the draft Bill was drawn up, with the approval of the Regency, and submitted to Parliament.

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Some politicians, however, had thought that it would be advisable to proceed first to measures of economic and financial reconstruction with the tacit approval of the Opposition parties, rather than to excite their resistance by introducing a Law which ran entirely counter to all their views, and the worst fears of these wiseacres were realised. The Liberal Party made a violent declaration that they refused to apply the proposed Law, not only in regard to the reforms that it introduces, but also to the whole of the measures it comprises.

The publication of this declaration of protest, however, caused a split in the ranks of the Committee of the Liberal Party. M. Duca considered that it was a premature step to take against a Government which was in a very strong position, not yet weakened by a long tenure of power or by the discontent of the masses at the necessarily slow re-establishment of the economic situation, or at the taxation that would be necessary to balance the Budget. M. Vintila Bratianu required all his authority to obtain at least the tacit support of his partisans to this measure, which they judged ill-timed. M. Duca, in loyalty to his Chief, was obliged to read the declaration to the Chamber of Deputies, although it was against his better judgment, and the absence of M. Argetoianu in the Senate, when the declaration was read, was significant.

This declaration drew forth from M. Maniu, Prime Minister, a masterly indictment of the Liberal policy—an utterance which has long been expected of him—in which he emphasised the deplorable situation in which the finances of the country had been left by M. Bratianu, but which he had so well succeeded in masking. The President of the Council declared that his Government intended to adopt a clear and straightforward financial policy, to balance the Budget and to introduce democratic reforms which were wise and necessary in the country's interests, in spite of the recriminations of the Liberal Opposition. The latter, he said, stigmatised as Bolshevistic the institution of village Councils in villages having under 600 inhabitants (these they call Soviets) and the election (not the nomination by the Government) of the administrative officials and fiscal agents. The Opposition also considers injurious to the national unity the creation of County Councils with their Diets, which, they say, will too greatly intensify provincial activities. They further consider onerous the appointment of regional administrators—or Governors—and they say that the upkeep of the staff required by these officials will more than swallow up all the economy effected by the suppression of the regional Ministries (Bessarabia, Bukovina, etc.) under the new Law.

On the other hand, the Minorities protested against certain measures in connexion with the administration of the municipalities and communes, which they claim to be disadvantageous to the minority population, and they threatened to withdraw from Parliament, as the members of the Liberal and Averescan Parties have done. The Opposition hoped in this way to checkmate the Government, for, if they persist in their policy, in spite of the Opposition protests, a bad impression will be created abroad, whereas, if they give in, the country itself will become alarmed. Meanwhile, M. Maniu, in the name of his party, is resolved to carry out his programme to the letter, in an honest attempt to achieve the aims which have long characterised the National-Peasants' policy.

The Religions Bill.

Another Law has roused sharp divergencies of opinion, and that is the law of M. Aurel Vlad, Minister of Cults, on religious exercises. The Jews protested against the paragraph which deals with the Jewish religion, because it provides the right to organise several Jewish communes in each town. Up to the present there has been only one, in which was centralised all the Jewish power with the support of the Government. If then the central commune reserves the right to subsidise any of the others that it chooses, this, say the Jews, will introduce political considerations into their communities to the detriment of

the interests of the Jews themselves. Several meetings of protest have been held on this account. In the end, however, the Legislative Council, with the assent of the Jewish deputies, modified two of the obnoxious paragraphs, in accordance with the wishes of the Jews, for, as M. Aurel Vlad said, the Government is anxious that no one should have any justifiable complaint against them in matters relating to religion.

An Abortive Plot.

An attempt has been made in some quarters to attach the importance of a rising against the State to a movement which was confined to a few vague agitators and persons of no influence or importance. The incident has left the population utterly indifferent, and, indeed, its ineffectiveness is more ludicrous than anything. Some unfriendly foreign papers tried to insinuate that it was a Carlist plot, but no one believed this, even before the publication of Prince Carol's indignant refutation of such a charge in which he gave every assurance of his loyal sentiments.



Belgrade, July 25.

Frontier Incidents.

The return to Sofia of M. Neshitch, Yugoslav Minister, and his pacific interview with M. Liaptcheff created an excellent impression, and it was believed that the tension between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria was ended and that the Pirot Conventions would soon be ratified and brought into operation. We were counting, however, without the Bulgarian *komitaji* organisation, which has no desire to see relations improve and the frontier incidents on which they live made impossible. Within a few days, as if in answer to Yugoslavia's pacific gesture, two *komitajis*, alleged here to have been sent from Sofia, were seen by an agent in Shtip and asked to show their papers of identity. In reply they fired at the agent, severely wounding him. He managed to kill one of them, but the other escaped and fled towards the frontier. The peasant militia turned out and aided the police in finding the second assassin, who was finally surrounded and killed after a fierce fight, in which he threw two army pattern bombs and fired many rounds from his automatic pistol, but without injuring anyone, fortunately. The men's arms were of Bulgarian army pattern and their underwear bore the name of a Sofia shop. Both were men who fled from Yugoslavia some nine years ago, after committing offences against the law and refusing to do military service, and joined the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation in Bulgaria to get a living. During the fight in Shtip two gendarmes were killed and two agents were wounded.

A few days later, after a long period of peace, a band of Albanian *katchaks*, bandits who live in the forests in summer and rob the villagers in the plains and any chance passers-by, crossed the frontier near Struga and tried to drive off the cattle of several neighbouring villages. The police were informed and caught up with the bandits in the thickly forested frontier region, where a running fight began, which lasted two days. Several gendarmes and one peasant were wounded in the fray, but the *katchaks* managed to carry off all their wounded and, aided by night and the thick forests, to make good their escape. Great activity has been shown in the Albanian frontier districts by *katchaks* and also by *komitajis* hail-

ing from Bulgaria. The Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier is now so well defended, that it is with increasing difficulty that *komitajis* manage to steal across unseen. Attempts are, therefore, being made to concentrate action on the less defended frontiers of Albania and Greece. The recent visit of Mihailoff, the Macedonian Revolutionary leader, to Rome and the apparent wealth he now enjoys would seem to lend colour to the suggestion that Italy is financing the work of the *komitajis* in keeping the Balkan States in a state of tension and so preventing their peaceful development politically, socially and economically. So long as such action continues and no action is taken by the Bulgarian Government to prevent it, Yugoslavia regards it as absurd to talk of the ratification of the Pirot Conventions or the establishment of normal and friendly relations between these neighbour States.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

In addition to *komitaji* action, the entertainment of Croat renegades, Press and other attacks on Yugoslavia freely allowed in Sofia and throughout the country, the Bulgarians have committed what is at least the very tactless action of amnestying a number of war-guilt prisoners, including the former Prime Minister, M. Radoslavoff, General Jekoff, and others who were responsible for issuing the orders for the extermination of Serbian intellectuals, teachers, priests, civil servants and others, in South Serbia and Macedonia during the Bulgarian occupation. These men were tried in accordance with the terms of the Peace Treaty between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, but were allowed to be tried by a Bulgarian Court. They are not, however, ordinary criminals, and their amnestying is not a purely internal affair, as the Bulgarians state. The step is regarded as a deliberately offensive act by the Yugoslavs, and that it should be made just at a time of crisis shows, it is suggested, either complete lack of tact and political wisdom or a definite desire to stimulate ill-feeling and to prevent all attempts to improve relations between the two States made by the new Belgrade Government.

The Question of Reparations.

In preparation for the meeting on Reparations soon to be held, M. Spalaikovitch, Yugoslav Minister in Paris, M. Juritch, Minister in London, and M. Boshkovitch, permanent delegate to the Reparations Commission, have been called to Belgrade and are holding a series of meetings under the presidency of M. Ouzunovitch with a view to working out a policy for the country. Yugoslavia is not satisfied with the suggestion that her share of reparations should be cut down, since she suffered far more severely than any other State during the War and has a far more real need for the materials which she has been receiving by way of reparations than most of the other Allies.

The King's Tour.

King Alexander returned to Belgrade a few days ago after a long tour of the Adriatic Coast. Everywhere he was most loyally and enthusiastically received, and it is to be hoped that such tours of the new provinces, which do much to bring the people together and to encourage a sense of duty, will become more and more frequent.

The New Agrarian Bank.

Over 550,000,000 dinars worth of shares of the Privileged Agrarian Bank having already been subscribed, the subscription list is now closed and the first general meeting of shareholders will be held on August 15 in the Belgrade University. Before long it is hoped that the bank will be at work—in time to deal with the needs of the peasants during the movement of the crops, which will begin very soon now. The wheat and barley crops everywhere are now safely harvested and have given an excellent yield—in the dry limestone districts such a harvest is a record for some sixty years. The maize promises well, as do also the vines; but fruit has not been a great success this year.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 16.

The King's Recovery.

Thanksgiving Services for the King's recovery were held on July 7 at St. Paul's Church, at Nicosia, and the Garrison Chapel on Mt. Troodos. Services were also held in the Greek Cathedral Church at Nicosia, and in those of the Armenian and other communities.

The Governor.

It is not known yet at which port Sir Ronald Storrs will land. He will, it is said, pass the remainder of the summer not, as expected, on Mt. Troodos, but at Kyrenia, on the picturesque northern coast. Kyrenia is a charming little district, possessing many attractions, and a favourite resort. It is only 16 miles from Nicosia, and faces Asia Minor, with its lofty Taurus range, looking across 40 miles of sea.

Death of Ex-King Husain's Wife.

The wife of the venerable Ex-King Husain, Hatiji Adité Hanem, passed away on July 10. A service was held in the Mosque of Ayia Sophia, and was attended by a large number of Muslims, including members of the family and leading notables. The body was taken to Larnaca for burial in the Tekké Khalat es-Sultan, a few miles from the town, on the border of Salt Lake, a shrine which is held in great honour, and much visited by Muslims, being the burial place of Um Haram, of the family (some say Aunt), of the Prophet. The sons of the Ex-King, the Amir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan, and the Amir Ali, have paid visits to him in the present month.

The Locust Campaign.

The season for fighting the swarms, which hatched out chiefly in the Eastern districts of the Island, ended on June 15. Over 80 tons of the pest were destroyed, and about 260 acres (English) were sprayed with the poisonous mixture now in use.

The English Language.

Examinations in the English language held annually show that the number of candidates that present themselves continues to increase. In an examination held recently 47 candidates passed with distinction, and 115 succeeded in the more ordinary test. It may be mentioned that a Turkish officer of the Police, Faiz Bey, has been lately called to the Bar in London, and also a Greek of Nicosia, C. E. Glykys.

General News.

From July 19 steamers of the Eastern Mediterranean Express Line will, it is said, touch at Limassol, and will connect the Island with Marseilles, Piræus, Syria, and Egypt. The agents in Cyprus are Messrs. N. P. Lanite and Co.

Mr. P. S. Walsh has been appointed President of the District Courts of Nicosia and Kyrenia.

The price paid for sparrows is now half a piastre—rather over ½d.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 11.

The King's Speech.

A sigh of relief went up from many here, when it became known that there was nothing about India in the King's Speech—no rash commitment of the new Government in Great Britain about the course to follow in Indian affairs. Mr. Fenner Brockway, then, is not to dictate to the Prime Minister in that field of politics? That is to the good. Mr. MacDonald, after all, could not but feel bound to honour the bill of confidence that Sir John Simon and his colleagues drew on all the British parties, when they accepted their onerous task. One may regret that the Statutory Commission was composed as it was; one may think that its leadership, for all Sir John's great ability, was far from perfect; that, for instance, the Commission inquired in India into far too many details. One may believe that the findings of the Commission will probably err too much on the side of caution to follow far, or, in other words, that the Commission, in effect, will have finally to be dropped; but it must be seen that the Prime Minister can do nothing until it has reported. He can only act with the Report in his hands, even if then he is to stand with his hands behind his back.

The Prime Minister and the Pandit.

The most welcome part of the Prime Minister's speech in the course of the debate on the Address was undoubtedly this: "Again I feel it my duty to ask representatives of Indian opinion to re-open the doors of their minds and consider whether they may not now come to help us and give a happy and beneficial solution of this very difficult question." It has not, unfortunately, been welcomed by Pandit Motilal Nehru, the leader, as President for the year, of the Congress Party. He has just said—after, that is, two days or so in which to reflect—that the Prime Minister's speech has added insult to the injury of the Commission. That is not true: there is not a word in the speech that any sane man could construe as insulting; but Indians are a people who live all their lives among words, yet never attain to any exact sense of what they mean. Or rather of what English words mean: they do better in their own tongues.

"Adding Insult to Injury."

"Mr. MacDonald's speech," Pandit Motilal has said, "adds insult to injury. The Labour Party having, before they came into power, committed themselves to the appointment of the Simon Commission, were not expected to have the courage to confess their mistake and begin on a clean slate. But apart from taking part in the high-handed policy of forcing the Commission on India against her will, Mr. MacDonald must be presumed to be well aware of the humiliation to which the country was subjected by brutal assaults on peaceful demonstrators, which included some of its highly respected citizens. After this, to talk of the situation created by the Commission as one that is going to bring 'peace, happiness and dignity to India' is nothing short of an outrage on India's sense of honour." It would have been far better if the Pandit had thought of India's sense of humour. In politics she may not have much: she has a glimmering. Almost every word in the above offends one's sense of humour, or rouses it into activity. The Prime Minister cannot have said, and did not say, that the Commission had created a situation. No Commission can do that. A Commission is appointed, whenever one is, because time has created a situation that needs looking into by a public body. Some action is called for in the time-created situation—what action? The public body is to answer that question. It is perfectly true that the Indian situation, one that existed before the Statutory Commission was appointed, promises, if wisely handled, to bring 'peace, happiness and dignity to India.' It will

whether the Pandit and his Party help or refuse to help. It would smooth matters somewhat, if they would help: that is all the difference it would make.

Public Words; Private Words.

One could forgive him, if the Prime Minister, on reading the cabled text of Pandit Motilal's reply to his House of Commons speech, should have said, "what an utterly impossible people!" They are not utterly impossible: often they say very different things in public and in private. In public they are being listened to by many claimants to their thrones: they have to toe the Party line, or their thrones will be toppled over. I was walking recently with an Indian, one of the judges (it was not in Calcutta). He was in politics before his elevation to the Bench. He knows all about them. He knows how far words are put into their mouths by those who mean to lead revolts in the Party, if the words are not spoken. The judge confessed that he had himself "never been left alone for a minute for introspection." His picture of Pandit Motilal Nehru, for it was of him that he was speaking, was of a man almost harried into saying too much. He did not excuse the Pandit, but condemned him, saying that at another time it might not have mattered so much, but that at this time of crisis it did matter. This was a time when the leader of the Congress Party *should* lead, and not suffer himself to be driven from behind. "Furthermore," said my friend, "this talk of Dominion Status for India is absurd. India never can be *one* Dominion, or one anything; there is much too much diversity of race in India." "I suppose there is," I interjected, "as much diversity between the men of the south of India and those of the north as between, say, Frenchman and Hungarian." "There is more," said the Judge; "the French and the Hungarians have at least their colour in common. The people of Madras and the people of the Punjab haven't even that."

Words, Words, Words.

There is, then, this difference between words said in public and those they say in private. Furthermore, as I have already remarked, words are commonly used in India with only half their meaning. The Prime Minister need not think it a hopeless case. He need not, nor need the new Secretary of State for India. All may yet be well. If Pandit Motilal Nehru has used too strong language—too strong, that is, if the words are to be taken as having in India their sense in England; but words never have—he has merely talked of the Prime Minister as the members of the Congress Party talk of each other. I have just been reading a column by a member of that Party on the question, who should be President of the Congress next year? Mr. Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal, or Mr. Vallabhai Patel? This is a morsel from it: "The acid test of leadership, they say, lies in the success of such a struggle and not in a mere *flair* for talking big like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, even though with transparent honesty and conviction." No one on earth but in India, this land of half meanings of words, is ever thought of as talking big "with honesty and conviction;" there is an element of bluff always in talking big. No one can have a *flair* for talking big. All the critic of Pandit Jawaharlal meant is that that politician is better than most at "building the lofty speech"—that, and that he is not much use at anything else. We knew that already.

Communalism and Education.

While Pandit Motilal Nehru is magnifying Mr. MacDonald's appealing to the Indian leaders, while he knows that the presence of Sir John Simon and his colleagues in India led to some broken heads—not so very many, though, and it was much the fault of the bearers of those heads—while the Pandit is magnifying that for his followers into an "outrage on India's sense of honour," his conduct and that of others lead to things that neither he nor they ever take to heart as they should. The Director of Public Instruction of the Bombay Presidency

has such things as this to say in his quinquennial report: "The chief result of the reforms is the emphasis they have given to differences of religion and caste owing to the system of special representation which they have set up, and nowhere have the evils of communalism been more conspicuous than in the administration of primary schools by local authorities." The private lives of schoolboys and college students in India are always more deeply affected by political movements and their excitement than any other lives in India. You hear that Mr. MacDonald or Mr. Baldwin has addressed a political meeting. You think of grown men and women as forming the bulk of the audience. In India it would be schoolboys and college students.

Another thing in the Director's report, but this has nothing to do with communalism, is that the "continual increase in secondary education means a continual lowering of the standard, since the new recruits represent generally lower intellectual strata." That is it: educational work in India, because the best brains in India are never given to it, grows yearly worse.

The Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme.

There is interesting information, in a speech of the Minister for Agriculture in the Punjab, Sir Jogendra Singh, about the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme. Use is to be made of the snow-fed water of the Uhl, a tributary of the Beas. The water is to be diverted through a tunnel $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, located in rock, and then dropped 1,800 feet to a power-station, where 36,000 kilowatts could be generated. This is the first stage of the scheme only. In the second a dam will be constructed, on a site that might, the Minister said, have been provided by Nature for that special purpose. This would enable the supply to be increased to 70,600 kilowatts. There is still a third part of the scheme, but this part may not be carried out in this generation.

INDIA'S WATERWAYS.

(From a Correspondent.)

It was mentioned in a recent issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA that efforts are being made by commercial interests to persuade the Government of India to undertake an inquiry into the problem of the development of the Indian waterways. Insufficient attention has been hitherto paid to this problem, and an investigation, if it were comprehensive and thorough, could hardly fail to be productive of useful results. The local Governments look after the interests of the waterways, while the railways are under the control of the Central Government. This unsatisfactory arrangement has created a feeling that the interests of water transport are sometimes subordinated to the interests of rail transport. Indeed, for years past complaints have been made of unfair railway competition; and it has been alleged that railways have been constructed in areas which are adequately served by waterways. One of these cases is under discussion in India at the present time, and it has formed the subject of a strong criticism by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Bengal is bountifully provided with navigable rivers, particularly in the eastern part of the province; and railway extension in Eastern Bengal certainly cannot be regarded as a pressing need. There are many other parts of the country where new lines are much more urgently wanted, as the transport requirements of Eastern Bengal can be adequately supplied by the waterways and the existing railways. Nevertheless, the Government of India has decided to build a new line in this part of the province. This railway—which will run from the district of Narainganj to a point opposite Goalundo—is estimated to cost Rs. 203 lakhs, of which Rs. 27 lakhs have been provided for the current year. The area to be served is largely bounded by the Dhalleswari river on the one side, and by the Padma on the other. The line will necessitate the construction of a bridge across the Dhalleswari and the pro-

vision of a wagon ferry across the Padma to Goalundo, where it will connect with the mail line of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

It is not surprising that this project should have aroused criticism. The line must depend to a large extent for its revenue on the share of the jute and coal traffic which it can attract. Raw jute is carried from the districts which the railway will serve to Calcutta, while coal is carried in the other direction from the Bengal and Behar mines to Narainganj, Dacca and elsewhere.

Both the jute and the coal traffic are adequately catered for by the existing river steamer services. Of the jute a large proportion goes to the Calcutta mills, who prefer to have it delivered to them from the river rather than from the railway. In fact, their representative organisation, the Indian Jute Mills Association, strongly opposes the new line, and deprecates the expenditure of public money upon it. This being the position, it is questionable if the line will be used to any appreciable extent for the carriage of jute to the Calcutta mills. Similarly there seems to be but little likelihood of the railway carrying much coal, except, of course, for its own consumption. For many of the scattered places on the rivers where the coal is wanted will not be accessible to the new line.

There is no other class of traffic available in sufficient volume to make the line a paying proposition. In fact, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has confidently asserted that it will not be able to show even the smallest return on the capital invested in it unless it can succeed in attracting traffic which is already adequately provided for by the river steamer services. There is another point which should also not be overlooked. During the busiest part of the jute season each year congestion occurs on the main line of the Eastern Bengal Railway. It is sometimes impossible to obtain wagons for extended periods, and large quantities of jute are consequently held up at the dispatching stations. It is, as has been shown, very unlikely that the new line will carry appreciable quantities of jute. But should it do so, the result will be that this annually recurring congestion will be intensified.

How in such circumstances the scheme was ever sanctioned is difficult to understand. The Bengal Chamber complains that insufficient opportunity was given to the public to express their views upon it. And the Chamber goes on to urge that all proceedings in connexion with the line should be suspended forthwith and a public scrutiny instituted. This would seem to be sound advice, as it is clearly unwise to spend a large amount of public money on a line which is unlikely to be remunerative, and which will interfere with private enterprise.

As is well known, the State has to find all the capital which is required for railway development in India. And, as was admitted recently in the Council of State, it will not be easy to raise all the money which will be required for this purpose if railway development is to keep pace with the needs of the country. The Government spokesman in the Council debate went on to say that it is therefore very important for the State to encourage private enterprise to provide the capital required for the development of other forms of transport. This is, of course, quite right; but such a statement makes it more than ever difficult to understand why the Government should want to build a railway which must compete with another form of transport provided by private enterprise.

A John P. Saunders Memorial Fund has been opened at the King's School, Peterborough, to perpetuate the memory of the young officer of the Indian Police who was assassinated when on duty on December 17 last, during the disturbances which took place on the occasion of the Simon Commission's visit to Lahore. The fund is intended to provide a memorial leaving scholarship and a tablet in Peterborough Cathedral, with a replica in the school. A memorial and benevolent fund is being raised in India in honour of Mr. Saunders and of Charan Singh, the Sikh police clerk who was shot while attempting to arrest the assailants of Mr. Saunders. It is probable that identical tablets will be put up in Lahore and Peterborough Cathedrals. Donations may be sent to the Headmaster of King's School, or to the Midland Bank, Peterborough.

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

The Joint Free Conference, comprising the members of the Statutory Commission and the Indian Central Committee, resumed its sittings on July 23, when Sir Atul Chatterjee, the High Commissioner for India, gave evidence regarding the work and administration of his office, with particular reference to the quasi-diplomatic functions which he is called upon to exercise in that capacity. Sir John Simon presided.

On July 25 Sir Arthur Hirtzel, who has been Permanent Under-Secretary of State for India since 1924, was orally examined on a memorandum relating to the administrative functions of the India Office, including the future of the India Office.

The Joint Free Conference also reassembled the following day to hear the evidence of a delegation from the Indian Civil Service (Retired) Association, headed by the Chairman, Sir Reginald Craddock, a former Governor of Burma. A summary of the Association's written representation to the Statutory Commission appeared in the issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of December 13, 1928.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Assam Floods.

According to the latest information it would seem that about 48,000 people are in need of relief by reason of the floods in Assam. The districts affected are Cachar and Sylhet in the Surma Valley Division of the province, and Nowgong in the Assam Valley Division. In Nowgong the floods were caused by the rapid rising of three rivers which by June 12 had spread out over the countryside. It was not until about ten days later that the water began to subside; and by that time some 30,000 people had been driven from their homes. Fortunately there was no loss of human life, and comparatively few cattle were drowned. In the Surma Valley the floods were on a more extended scale. In Cachar an area of about 1,900 square miles was inundated, and in Sylhet the greater part of the district (some 5,000 square miles) was similarly affected. The Surma Valley floods were caused by a storm burst in Manipur coinciding with heavy rain in the hills surrounding Cachar. By June 15 many villages were completely under water, the flood level being considerably higher than was recorded during the great inundation of 1916. Enormous damage was done to crops in Cachar, and some of the tea gardens also suffered more or less severely. In Sylhet the whole of one subdivision, the greater part of another, and a large proportion of a third were badly damaged. For more than a week many villages were under water the people being compelled to live in the trees, or in boats, or in any other available places of refuge. The rice crops, which were due to ripen in the autumn, were mainly destroyed; the cattle mortality was very heavy; and innumerable houses were washed away. Relief measures seem to have been promptly organised, and it is satisfactory to see that the Swarajists worked in harmony with the Government officials. The Government of Assam and the Government of Bengal co-operated in dealing with the situation, the first-named sending money for distribution by the district officers, while the Government of Bengal forwarded considerable quantities of rice. The district of Cachar is said to have suffered most, as regards immediate damage. But it is anticipated that a food crop may still be raised there in November after re-sowing. The prospects are really more gloomy in Sylhet, as in that district large areas cannot be replanted until March or April next. Relief measures will require, therefore, to be in operation for some considerable time; and appeals for funds have accordingly been made in Calcutta and throughout the two provinces. The Government of Assam would seem to be doing all that is possible at the moment, but it is very desirable that their efforts should be supplemented by the general public.

THE LATE SABIH BEY NASHAT.

[Last week we were able only briefly to record the regretted death of Sabih Bey Nashat. For the following appreciation we are indebted to a Correspondent who knew the late Iraqi statesman well.—ED.]

Sabih Bey Nashat, the Iraq Minister in Angora, whose sudden death occurred on July 19 in the Turkish capital came of an old Iraqi family. After being educated in Baghdad and Constantinople, he entered the Turkish Army and soon gave proof of his quality. During the Balkan wars he rendered great services on Enver Pasha's staff, notably in the advance on Adrianople, when he was largely instrumental in enabling the Turks to recapture that city. During the Great War he served in Syria, but having expressed his views on the Turkish aggression against the Arabs too strongly for the ruling clique, he was removed, and shortly afterwards, in 1916, was retired.

After the Armistice he came to Iraq, where his abilities at once marked him out for advancement. He was chosen as Minister of Communications and Works in the first Iraqi Cabinet and held in successive Ministries the portfolios of Defence and Finance. A hard-working, intelligent and thoroughly modern statesman in his outlook, he brought a sound and ready judgment to public affairs. Besides his ministerial appointments he took part in the negotiations with King Ibn Saoud at Ojair, and it was at his suggestion that the device of a neutral zone was accepted by the parties. In 1924 he joined, as Iraq delegate, the Commission sent out by the League of Nations to investigate the frontier question between Turkey and Iraq, and he rendered great services in facilitating an understanding between its members.

In private life he had many friends and no enemies. His humour endeared him to all, while no one was ever offended by his outspoken frankness. He was a fine linguist, having a ready command of seven languages; he read widely, and, like many other statesmen, found in bridge a solace from graver matters. Being an old school friend of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, he was received at Angora by the Ghazi with great cordiality. His death is a serious loss to Iraq, where men of his calibre are, unfortunately, only too rare.

THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN PERSIA.

In the House of Commons on July 25, in answer to Mr. Norman Angell (Labour, Bradford), who asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs could make any statement concerning the situation in Southern Persia, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dalton, said:—"His Majesty's Government have received reports concerning tribal disturbances in Southern Persia. They have also been informed of certain rumours current in Persia to the effect that these risings are being instigated by British agents, and I am glad to have the opportunity of stating that these rumours are devoid of any foundation, and that the policy of His Majesty's Government remains one of strict non-intervention in Persian internal affairs. The Secretary of State is confident that the Persian Government, who have had ample evidence during the past few years of the friendly attitude of Great Britain, realise that in their present difficulties with their disaffected tribes, they may count on the sympathies of His Majesty's Government, whose one desire is to see Persia prosperous and peaceful under a strong and independent Government."

The Roumanian Parliament passed a Bill on July 23 modifying the religious law so as to extend to the Old Kingdom the greater liberty of organisation enjoyed in Transylvania.

It is reported from Athens that a cemetery of the Mycenaean epoch has been discovered near Marathon.

The Yugoslav Ministers to France and Great Britain last week arrived in Belgrade to discuss with the Government the attitude of Yugoslavia during the coming conference on Reparations.

According to *Al Mokattam* the Egyptian Minister of Communications has approved of the proposed transfer of the contract for carrying Egyptian pilgrims to Mecca to and from the Hijaz from the Khedivial Line to the Egyptian Navigation Company, which is subsidiary to the Bank Misr.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 1, 1929 (New Style).

July 19, 1929 (Old Style).

Saphar 24, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tammuz 24, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan left London last week for the Continent.

The Maharani of Indore left London on July 28 for Paris.

Prince Paul of Greece arrived last week at the Hotel Metropole, Blackpool.

Sir Leslie Scott left England on July 26 for a fortnight's cruise to Norway in the Arcadian.

The Duchess of York received her Excellency Madame Hadji-Mischeff at 145, Piccadilly on July 25.

Ex-King George of Greece was the guest of Viscountess Dunedin at a luncheon party which she gave on July 24 at 42, Lower Sloane Street.

King Fuad of Egypt, attended by Ahmed Mohamed Hassanein Bey, visited the Queen at Buckingham Palace on July 22. His Majesty dined with the Prince of Wales at St. James's Palace on July 25.

Mr. Rushbrook Williams, who went out to India to take part in the informal conferences of Indian Princes and Ministers in Bombay on the findings of the Butler Committee, returned last week to St. James's Court.

Mr. H. Charles Woods, who was assisted in receiving his friends by Mrs. Woods, gave a large tea party at the Carlton Hotel on July 24. There were about sixty guests, who included the Turkish Ambassador, the Bulgarian Minister and Madame Hadji-Mischeff, the Latvian Minister, the Lithuanian Minister, Viscountess Falkland, the Dowager Lady Swaythling, the Hon. Lady Norman, Lady and Miss Horder, Edith Lady Bradford, Sir Arnold Wilson, Lady Scott Moncrieff, Major and Mrs. McCallum, Miss Marian Bower, Mr. H. V. Cobb, Mrs. Seton Watson, Miss Parsons, Colonel and Mrs. Cunliffe-Owen, Mrs. W. L. Courtney, M. de Villari, Mrs. Arthur Strauss, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Carr, Canon Douglas, Miss Lucy Kemp-Welch, Mr. A. C. Wratislaw, Mr. E. D. Madge, Mr. and Mrs. de Venelitsky, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph King, Mr. and Mrs. Percy White, and Miss Sylvester-Samuel.

THE EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER.

Mahomed Mahmoud Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt gave a reception at the Royal Egyptian Legation on July 23. A very large number of guests was present, and a feature of the evening was a performance given by members of the Russian Ballet (now at the Royal Opera House) on a stage erected on the wide terrace overlooking the Legation garden. Violin soli were played by Mr. Deltmar Dressel, who was accompanied by Mr. Ivor Newton, and subsequently dancing took place in the reception rooms on the first floor.

Ex-King Inayatullah of Afghanistan arrived in Teheran on July 25 with his family.

The International Diplomatic Conference in Geneva has completed a convention governing the treatment of prisoners of war.

The Yugoslav Minister of Commerce, Dr. Mazhuranitch, tendered his resignation to the King, who accepted it. Dr. Shverlyga, Minister of Finance, is temporarily acting as Minister of Commerce.

Ratifications of the Kellogg Pact for the Renouncement of War were deposited at the State Department of Washington on July 22 by Austria and Bulgaria.

KING FUAD IN ENGLAND.

During the first week of his stay in England, London has provided King Fuad with a full programme. On July 23 his Majesty was the guest of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at the Mansion House to luncheon, at which eighty guests were present. On the following morning he received the Duke of York at the Ritz Hotel, and in the afternoon of the same day the King took tea with Sir Denison Ross at the School of Oriental Studies. In the evening his Majesty was present at the performance of the Russian Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. On July 25 King Fuad attended the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and in the evening was the guest of the Prince of Wales to dinner at York House. During the week-end his Majesty was the guest of the Hon. Mrs. Ronald Greville at Polesdon Lacey.

At the School of Oriental Studies.

On July 24 King Fuad accepted the invitation of Sir Denison Ross to take tea at the School of Oriental Studies, with a view to inspecting the Library and to meet the members of the Governing Body of the School, distinguished Orientalists and others. His Majesty was accompanied by Dr. Hafez Bey Affi, Egyptian Foreign Minister, Hassanein Bey and other members of his suite, and by the Staff of the Egyptian Legation. After the inspection of the Library, with its collection of manuscripts and old editions, Sir Denison Ross's guests were presented to the King, who spent in all an hour at the School. In particular he had long discussions with Dr. H. R. H. Hall, Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities at the British Museum, Professor Dodwell of the School of Oriental Studies and Sir Thomas Arnold, Professor of Arabic. Among others present were:—

Mr. A. M. Blackman, Dr. C. O. Blagden, Sir Edgar Bonham Carter, Mr. A. G. Ellis, Dr. M. Gaster, Mr. H. A. R. Gibb, Dr. Lionel Giles, Sir Wolsley Haig, Dr. H. R. H. Hall, Professor Margoliouth, Mr. Montague Bell, Mr. Sutton Page, Mr. St. John Philby, Mr. Francis Rodd, Sir Harry Stephen (Chairman of the Governing Body), Sir Montagu Turner (Hon. Treasurer), Sir Charles Wakefield, Sir Oliver Wardrop, and Sir Arnold Wilson.

On July 29 King Fuad took lunch with Princess Mary and Lord Lascelles, and dined at the Swiss Legation with M. and Mme. Paravicini. His Majesty expects to leave London next week on a tour of the North in the course of which he will visit Newcastle, Glasgow, and, it is hoped, Edinburgh. If possible, a brief stay will be made at Stratford-on-Avon for a visit to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, towards the re-building of which, it will be remembered, King Fuad gave £500.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Government's Position.

On the whole, I think, the Government ended the five weeks' session last week rather more strongly than they entered it. Largely this was on account of the quite fortuitous incident of Lord Lloyd's dismissal. It is not for me to say anything about this, except to remark that it was handled by the politicians in such a way as to enable the Labour Party to "score."

Mr. Winston Churchill, who, whatever his faults, does not forget his friends, unfortunately put his foot into it; or, rather, his heart was more in evidence during the debate than his head. And when Mr. Churchill makes a mistake, the delight of and the benefit to the Labour Party are doubled. From a purely Party point of view, then, this incident over Lord Lloyd has served the Government well.

Nor in other matters have Government spokesmen been slow to show that they have both ability and a nice sense of tactical advantage. The Prime Minister has so far been masterful without being irritating, Mr. Snowden also. Mr. J. H. Thomas, who has, perhaps, the most important, or at least the most closely scrutinised, task of all, certainly did forget himself once, but he is not the sort of man against whom one could long harbour a grudge. And all the other members of the Cabinet have done quite well enough to warrant the Liberals' support and to deserve the polite attention of the Conservatives. As a matter of fact, by far the most serious criticism of the Administration has come from the Socialist back-benchers, whose mordant sincerity is like a cutting wind to the responsible heads of the Labour Party.

Safety First.

There is manifestly to be no rushing to fulfil election pledges, and whether it is unemployment, education, or financial matters, exhaustive inquiries are to be made before any great change is to be embarked upon. In other words, the Socialists' present guide, though not their motto, is "Safety First." They are not going to work transformations merely because they said they would, but, before taking action, will get the advice of expert committees.

So far, therefore, no considerable ill-will has been engendered towards the Labour Party—it is, indeed, having

an extraordinarily sporting run. The main source of discontent relates to the uncertainty of the trade position as affected by the fiscal system—for nobody knows exactly what the Government are going to do in the coal industry, in Safeguarding and analogous duties, in Imperial Preference, and so on. What they would like to do is, of course, much better known, but there is every indication that the biggest men of the Party are not going to be so doctrinaire as to ignore facts, some of which may be alterable, but some of which are permanent.

Railways.

After a period of sleep, depression, and apparent despair, the railways of Great Britain have really pulled themselves together. They have shown in many directions most praiseworthy enterprise—particularly in regard to passenger traffic—and their reward is reflected inevitably in their dividends.

For all the Big Four railways the interim dividends are much more satisfactory than had been generally anticipated. The G.W.R. Ordinary, for instance, are up from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; the L.M.S. from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2.

This improvement is, admittedly, largely due to economies, but cheaper fares have played their part. The public has been quick to take advantage of the reduced fares offered, and it seems very probable that if this process is continued, the railways may soon—in respect of passenger traffic at least—approach to their former proud position. Of goods traffic, which is the basis of railway prosperity, it is, however, possible only to speak with hope. The revival of British trade is being a terribly slow job.

Roads.

But if the condition of the railways is improving, what shall be said of the roads? Last year there were caused in road accidents 6,000 deaths and over 160,000 injuries. Cars constantly increase on the roads. Each licence issue represents, therefore, another potential accident. Something, obviously, must be done to check this appalling slaughter.

Fortunately, the report of the Royal Commission on Transport shows the way. It declares, indeed, that delay in putting its recommendations into effect will be "disastrous." These recommendations include vastly heavier penalties for dangerous driving. The Commission suggests a penalty of £50 for the first offence, £100 for the second, with imprisonment as the alternative and automatic suspension of the licence. The criterion of a driver's "drunkenness," moreover, will not depend on the quantity of drink he has consumed. Penalties will also be imposed for failing to observe a road sign. Dimmers or dippers will be compulsory. The speed limit for motor-cars and motor-bicycles will be abolished. And so on.

Some of these recommendations are obviously at once practicable. The public in general will look to the Government to see that they are soon given effect.

The End of the Drought.

I never remember rain which was so generally welcomed in England as that which fell on Sunday. Just in time, and just the gentle sort which was wanted, the heavens sent the rain. Gardeners, golfers, tennis-players, and even, for the most part, the farmers all rejoiced. But it has probably come too late for the cereal crops.

Undoubtedly things in many places had reached almost the straining point. In some villages, particularly in Northern England, water had to be carried long distances, and had actually to be purchased by the bucketful. It must be many years since such an experience was undergone.

Of course the water supply is still far below the normal, and much more rain will have to fall before the perished fields resume their happy green appearance. But the infallible meteorologists seem to suggest that the main danger is now over, although they have not hinted that it is as yet advisable to stop using one's bath water for sprinkling the roses.

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A SURVEY OF WAHHABI ARABIA.

Mr. St. John Philby lectured to the Central Asian Society on July 22 upon "A Survey of Wahhabi Arabia: 1929." Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond presided.

The lecturer began with a reference to the wide interest shown to-day in Arabian affairs. He suggested, indeed, that the Central Asian Society, which was founded at a time when Anglo-Russian rivalry in the East was intense, had "removed caviare and vodka from its sessional menus in favour of a simpler diet of locusts and wild honey." He instanced, as a measure of this interest, the lecture recently given in Arabic to the Society (reported in our issue of July 11) by H.E. Shaikh Hafidh Wahba, and he spoke of the remarkable past which this Egyptian diplomatist had played in the creation and development of the Wahhabi State. Hafidh Wahba, who offered his services to Ibn Saoud at Riyadh in 1922, when the future of Arabia was still in suspense between the Wahhabi and Sharifian dynasties, was one of the small band of distinguished men who would loom large in history. He was, for one thing, the pioneer of motor transport in Arabia. In January, 1926, there were four motor-cars in the Hijaz; now, after three years, there were about 1,500. This development had been an immense boon to the 420,000 pilgrims from overseas—or to that half which had used cars.

Security and comfort for the pilgrims had been the watchwords of Wahhabi policy in the Hijaz, and those two assets constituted the great difference between the Wahhabi régime and the Turkish and Sharifian régimes.

In no country in the world was the standard of personal security and safety higher than in the Hijaz and in Wahhabi Arabia generally. This result, moreover, had been achieved with a surprisingly small expenditure on military or police organisation.

Mr. Philby then turned to the state of affairs in the countries to the north of Wahhabi Arabia, referring particularly to the "story of a rather unnecessary misunderstanding between Arabia and Great Britain and of its lamentable consequences." He went back to 1921 and 1922, when the British Government was concerned to secure some agreement on boundaries with Ibn Saoud. Ibn Saoud saw no need for the establishment of boundaries—a revolutionary development so contrary to the Badawin sentiment of countless ages, and he foresaw that, whatever arrangement was arrived at by the responsible rulers of the various spheres, difficulties of a practical nature would arise as soon as a shortage of rain or pasture forced the tribes on one side or the other to cross a boundary which had no existence except on maps. The lecturer told the story of the Treaty of Muhammarah and of the Protocols of Uqair, in 1922—which, he said, worked well enough until 1927, when the Iraq Government established a fortlike building at the wells of Busaiyah, on the Iraq side of the frontier. The raising of that fort, and the subsequent anger provoked on either side of that frontier were recounted. The lecturer suggested that the matter was eminently one for arbitration—seeing that the two sides had committed themselves to conflicting interpretations of the very simple wording of the Uqair Protocols. The dispute turned, of course, on the exact meaning of the words *Atraf al hudud*.

Another difference between Wahhabi Arabia and Great Britain, Mr. Philby continued, concerned the Aqaba-Maan district—that also might be made the subject of arbitration, together with the question of the proper ownership of the Hijaz Railway. It was highly important to have settled all the outstanding differences between Ibn Saoud and Great Britain and the Allies.

It was satisfactory to notice that the French had recently shown a disposition to reach a solution of their Syrian problem in consultation and perhaps in co-operation with the element of greatest stability in Arabia, namely, Ibn Saoud. There were influential Frenchmen, visitors to the Hijaz and in Paris, who advocated a settlement of Syria along Wahhabi lines. It might be said, in short, that both Great Britain and France had so re-

oriented their Middle Eastern policy as to bring the Wahhabi State fully into the picture.

Mr. Philby then made two other suggestions. Germany, he said, had recently introduced into Arabia an element of healthy commercial competition, and if British business men did not take care, German enterprise would go ahead in Arabia as it had done in Persia. What was needed was the organisation of a system of credits. First, all political difficulties should be removed between Arabia and Great Britain, and then commercial openings could be found, through the use, for example, of the Trade Facilities Act.

Moreover, in view of the fact that three-quarters of the political and diplomatic work of the Wahhabi State was conducted with Great Britain, Consular representation was inadequate. The lecturer welcomed heartily the indications that a Minister or a Chargé d'Affaires would be appointed to Jidda. It would be an excellent plan, he continued, if an Ambassador could be appointed to both Egypt and Arabia. These two fields were more closely related than might be supposed. Such an Ambassador could have a Counsellor permanently at Jidda.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Philby touched on the Wahhabi-Egyptian dispute over the *Mahmal*, and on the nature of Ibn Saoud's governance. It was a mistake, he said, to suppose that the administration of the Wahhabi State was a beneficent and benevolent tyranny. Ibn Saoud, though he certainly dominated the situation, ruled only through possessing the entire approval of the people. He would fall at once if he displeased his people—for the Arab character was probably the most completely democratic in the world. Still less could the administration be called an hereditary tyranny, because the question of the succession in Arabia had not yet been fixed. The Heir Apparent, who would probably be the Amir Saoud, had yet to be acclaimed. Ibn Saoud was, in short, the most democratic of men, as was proved by the arrangement of an Elected Advisory Council in the Hijaz and the installation of a "complaints-box" in Mecca.

After the lecture, Sir Arnold Wilson congratulated Mr. Philby on his display of partiality, which was much needed in these days of colourless comment by students of international affairs. He referred particularly to one or two of the lecturer's points. Of the Hijaz Railway he said that it was all very well to describe it as a "religious railway," but were not 95 per cent. of the funds to construct it compulsorily contributed? Again, in regard to diplomatic representation at Jidda, King Ibn Saoud might like one Foreign Minister, but was he prepared to have one from each of the sixty-seven nations which had signed the Kellogg Pact? As for arbitration, it was the habit of H.M.G. to offer to arbitrate only when it was morally certain to win the case. Nine-tenths of the cases submitted to The Hague by Great Britain had confirmed the British view. The crux of the commercial question in the Hijaz was: what could it export? If German commercial penetration of Arabia was no more successful than it had been in Persia, moreover, there was not much to fear.

Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Frederick William Stopford, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., of York Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W., who saw service in Egypt, West Africa, and South Africa, and was Commander of the 9th Army Corps at Suvla during the Great War, who died on May 4, aged 75, left estate of the gross value of £85,015, with net personality £78,705.

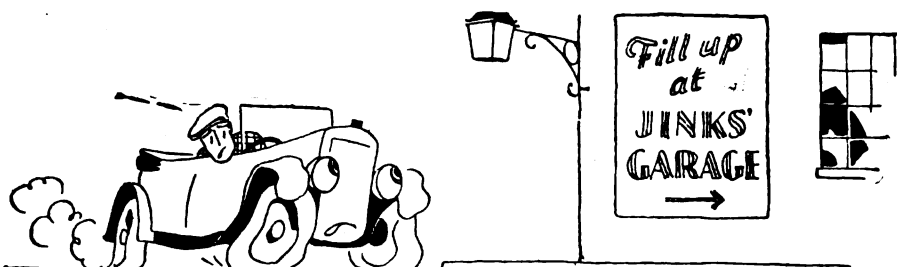
School of Oriental Studies, London Institution

(University of London), Finsbury Circus, E.C.2.

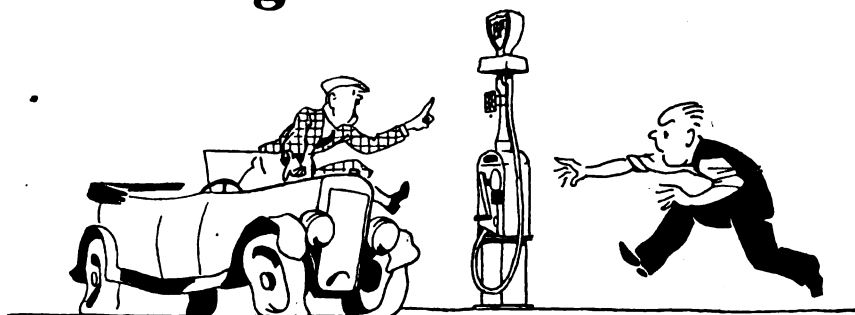
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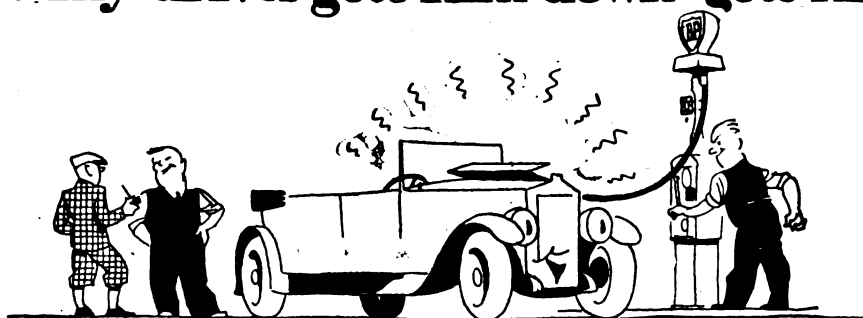
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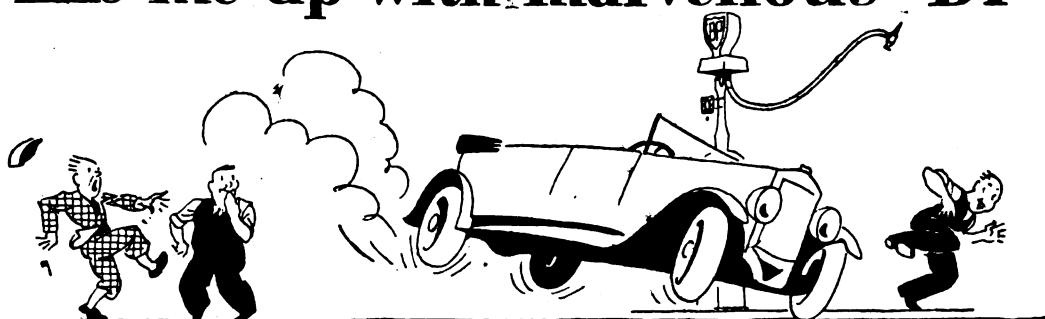
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And there my driver gets him down ~ gets him down



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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Meeting Road Competition in Egypt.

The Egyptian Delta Light Railways was adversely affected in 1927 by the existing conditions in Egypt and by the competition of motor traffic. The improvement in the results for 1928 reflected the improvement in the financial and economic position of the country and the successful efforts which the company has been making to meet competition from the roads. At the general meeting, a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns, Sir Montagu Sharpe dealt in detail with developments during the past year. Motor car competition has been met by more frequent train services and by the reduction of fares and rates, and the provision of facilities for the transport of goods from the villages to the stations. These measures have been very successful. There has been an increase in the number of passengers of about 25 per cent., and Sir Montagu Sharpe stated that the public are returning to the habit of travelling by railway. Then the increase in the goods traffic was about 22 per cent. The result was that the gross earnings totalled £337,668, an increase of £24,640 as against an expenditure of £264,298, an increase of £5,379. It is very satisfactory to know that the results for the current year show a further improvement, and it is evident that the prompt measures taken by the railway to meet the motor car competition are achieving the desired results.

Sudan Trade Progress.

The improvement already recorded in the trade of the Sudan this year has so far been steadily maintained. For the first four months the volume of trade via the Red Sea ports and Wadi Halfa totalled £E6,722,399, an increase of £E1,538,128 on the corresponding period of the previous year. There was a more or less substantial increase in every one of the main headings, but it has been the great expansion of the exports, for which cotton, of course, is responsible, which has been the chief factor in this large increase. The value of the imports was £E2,213,244, an increase of £E184,260, to which public imports contributed £E147,179. Exports on the other hand rose by £E1,318,005 to £E4,305,141 owing to the marked increase in both the quantity and the value of cotton exports. This year's figures bring home very plainly the extent to which the cotton crop has become the predominant factor in Sudan commerce. Undue dependence on one crop is, of course, to be regretted, for it carries with it obvious dangers, but for various reasons cotton is a peculiarly suitable crop for the country, and the extension of the cultivation of Sakellarides has been the means of furthering the economic progress of the country in a way which could not possibly have been achieved through any other medium. So far the influence of the prosperity in the Gezira on the rest of the Sudan is limited, but it is tending to spread, and as the realisation of the full cotton growing programme comes within sight it will become more and more pronounced. The Sudan to-day is an object lesson for the rest of the world as to the transformation that can be effected by the

introduction of a really suitable crop. What can be done with cotton in the Sudan may possibly be done with other crops, and it may well be that the science of the future will give the country not one but two or three basic crops on which to promote its economic welfare.

Oriental Carpet Manufacturers.

The report of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturers for 1928 shows a marked improvement on the results obtained in the previous year. The net profits amounted to £104,388, an increase of £12,599, despite the fact that business was interrupted for a month by earthquake damage at Smyrna. An allocation of £40,000 is made to a special reserve fund, the dividend is maintained at 5 per cent., and the carry forward is £1,367 as against £938. It is interesting to note the statement that trading in Persia, Turkey, and Greece continues to be satisfactory, and that the company has now extended its operations to Algeria. The extent of the field it covers adds greatly to the strength of the company's position, and the fact that it was possible to obtain such good results at a time of world trade depression should be a source of great encouragement to the shareholders.

Furness, Withy & Co.

As usual the meeting of Furness, Withy and Co. was marked by a most interesting review of the situation by Sir Frederick Lewis. Dealing with the position of the company, he said that they were faced with the paradox as they had made an increased profit despite a reduction in the profits derived direct from the trading of the vessels. The company has this year set aside a larger sum for depreciation in view of the continued depression of shipping, but it was clear from the Chairman's remarks that it was not regarded as really necessary, but is merely a measure of precaution. Sir Frederick Lewis pointed out that the dominant factors in the satisfactory results achieved by the company are the conservative financial policy which has been followed, the fact that the business is so spread that there are a number of sources of revenue, and the concern of the company in various trades which in some respects are not subject to the vicissitudes of the world freight markets.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ATHENS

Capital and Reserves - over Dr. 300,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

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96 Branches in GREECE; also in LONDON, UNITED STATES, EGYPT and CYPRUS.

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The BANK OF ATHENS specialises in the development of Trade between GREECE and the UNITED STATES and GREAT BRITAIN, and in General Banking Business.

London Branch:

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Affiliated Institutions in the United States:

NEW YORK: The Bank of Athens Trust Company, 205, West 33rd St.
BOSTON: The Athens Bankers' Corporation, 15 Kneeland St.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £610,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia: — **Chief Office in Persia—TEHERAN.**
 Abadan Bashire Kerman Pehlevi
 Ahwas Dizful Kermanshah Resht
 Barfrush Dashtab Masjed-Suleiman Shiraz
 Birjand Hamadan Meshed Saltanabad
 Bunder Abbas Isfahan Mohammerah Tabriz
 Burajird Kazvin Nasratabad (Seistan) Yazd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia): — Bagdad, Basra, Kirkuk.
Branch in India: — Bombay.
 The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

Head Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN.

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £1,000,000
 Capital Paid up - - - £600,000
 Reserve Fund - - - £250,000
 Total Assets - - - £6,028,832

HEAD OFFICE:

25-31, MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

GREECE.

Central Office, Athens. 28 Branches and Agencies.

EGYPT.

Central Office, Alexandria. 10 Branches and Agencies.

CYPRUS.

Central Office, Nicosia. 4 Branches and Agencies.

Every form of International Banking Service.

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BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

Head Office: 73-76, KING WILLIAM STREET
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Branch — 11, CALEA VICTORIEI BUCAREST.

Directors:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.

C. De CERJAT, Esq.

SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.

General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.

Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO.

A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£4,000,000	Paid-up Capital	£2,000,000
Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£3,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden	Calcutta	Colembo	Lahore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe	Uganda
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

Head Office — **SOFIA** — Founded in 1865

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, 522,000,000 leva

97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

REPARATIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The suggestion has been made, and is being urged in letters to the Press, that Great Britain should hand over to Germany the surplus of between £10,000,000 and £14,000,000 left from the value of Germany property liquidated after paying British private claims against Germany and German nationals. The suggestion, it seems to me, has been made without the giving of consideration to the subject that it warrants. It is quite true that out of the liquidated German property in England claims for debts under Article 296, and claims for compensation under Article 297 of the Treaty of Versailles have been paid in full with appropriate interest; but the fact must not be lost sight of that many thousands of British nationals who sustained damage at the hands of Germany and her Allies outside German territory, have only been compensated to a comparatively small amount of the damage sustained by grants, *ex gratia*, from what is known as "Lord Sumner's Commission." This Commission distributed a sum of something under £5,000,000, provided by the British taxpayer. In addition to the sum distributed by Lord Sumner's Commission, a further sum became available for damage sustained by British nationals in Ottoman territory; but here again, the fund was sufficient only to pay a fraction over 50 per cent. of the awards made for the damage sustained. It would, therefore, appear much more equitable that the surplus, which is stated to amount to something between £10,000,000 and £14,000,000, should, in the first place, be utilised for reimbursing the money found by the British taxpayer, and the balance should go some way towards affording just compensation for the damage sustained by British nationals outside German territory.

It is very difficult for the "man in the street" to understand why an Englishman, whose business was sequestered in Germany should receive compensation in full plus interest, but for a similar type of damage sustained outside German territory should only be compensated to a very small percentage.

With regard to the damage sustained in Turkish territory, this is exactly on the same lines, as, although in most cases the damage was at the hands of the Turks, it will be remembered that in the Treaty of Versailles, Germany undertook full responsibility for the acts of herself and her Allies.

The argument, based on the provisions of Article 297 (i) of the Treaty of Versailles, by which Germany undertook to compensate her expropriated nationals, that in practice Germany has not been able to do this except to a fractional degree, appears to call for some comment. One would have thought that such provision in a Treaty in the case of any self-respecting Power would have been unnecessary, but how necessary the provision was, is proved by the fact that Germany has paid only a small

fraction of compensation to her own nationals. The question as to whether she has or has not been able to pay more can be very easily ascertained by reference to her budgets for the past few years, which will show that very large expenditure has been made in connexion with matters which were unnecessary.—I am, etc.,

BRITON.

NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 26.

The Sliven Strike.

The strike of weavers at Sliven, to which the manufacturers replied by a general lockout, did not last as long as the Communists who inspired it desired. The strikers had finally to capitulate and ask the masters to reopen the factories. As the textile industry is at present passing through a serious crisis (which has been particularly marked during the summer which has become a dead season), the manufacturers, without refusing to reinstate all the workers, have only consented to take back again for the time being as many as will enable them to dispose of their products.

Railways and Ports Reorganisation.

The new law for the reorganisation of Bulgaria's railways and ports, which was recently passed by the Sobranie, came into force on July 15. This reform is based on three fundamental principles adopted by the railways in many European countries—nationalisation, financial autonomy, and state control. This reorganisation is similar to that of the Swiss railways, that is to say it does not represent complete autonomy but only decentralisation. The Bulgarian railways and ports continue to be controlled by the Minister concerned. There will be a consultative Council which will deal with questions of tariffs, time-tables, the construction of new lines, etc. This Council will include representatives of the different productive classes of the population. As regards the personnel of the railways a good training and examinations will be enforced; compulsory insurance of the personnel will be introduced.

An innovation introduced by this law is that in future the greater part of the railway receipts will be reserved for the needs of the lines. A modern system of accounting will be introduced. A special reserve will be created for the renewal and upkeep of the stock and rolling material of the railways. The Budget of the railways will be drawn up by the Minister and will continue to be submitted annually to the vote of Parliament, but only as to the principal heads and not the details. Thanks to the new organisation the network of railways will be gradually extended without increasing the expenditure of the State, so that all the centres of production in the country will be linked up by lines.

EGYPTIAN STATE RAILWAYS

A pleasure trip to Egypt, the Land of Eternal Sunshine, is now within the reach of nearly everybody.

Combined Steamship, Railway, Sleeping, Restaurant and Pullman Car Tickets, from Marseilles to Egypt, including accommodation at the Leading Hotels, from 1st November, 1929, to 31st January 1930, are available as under :—

1st Class throughout. }	A. Stay of 18 days in Egypt	...	L. Stg.: 72.10.
	B. Stay of 25 days in Egypt	...	L. Stg.: 81.10.

A Supplement of L. Stg. 5 will be charged for November departures.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN GREECE.

Hambros Bank, Ltd., in their weekly market report, give the following details of conditions in Greece:—

The yield from the various crops, such as wheat, maize, barley, etc., seems to be better than it was anticipated. This is noticed throughout the whole country. The tobacco crop is very promising, and the tobacco exports for May have amounted to 2,173,686 kgs., which, with the 22,235,062 kgs. exported during the four previous months, makes a total of 24,408,748 kgs. for the five months of this year. They are mainly distributed among the following countries:—Germany, 1,198,118 kgs.; Italy, 305,036 kgs.; Belgium, 156,280 kgs.; U.S.A., 199,156 kgs.; Poland, 101,604 kgs.; Egypt, 54,943 kgs.; Aden, 26,714 kgs.

In spite of the glut which is evident in the production of the artificial silk, there has been a good demand for silk cocoons from Western Europe, with the result that prices have risen from 50/55 drs. to 68/75 drs. per kilo.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of Greece, the two agreements with the State concerning the settlement of the differences on the "covers" and the establishment of an agricultural bank have been approved. Authorisation has also been given to the Governors to give the bank's guarantee up to a sum of £500,000 in favour of the National Mortgage Bank of Greece for the purpose of the latter's obtaining short-term credits abroad.

An agreement has been in principle concluded between the Government and the "Societe Generale Hellenique," by virtue of which a representative of the Government will sit on the board of the Company. His mission will be to take knowledge of the decisions adopted by the directors, and generally to serve as a link between the State and the Company for the friendly arrangement of all questions that may arise. As regards the claim of the Government to exercise a control on the administration of the "Societe Generale Hellenique," it will be referred to an arbitration, in accordance with the stipulations of the respective contract.

Imports of merchandise for the first five months of 1929 amounted to 1,143,588 tons, of a value of 5,541 million drachmæ, and exports to 269,954 tons, valued at 3,246 million. For the same period of 1928 imports totalled 961,752 tons, with a value of 5,398 million, and exports 225,141 tons of a value of 2,393 million drachmæ.

Reports from Kavalla state that the crop of tobacco for this year in Eastern Macedonia and Western Thrace is anticipated to be excellent both as regards quantity and quality.

According to figures furnished by the Statistics Department of the Ministry of National Economy the area cultivated in 1929 with cereals in the whole country was 8,865,619 stremmata (1 stremma equals one-tenth hectare). Of these, 5,567,391 stremmata with wheat, 1,809,878 stremmata with barley, and 1,106,902 stremmata with oats.

Exports of currants up to the end of June are 32,000,000 Venetian pounds less than last year. This deficit is attributed to the high prices of last year and the competition of Californian currants. It is possible that prices will be reduced to face this competition. Favourable prospects of tobacco crop are strengthened. This year's production is anticipated as higher than last year's. The quality also is considered to be very good. Cotton production is also a little higher than last year.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended June 29 amounted to Rs.12,61,550, making the total from April 1 Rs.1,68,60,106.

The net profit of the London and Eastern Trade Bank for the year ended June 30 last was £38,787, after making provision for all charges, rebate, income-tax, etc. With £23,008 brought in there is available £61,795. The directors recommend a dividend of 4 per cent., compared with 3 per cent last year, and after placing £10,000 to the reserve for contingencies, the carry-forward is £32,595.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 55, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Steel Pipes, Etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Municipalities and Local Commissions Section, invites tenders for the supply of steel pipes, sluice valves, hydrants, and drinking fountains. September 16. (D.O.T.)

GREECE.

Drains.—The Municipal Council of Salonika invites tenders for the laying of certain drains. August 26. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

One 5 k.w. Oil Engine Driven Generator Set for Military Engineering Services, Belgaum, Bombay Presidency.—The Indian Stores Department, Simla, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of one 5 k.w. oil engine driven current three wire generating set for the Military Engineering Services, Belgaum, Bombay Presidency. August 5. (D.O.T.)

ROUMANIA.

Agricultural Machinery.—The Ministry of Agriculture and Domains is likely to be in the market in the near future for the purchase of sowing, fanning, grading, and other types of agricultural machinery. (D.O.T.)

Supply Metres.—The Municipality of Oradea Mare invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 400 single phase supply metres 150 volts 42 periods (cycles) 3 amperes; 200 single phase supply metres 150 volts 42 periods (cycles) 5 amperes. August 9. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Galvanised Iron Wire.—The Department of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 250 tons of galvanised iron wire as follows:—245 tons 4 m.m., 2½ tons 2 m.m., 2½ tons 1½ m.m. September 1. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA

Electrically-driven Mining Winch.—H.M. Consul-General at Sarajevo (Mr. C. A. Greig) report that a local firm desires to receive tenders from British firms for the supply of an electrically driven mining winch. August 4. (D.O.T.)

Motor Rollers.—H.M. Consul at Sarajevo (Mr. C. A. Greig) reports that a local firm of engineers and contractors is desirous of receiving quotations from British manufacturers for the supply of a naphtha motor roller of approximately 10 tons without ballast. August 5. (D.O.T.)

Brass.—H.M. Consul at Sarajevo (Mr. C. A. Greig) reports that a local firm of engineers and contractors are calling for tenders for the supply of brass in bars (round), plates and wire. August 7. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia¹ for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 6) (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brockbank Line.—S.s. Mailhar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 8); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 15).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 7).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 10); s.s. Masula for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Brindisi, Bari, Venice, Trieste, Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool August 3, Swansea August 7); s.s. Bantria for Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, August 31).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 3); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Bangalore for Calcutta (London, August 16); s.s. Rajputana for Bombay (London, August 16).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 17); s.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus (London, August 21).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Andalusian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, August 8); s.s. Oporto for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Malta*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 10). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syra and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS, UPPER DECK CABINS. MODERATE FARES.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*ELYSIA ...	Aug. 6	†ASSYRIA ...	Sept. 27
*ICASTALIA ...	Sept. 10	†BRITANNIA ...	Oct. 11

*First class passengers only. †Specially low fares. ‡Calls Port Sudan.
‡First and Third class passengers.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA. 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLES, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, July 30.

After a quiet opening the Stock markets have experienced a better week. There was some liquidation before the opening of the new three week's account, but from Tuesday onwards the general tone improved appreciably, opinion turning about the likelihood of a rise in Bank Rate. The Chancellor's speech at the Banker's banquet on Wednesday proved encouraging, while the unexpectedly good interim dividend announced by the directors of the London Midland and Scottish Railway on Thursday was an additional fillip to markets generally and to home rails in particular. The L.M.S. dividend of 2 per cent., which compares with $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. a year ago, exceeded the most sanguine market expectations, since gross traffics showed a decline of over £500,000. Substantial economies in expenditure, however, have been achieved, the disclosure of which has breathed fresh life into the Home Railway market which had lapsed into a very dormant condition. L.M.S. ordinary rose nearly 4 points in the day and substantial rises were recorded by the other group stocks. The absence of a change in Bank Rate reassured the gilt-edged market, but there has as yet been no appreciable return of investment demand, nor can this be expected until after the holiday period which has now started.

South African Securities.

As usual, the speech of the Chairman of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Mr. William Stuart, at the annual meeting contained a review of economic conditions in the Dominion. On the whole, he said, the year was a good one and the drought appears now to have been definitely broken. Sheep farming continues to make headway, improved methods and the extension of the area exploited both being noticeable, and the mohair industry is recovering from the drought. The maize crop was fair, but that of 1929 is expected to give a higher yield. Dairy farming benefits, though more slowly than sheep, from improved methods, and production will soon outstrip the local demand. Gold production exceeded the high figures of 1927 and amounted to £44,000,519, and although dia-

mond figures for 1928 show a decline, the statistics do not include the output of the rich Namaqua land deposits which is calculated for a different period, and would more than compensate for the reduction shown. As regards the Union finances, Customs, Excise, and Income Tax all exceeded estimates, a surplus of £1,700,000 being realised in place of an estimated deficiency of £1,072,000. The outlook for South Africa is therefore doubtful, although the custom of granting excessive credit, and the higher levels at which land is being bought may prove dangerous if a depression should occur. The 5 per cent. inscribed stock of the South African Government, redeemable 1945-75, yielding £4 19s. per cent. is a Trustee stock, while the £20 ordinary shares, of £5 paid of the Standard Bank of South Africa, which return £5 8s. per cent. also have attractions as a security of investment merit.

British Celanese.

Another and even more disappointing year's trading result is revealed by the report of British Celanese issued this week. The gross trading profit for the year ending last February was £1,238,905 as against £1,643,210 for the previous year, and after deducting overhead expenses and increased debenture charges, the net profit is £326,910 which compares with £864,890 for the preceding twelve months. The net profit for the year appears exceptionally small in relation to an issued capital of over £8,460,000. Including the amount brought forward £756,270 is available for distribution. Of this sum First and Second Preference shareholders receive £272,800, only £200,000 is placed to reserve against £378,260 last year, and an undivided amount of £259,720 is thus carried forward compared with £429,360 brought in. The reserve fund now amounts to £1,200,000. Shareholders have continually been told of the large profits obtainable from such a company as theirs, only to be presented with disappointing results at the end of each year. The directors now state that whereas last year the company was faced with a difficult market and derived practically no benefit from large expenditure on buildings etc., since the issue of the current report monthly profits have increased. Shareholders are also informed that the next financial year will end in June, so the next accounts will be for a period of sixteen months, and meanwhile the annual meeting has been postponed to September. The 7 per cent. first preference yields £10 per cent., $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. second preference yields £8 14s. per cent. and the first debentures give a return of £6 16s. per cent.

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Imperial Tobacco Interim.

The interim dividend announcement of the Imperial Tobacco Company is of a nature to give considerable satisfaction to its fortunate shareholders. The dividend is to be 7 per cent. free of tax, on the ordinary shares, which compares with $7\frac{1}{2}$ free of tax last year. It must be remembered, however, that the ordinary capital was increased in February last by a bonus distribution of one share for every four held, and it was not to be expected that the rate of dividend would be fully maintained. The present distribution is equal to $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent on the old capital, and required £2,620,772 against £2,246,377 needed for last year's interim dividend. In view of the conservative financial policy invariably pursued by the Imperial Tobacco Company, it may be taken for granted that profits, although undisclosed, show an increase on those for the corresponding period of 1928. This tradition of sound finance, largely accounts for the justifiable popularity of the securities of this concern with many small investors, but the Company's extending prosperity in recent years is another favourable factor. Profits last year reached the record of £9,599,796, compared with £9,227,797, in the preceding year, and £6,574,733 in 1920-21 since when there has been an increase each year. On the assumption of an ordinary dividend of $21\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the current year, the ordinary shares yield £4 6s. per cent., while the very well secured $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. "A" cumulative preference shares return £5 3s. per cent.

Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

Road Making.

There seems little doubt that in the near future a more or less extensive road-making scheme will be embarked upon by the powers that be. It is quite certain that any proposals of the kind will receive the whole-hearted support of a number of well-meaning people who will neither stop to ask whether the roads are really necessary nor to ascertain where the money is really coming from to pay for them. If anyone raises the first point he will no doubt be met with the reply that the present main thoroughfares of traffic are badly congested. If he raises the second, the answer will probably be that the motorists, through the Road Fund, are able and willing to foot the bill. As regards congestion, any motorist will be able to point to the condition of our main roads leading from London to the sea on any Sunday morning or evening, and he will say, and with perfect truth, that they are practically choked with vehicles going seaward or returning townwards, as the case may be. In so saying, however, he will merely be raising the old point of the "rush-hour" traffic. In regard to the second answer, he will be forgetting that previous Chancellors of the Exchequer have found it necessary to use a certain percentage of the Road Fund for other purposes, and he will be quite unable to advance any argument which will show that, if that percentage be used for road work instead, the balance, previously abstracted, can be made good from any other source without an increase in either special or general taxation. If, going further, he seeks to show that there will be a vast increase in motor traffic if more and wider roads are provided, and that in consequence there will be more motorists to pay into the Fund, he will be

faced with the fact that more motoring will mean more road congestion and he will be firmly caught in the toils of a vicious circle from which there will be no escape.

If we are going to spend vast sums in constructing new, and widening and improving existing roads, to cope with a rush-hour week-end traffic, we shall be proceeding on uneconomical lines, as any accountant will agree, in that our new roads will only be in use for limited periods each week; in other words, we shall be in the same position as the electrical engineer who has to lay down plant to cope with a short "peak" load, and has it standing idle, eating its head off with maintenance and overhead charges, for the greater part of its life. As everyone knows, overhead charges have to be met, and sound finance would say that, in the case of roads, a special tax or charge would have to be levied on those who used them during rush hours, or a special rebate made to those who only used them at times when they were not congested with other traffic. Such a course would obviously be impossible, and consequently, if we do embark on this extensive road construction scheme, either the general or the motoring public have got to pay for it, over and above the amount they pay at present.

Wider Roads.

I see that a writer has been raising the point that some of our new roads are of insufficient width for the traffic. That may be the case, but in regard to that I would raise a point that I have been driving home, in and out of season, in these columns and elsewhere, for the past five years or so, and that is that our roads are sufficiently wide for all purposes if motorists would only keep close in on their own side of the road instead of hugging the crown of the road on every possible occasion. However, there may be something in what is said, the contention being that a 60 feet wide roadway is what should be aimed at, for such a carriage way provides for six lines of traffic and does away with a great part of the congestion and many of the risks that are so pronounced on roads of less width. What is meant is that such roads would permit six vehicles to pass one another at a given moment, and in reply I would say that here again we are making a proposal to widen roads, or to construct wide roads, at a great cost, merely to deal with a minor rush-hour problem, the problem of six cars all unable to wait a second, but feeling it absolutely essential for their comfort and well-being that they should pass six abreast! A road that will take four vehicles abreast is wide enough for anyone; one that will take three abreast is good enough for all practical purposes, and to saddle or seek to saddle the general public with a huge bill for road widening just because six motorists feel they cannot possibly slow up even for a moment when they arrive at some given point is not only pitiable, but is also ludicrous.

As a matter of fact, in constructing roads with the assistance of grants from the Road Fund, there is a little contribution of nearly one-half the cost which has to be found by the local authorities, and they, not unnaturally, and knowing a good deal more about their requirements than any motorist or body of motorists, feel that they are entitled to have a word in the matter. As a result the roads are built to meet the necessities of the case and not to conform to the views of enthusiastic journalists who would like to see roads everywhere wide enough to allow six cars to pass abreast without either slackening speed or changing position.

Cars for the East.

I was particularly struck with some remarks made in a letter to the Press by Mr. J. B. Norton, of Ain-Sefra, North Africa. He says something about private car touring in the Sahara district, and points out that for-



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certain tours it is necessary for two or more cars to travel together, otherwise a wireless transmitting system has to be installed, by regulation of the French authorities. He gives some details as to the essentials of cars intended for use in North Africa—details gained, I gather, from a lengthy and extensive experience. These are as follows:—The car must have a minimum clearance below the lowest part of the chassis of from 20 to 25 cm., whilst the tyres should be the largest balloon type that it is possible to fit. The body may be of any ordinary type fitted on a very strong chassis and the engine should be of from 15 to 20 horse power, English rating, as a minimum. A mechanical type pump should be carried, with two spare wheels, several inner tubes, and as complete a tool kit as can be carried, nothing that is likely to be of service being left out. The car should have a large radiator, and as regards transmission, should have a very low first gear or a reduced back axle ratio, whilst a four-speed gear-box is preferable. There should also be a reserve fuel tank capable of holding sufficient petrol for, say, a journey of 1,000 km. He advises a 150 litre tank under the chassis, but says that spare tanks on the running-board will answer the purpose.

Engineering Topics

Low Temperature Carbonisation.

Obviously new methods in the iron and steel industries are badly needed, and typical of future developments is that the Lukens Steel Company of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, famous for boiler plate and flange steel, are now erecting a large "K.S.G." plant at their works, which will be running by the early part of 1930. There is included six standard retorts each with a through-put of 80 tons of coal per 24 hours, that is about 3,500 tons per week for the complete setting, the estimated capital cost being about £500,000.

The site is in Valley Township, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles west of Coatesville, and the rich gas from the process will be taken from a large gas holder by means of a supply main of 5,000 feet to the steel works furnaces for use in place of dirty producer gas. The Lukens Steel Company have proved conclusively—largely because of experience with natural gas—that clean gas is superior to ordinary producer gas and obviously one of the most important fields for low temperature carbonisation in this connexion is the Iron and Steel Industries, utilising the rich and clean gas for the purpose, while the smokeless fuel is available for steam generation.

The plant will be operated by the International Combustion Engineering Corporation, with a contract over many years for the sale of the gas to the Steel Company, while the low temperature tar will be worked up on the usual lines. Further, we understand that arrangements have been made to double the plant in the near future, that is by the addition of another six retorts to make a total installation of 7,000 tons of coal per week.

It will be remembered that in the "K.S.G." process, controlled in Great Britain by Coal Oil Extraction, Ltd., of London, the retort has a throughput of 65-85 tons of coal per 24 hours, and is a rotary slightly inclined steel cylinder 72 ft. long by 10 ft. diameter, having an inner cylinder 85 ft. long and 5 ft. 6 in. diameter, while the speed is one revolution in 90 seconds. Also the period of the travel of the charge, through both cylinders in turn, is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours, while the maximum temperature is 925 to 1,025 degrees F. with external heating by means of a firebrick setting but operated on special lines as regards re-circulation of the combustion gases and the continuous maintenance of a reducing atmosphere to eliminate corrosion. Further, the yield follows the usual practice, that is from one ton of 25 to 35 per cent. volatile matter being 3,500 to 5,000 cubic

feet of gas at 800 B.Th.U., 3 gallons light oil scrubbed from the gas, 15 to 20 gallons low temperature tar, and 14 cwt. smokeless fuel with 10 to 12 volatile matter.

This makes the fifth large "K.S.G." plant now in progress of erection, the others being at the South Metropolitan Gas Company's plant in London (80 tons per day), the Mines de Lens plant in France (80 tons per day), the extensions of the Karnap Collieries at Essen (160 tons a day), and the 640 tons per day installation in New Jersey started up last March.

CYPRUS CROP PROSPECTS.

The report on Cyprus crops for July states:—

Threshing of wheat continues. There are good offers but a poor demand. Prices have fallen since last month to 5s. to 5s. 7d. per bushel.

Threshing of barley is nearly over. There are abundant offers, but practically no demand. A small quantity has been shipped to Greece. The price is from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per bushel, on downward tendency.

Threshing of oats continues. The production is expected to be low owing to the lack of rains during the spring. Prices range from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per bushel.

Harvesting of potatoes is still in progress. The production is estimated to be less than that of the corresponding season of last year. Prices are rather low: from £5 to £6 per ton. Growers are storing in the hope of getting better prices later. Exports for June amounted in value to £18,796.

So far the weather continues favourable for cotton and the crop prospects are promising. The stock of lint is nearly exhausted.

The production of carobs, as was foreshadowed in the last monthly report, will be smaller than that of the last year, but the quality is expected to be better. Prices are from £5 to £5 10s. per ton.

Tobacco harvesting is in progress. The weather is favourable and the production is expected to be good in both quantity and quality.

Not only was the area covered by the aniseed crop less than last year, but blossoming has been adversely affected by hot winds and therefore the production will be further diminished.

Prospects of the olive crop continue to be promising. If the weather and other conditions continue favourable the crop may be expected to be heavier than that of the last few years.

The almond crop on the whole is expected to be good, although it has been adversely affected by hot winds and insect pests.

The production of hazelnuts is expected to be very moderate, due to unfavourable weather conditions. Fresh nuts are already on the market.

IVORY IN GOOD DEMAND.

Messrs. Hale and Son report that the quarterly ivory sales, held on July 23 and 24, comprised 37 tons (against 32½ tons same time last year and 29 tons in April last), viz., 23½ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African, Rhodesian and Siam, 2½ tons Abyssinian, 1½ tons Egyptian (Alexandrian description), 6½ tons West Coast African and Congo, and 3½ tons land carriage, also 2½ tons mammoth tusks, 1½ tons sea horse tusks and boars' tusks, and 8 cwt. rhinoceros horns; total, 41 tons 8 cwt. There was a good attendance of buyers, and generally a good demand throughout the auctions. America and the Continent bought freely, and the home trade took a fair proportion. The quantity catalogued was in excess of that offered in April last, there being a larger supply from East Africa; from other quarters the supplies were small. Prices were irregular, soft tusks being about steady to £2 to £3 per cwt. lower, although some exceptional lots realised firm rates. Hard was steady to £2 to £3 easier. Ball ivory was strongly competed for, billiard ball pieces showing an advance to from £10 to £20 per cwt. Ball scriveloes were firm to rather dearer.

Most of the offerings of Abyssinian were bought in, the lots selling realising steady to rather lower prices. Ball scriveloes were firm. Only a small quantity of Egyptian was catalogued. Soft large and medium tusks were irregular, being generally steady to £2 to £3 per cwt. lower. Hard was steady to £2 to £3 per cwt. lower; scriveloes steady, ball scriveloes firm.

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THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 18, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has undergone heavy fluctuations, but the tendency has been for higher prices. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: July, 32.83 dollars, 1.23 dollars up; November, 33.36 dollars, 1.29 dollars up; January, 33.82 dollars, 1.20 dollars up; March, 34.17 dollars, 1.15 dollars up. Ashmouni: August, 21.11 dollars, 0.44 dollars up; October, 21.45 dollars, 0.41 dollars up; December, 21.87 dollars, 0.32 dollars up; February, 22.34 dollars, 0.31 dollars up; April, 22.74 dollars, 0.28 dollars up; June, 23.14 dollars, 0.28 dollars up.

Sakel.—After a weak opening, prices moved sharply upwards as a result of heavy purchases for account of a group of "long" operators, and these purchases continued throughout the week, causing November to be quoted as high as 33.70 dollars. The movement, while being purely speculative, received real support through the reaction in New York, where, during the last two days, an advance in prices of about 1 dollar has taken place. Another supporting factor has been some reports from the Interior concerning alleged damage to the crop due to the weather conditions being less favourable than one could have desired. The trade has not relinquished its more or less indifferent attitude. At the high levels, some sales were effected against fixing of prices of new crop purchases up-country. The interest of Lancashire spinners for fresh purchases remained negligible, we presume as a result of the fear of a lock-out in the near future. American, Continental, and Japanese spinners seem to have adopted a waiting policy, and are only buying what is absolutely necessary—which does not amount to a great deal. To advance an opinion regarding the future course of prices is rather difficult; it appears, at least for the time being, that our market will be practically governed by the fluctuations of New York. The stocks of Sakel in Egypt and England and in the world's textile centres are far from being negligible, and, taking everything into account, the new crop is progressing normally, with prospects for a production about the same as that of last year. Therefore from the point of view of supply, the position is reassuring. The Sakel/Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,191 points, against 1,103 points last week and 1,210 points at this time last year. Against the second July tender, dockets for 4,250 kantars were issued, which brings the total tendered since the beginning of the month up to 20,750 kantars.

Uppers.—This market has followed the fluctuations of Sakel, but, as usual, to a much less pronounced degree. Speculators have, for the time being, kept out of the market, their activity being concentrated on Sakel; the business put through has therefore been of a purely commercial character. A slight decline in the volume of the demand from spinners is to be noted. The difference with American at one time widened out to 3 dollars, but at the close to-day stood again at about 2½ dollars. Even more so than for Sakel, it would appear that the future course of prices of Uppers will be governed by the movement in New York. The Ashmouni/American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 250 points, against 250 points last week and 521 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 564 kantars, against exports 181,948 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,760,342 kantars.

Spot.—During the week under review, we have had very quiet markets with poor offerings and very little buying interest. Of the total sales of about 4,000 bales, we estimate 2,300 bales Sakellaridis, 1,050 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 280 bales Pilon, and 70 bales White.

Sakellaridis.—Here all business has been restricted, owing to the shortage of medium grades, to the better qualities, and sellers have been moderately easy. Premiums are unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—Decent staple medium grade Uppers have almost entirely disappeared from the spot, and whatever business has been done has been for cotton grading round about Good. Premiums, owing to the poor offering, have been maintained very firm.

Pilon.—Has had a moderate market at fairly good premiums.

Other Varieties.—Have been entirely neglected, with the exception of a small turnover in White cotton. Premiums are unchanged.

Crop, 1929.—With the exception of a few cool, damp nights, the temperature during the past week has been favourable to the growth of the cotton plants. The leaf worm has almost entirely disappeared; on the other hand, in the Delta the pink boll worm has made its appearance, but for the time being, the attack is very light. Both in the Delta and in Upper Egypt the crop shows a slight delay in comparison with last year's crop at the corresponding time. Water for irrigation is abundant.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 24:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—In spite of adverse trade conditions, more business has transpired in this market during the past week, apparently the broadening tendency in the American departments inducing more speculative interest in other directions. Most of the buying in operation has come from Continental sources, later new crop deliveries especially being in demand from this quarter. Contracts have been furnished by profit-taking operations, so that on balance little alteration has taken place in the level since we last wrote, the advance in the earlier days being partially wiped out by the minor reactions in progress during the past two sessions. The trade situation remains obscure; efforts are still being made to avert a general stoppage at the week-end, but, at the time of writing, it is impossible to forecast the issue. In the meantime, little or no trade support is coming into the market, and business in both spot and forward cottons is practically at a standstill. The chief feature in the Alexandria market has been the erratic fluctuations shown during the daily sessions; evidently trading there must be very narrow with professional manipulation predominant. Crop reports are still favourable, and, as a review of the statistical position shows a larger carry-over than at one time appeared probable, we do not think any appreciation from the present level will be consolidated unless helped by the development of a healthier trade outlook and increasing "bullish" sentiment in other markets.

Upper Contract.—Quiet markets with fluctuations mainly governed by the prevailing tendency in American values have been the general experience during the past week. A small amount of end-of-the-month calling has tightened up the near position slightly, the July November difference now standing at 25 points; any further contraction will probably attract cotton, especially should a mill stoppage take place. Private reports regarding a very large yield continue to come to hand, and it appears that old ideas of comparative values against American and other varieties will have to be revised. We are rapidly approaching the stage when values will reflect more directly our own crop possibilities; in the meantime, for the next two or three weeks, price movements will probably continue to move in sympathy with the American markets.

Egyptian Spot.

We have had a very dull week in this department; the trade demand throughout has been moderate, and any improvement cannot be looked for until the present wages dispute reaches a settlement. At the moment, endeavours are being made to find a basis for negotiations, and it is hoped that a stoppage may be averted. In spite of the lack of business, values have held at a steady level throughout the week, the advancing tendency in the American markets counteracting, for the time being, the depressing effects of the poor trade offtake. Present conditions are probably causing a good deal of business to accumulate, so that once the trade outlook clears we may witness a sharp, if perhaps only temporary, increase in spinners' activities.

Sakels.—Only isolated sales have been effected, the general run of the demand being for cotton ranging from 50 to 220 on contracts.

Uppers.—The demand has fallen off considerably, although comparatively more business has been done in this cotton than any of the other varieties. Prices paid generally range from 20 to 40 points on Pilon has only been in retail request.

Nahda, Maraad, and White.—No business has been reported. Sudan and Tokar Sakel have been inquired for, but business is held up for reasons stated previously. C.i.f. business has been negligible. Forwardings to spinners amounted to 6,091 bales Egyptians and 870 bales Sudans. Estimated spot sales, 1,600 bales Egyptians and 400 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakels are 25 to 45 points, Uppers are 18 points, and Pilon 15 points higher on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.00d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.57d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 12.65d.

It is reported that the Greek Government has authorised the Minister of Public Works to negotiate a new loan of £500,000 for carrying out urgent irrigation schemes. The loan will be issued probably in New York.

During the first five months of this year 46 joint stock companies were created in Greece, with a total capital of 329,670,625 drachmæ, of which about 200 millions were paid up. During this period three companies reduced their capital by 6,397,600 drachmæ, and 13 companies, representing a capital of 55,674,600 drachmæ, were dissolved.

A circular has been issued by the National Bank of Roumania to all banks in Roumania authorised to deal in foreign currency, regarding dealings in exchange at higher prices than those fixed by the Stabilisation Law. In this circular a strong appeal is made to the banks on no account to sell lei for pounds sterling at more than 817.50 lei to the £. Should the supply not meet the demand the National Bank authorises the banks to sell for its account at the above stabilised rate.

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The thirty-eighth annual general meeting of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., was held on July 24 at Furness House, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., who presided, said that the capital account remained unchanged at £5,500,000, divided into 1,500,000 five per cent. Preference shares and 4,000,000 Ordinary shares. The general reserve account also remained at £2,000,000. Sundry creditors, credit balances and bills payable amounted to £2,308,688 compared with £2,717,313 a year ago. The item included provision for taxation and also for the dividend on the Preference shares, which was paid on May 1, and also for the final dividend on the Ordinary Shares, which they were proposing that day. There were also included amounts due to subsidiary companies, as well as the various creditors of their branch offices all over the world. The item of £2,308,688 covered the only active liabilities as shown by the balance-sheet, the remaining item on that side being the profit and loss account.

Turning to the assets, they had followed the practice which they had adopted two or three years ago of separating the assets into various sections so that it might be seen to what extent their assets were employed in the shipping business, and in other sections of industry. Shipping property, which included investments in Associated Shipping companies, etc., amounted to £5,148,877. That amount was stated after writing off depreciations, and compared with £4,916,168 a year ago. British Government securities and general investments, also less depreciation, stood at £3,244,168 compared with £3,361,264 last year. Freeholds, dock and wharf property, etc., less depreciation, showed a slight increase, sundry debtors a decrease of about £300,000, and the final item, bank balances, Treasury bills, and bills of exchange on hand, amounted to £633,520 compared with £853,143 a year ago.

The balance-sheet was stated clearly. There were no dead items among the asset items, and depreciation had been amply provided. In addition, the balance-sheet was sufficiently liquid, consistent with the nature of their business, apart altogether from the fact that there was no charge in the nature of debentures, or loans, upon any part of their property. It might be of interest to shareholders for him to state that investments in subsidiary and associated companies stood in their books at much below their actual value. There were one or two guarantees in existence in connexion with their subsidiary companies, but in each case the guarantee was amply covered by the assets of the company concerned, and had only been given in order to secure advantageous terms of finance. Those guarantees, with one small exception, were in respect of new tonnage which had been constructed for their various companies. None of them caused the company the slightest anxiety, and from their point of view were more or less nominal liabilities.

With regard to the profit and loss account, he was faced with the paradox that they were primarily a shipping company and were in the pleasing position of being able to present a profit and loss account showing an increased profit, and yet it remained a fact that the shipping industry had had a very difficult year, and the profits derived direct from the trading of their vessels showed a reduction, notwithstanding that they had more vessels under their ownership than in the previous year. At any rate, for the moment they were more concerned with the fact that their profits amounted to £653,392, an increase of £25,642. As they brought into account from the previous year a sum of £241,564, they were able to recommend that in addition to the usual dividend on the Preference shares and a continuation of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, an increased sum of £250,000 be placed to depreciation, leaving £264,957 to be carried forward, or £23,393 more than was brought into the account from 1928.

As he had complete confidence that shareholders would confirm their recommendation that the amount to be retained for depreciation be increased from £200,000 to £250,000, he did not hesitate to say that this additional allocation was not really necessary, but in view of the continued depression of the shipping trade they thought it was desirable, and they were therefore utilising the amount to write a substantial sum off the cost of the new motorships which had recently been delivered to them, as well as allocating such sum as they thought desirable towards writing down the rest of the vessels and other assets.

He had referred to the difficult years which the shipping industry had again experienced, and he was afraid they had all become so accustomed to the statement of that fact that it ceased to carry as much weight as it should. It was not his custom to say that conditions were difficult simply from force of habit, and then seek for the means to justify the statement. On the other hand, it was folly to adopt the contrary ostrich-like attitude. He was very conscious of the fact that one might be so close to realities that the distant view might be obscured, but at least they had practical experience of current conditions, and he just wanted to say that he was thankful for three things:—(1) For the careful and conservative financial policy they had always followed in the past—(hear, hear)—(2) that their business was so spread that they had a considerable number of sources of revenue; and (3) that they were engaged in various trades which in some respects were not subject to the fluctuating conditions which

governed the general freight markets of the world. These three things were the dominating factors in the satisfactory results which they had had the pleasure of submitting to them to-day.

The report was adopted.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Improved Conditions.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held on July 26 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Montagu Sharpe, K.C. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—You will remember that I had to inform you at our last meeting in July, 1928, that the improvement anticipated in the financial and commercial prosperity of Egypt had not been realised, the result being a lean year for the company. I am now glad to be able to report that during the year under review a considerable improvement has been experienced, not only in the results from the working of our railway, but in the general prosperity throughout Egypt.

The principal factors which have led to these improved conditions, and it is to be hoped they are improving ones, are a more stable form of Government, a quieter political atmosphere, a good cotton crop, the introduction by us of the "Sentinel" tractors, and the adoption of a policy of intensive measures to meet the motor road competition in passenger and goods traffics, which has been so detrimental to our revenues.

It has become obvious that motor-car competition could only be met by running more frequent train services and by the reduction of fares. We have been able to inaugurate a greatly improved service by the introduction of the "Sentinel" tractors, which are being run at an economical cost, and we have lowered our rates to discourage motor-car competition.

When we met in July last year I informed you that in that month reductions in fares had been introduced and that the results were so far satisfactory. The subject of rate reduction has given your directors and the management in Egypt some anxiety, for there is always considerable doubt as to whether the numbers carried will compensate for reductions made, but after the most careful consideration the conclusion has been reached that if reductions were not made throughout the system our receipts would certainly continue to fall, and it was therefore arranged during the year that passenger fares should generally be reduced to pre-War level.

From this, satisfactory results have been obtained, and have up to date entirely justified our policy, for the numbers of passengers carried have increased by 2,142,088—namely, from 8,694,911 during the year 1927-28 to 10,836,999 for the year under review, equal to about 25 per cent.—the receipts being £202,893, an increase of £8,854 over the previous year.

This increase may appear small by comparison with the large numbers carried, but the steady falling-off in receipts has been stayed; further, the motor-car competition has been largely eliminated, and, what is equally important, the public are returning to the habit of travelling by railway.

We have also been faced with the necessity for concentrated action to meet road competition in goods traffic. To this end we have, where necessary, reduced our goods tariffs, and have introduced facilities for conveying goods from the villages to our stations by the employment of lorries, carts, and camels. We have also started an intensified canvassing for traffic in all directions.

During the year a total of 641,079 tons of goods were carried over our lines, as compared with 523,228 tons in the previous year, an increase of 117,851 tons, equal to, say, 22 per cent., the gross receipts being £127,210, against £111,084, an increase of £16,126.

There is no doubt that the employment of lorries has been of great value to us, as it has enabled the collection and delivery of goods in a manner which we were not previously in a position to undertake, and, as I have already mentioned, I would emphasise the fact that a good cotton crop considerably assisted the better results obtained.

The aggregate gross earnings from all sources amount to £337,668, as compared with £313,028 during the previous year, an increase of £24,640.

Expenditure as a result of the increased traffics was necessarily greater, being in the aggregate £264,298, as against £258,919, an

MICA AND ALL ELECTRICAL INSULATING MATERIALS

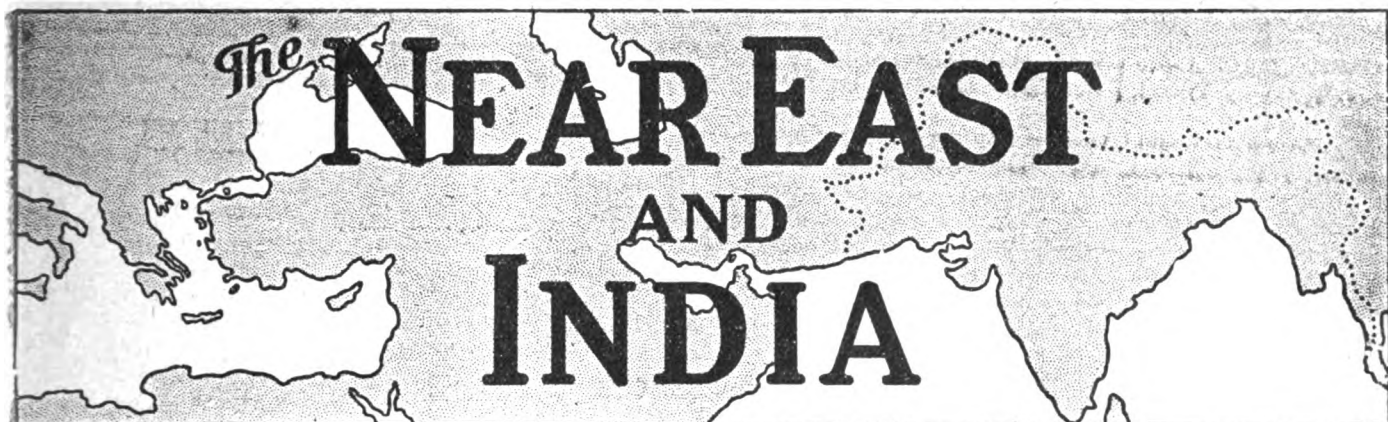
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So far as the current year is concerned, I am glad to say our aggregate passenger and goods traffic receipts show an improvement at

The resolution was unanimously approved.

The gross earnings of the Shahdara (Delhi)-Saharanpur Light Railway Company for the half-year ended March 31, 1929, were Rs.5,44,482. The net profit was Rs.96,690, against £1,10,979, plus the balance brought forward Rs.6,16,204, against Rs.4,90,705. The dividend is Rs.6 per share (at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum), free of tax, the balance forward being Rs.5,22,894.



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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	145	INDIAN NOTES	147	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE —		Notes and News	159
Greece and Turkey	148	The Economic Position in India... ..	154	The Week's Finance	161
SPECIAL LETTERS—		NEWS IN BRIEF	156	Shipping Intelligence	162
Turkey	149	PERSONAL AND GENERAL	157	Engineering Topics	163
Bulgaria	149			British Consular Reports—	
Egypt	151			III.—Roumania	165
Calcutta	153			Cotton and Cotton Goods	167

Notes of the Week.

The Egyptian Negotiations.

The exigencies of printing require these Notes to go to press before the publication of the proposals "for a lasting and honourable settlement of the Anglo-Egyptian question" that have received the approval of the British Government and of the Egyptian Prime Minister. Enough, however, is known of the points that formerly proved a stumbling-block to the conclusion of an agreement between the two parties to indicate the lines on which an understanding has now been reached. It may be taken for granted that on neither side has there been any complete surrender of the position previously taken up. Although in Egypt a certain section of public opinion clamoured for the evacuation of the country by British troops, no responsible persons have imagined that this claim would be conceded within a foreseeable period by the British Government. On the other hand, expert opinion on the degree of military support that must be pre-dicated for the adequate protection of the British Empire's lines of communication is necessarily liable to change. For an Egypt as bitterly hostile as it proved itself during the early years after the War, or as intractable as it was at any time under a Wafd régime, a substantial margin of safety had to be provided, and the British Government's technical experts, who have nothing to do with politics, cannot be blamed for insisting upon the retention of British troops in Cairo. The function of these troops would not be to defend the Canal, but rather to guard the rear of the forces guarding the Canal Zone. Happily, thanks to the new régime under Mahmoud Pasha and the potentialities that it has opened up, there is no longer the same reason for measures of ultra-precaution. The occupation of Cairo Citadel by British troops might not unreasonably be held to constitute an affront to Egyptian susceptibilities. There are, however, a sufficient number of Egyptians able to appreciate Great Britain's need for safeguarding her Imperial interests and her responsibility in regard to the protection of foreign interest in Egypt. If there had been no Wafd régime, if foreigners in Egypt had not been murdered at the instigation of Egyptians in authority, the same amount of stress on the need for protecting foreign interests could not have been laid. The

mischievous, however, has been done, and Egypt has to suffer. The compromise of a withdrawal of the troops from Cairo to the Canal Zone, while the Royal Air Force continues to be stationed near the capital, would appear to be a serviceable one and honourable to both parties. Within the compass of the four Reserved Points of the Declaration of 1922 there is ample room for similar adjustments to meet legitimate Egyptian aspirations without sacrificing legitimate British interests. As in Turkey and Persia, the halcyon days of Capitulations are inevitably doomed, but with this important difference, that the advantages that they brought will be surrendered voluntarily, as of justice, and will not be abruptly terminated at the bidding of the country concerned. The British community in Egypt, we may hope, will know how to make the most of this distinction, and will see to it that any alliance between Egypt and Great Britain will be no mere formal arrangement, but will find expression in the reciprocal attitude of the two peoples in their daily contact.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

Whatever object the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs may have had in view in paying a hurried visit to Paris, his mission would appear to have borne no fruit in the way of deterring the Yugoslav Government from the line of action on which it was already resolved. It has formally notified the Bulgarian Government that it does not see its way to ratify the Pirot Convention, and it invites Bulgaria to fresh negotiations on the subject of Yugoslavia's proposals regarding a frontier settlement. The inference is that the Belgrade authorities do not wish the matter to be referred to arbitration, and that they have not yet given up hope of being able to persuade the Bulgarians to accept their suggestions for the prevention of further frontier incidents. The suggestions are, first, that there should be a compulsory exchange of properties belonging to inhabitants on the other side of the frontier, in such a way that Yugoslav subjects owning property across the frontier in Bulgaria should surrender these lands and receive a similar property in Yugoslavia, and *vice versa*, their surrendered properties being used

to compensate Bulgarian subjects who have been required to give up land in Yugoslavia, secondly, that for the whole length of the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier a neutral zone ten kilometres wide should be fixed, and that within this zone rights of permanent domicile should be restricted to owners of property, their employees and frontier guards. All others who may desire to live in this zone are to be required to be furnished with special permits signed by both the Yugoslav and the Bulgarian officials concerned. The Yugoslav contention is that only in this way can the presence on the frontier of undesirables who endanger the good relations between the two countries be avoided. The remedy proposed is a desperate one for a desperate disease. It is not difficult to understand why the Bulgarian Government is unwilling to accept it, or why the Yugoslav Government is so concerned to press it. Its adoption would mean that the injustice of the territorial adjustments of the Treaty of Neuilly would be confirmed for all time and cease to be an injustice. No Bulgarian Government is anxious to be responsible for such a settlement.

A Turkish Trial.

For the second time Kadrie Hanem, a Turkish woman, has been tried after a long term of imprisonment on the same charge, and has been acquitted. The trial has vindicated the justice and independence of the Turkish Courts, but constitutes a severe indictment of Turkish administrative methods. Kadrie Hanem applied for an interview with the President of the Republic, in order, according to her own version, to ask him to intervene on her behalf to secure for her a certain sum of money due from her divorced husband, an Egyptian subject. Having arrived at Mustapha Pasha Kemal's residence, she failed to satisfy someone in the Ghazi's entourage of her *bona fides*, and she was arrested. A revolver was found on her—probably not an unusual occurrence in Turkey—and forthwith officials and Press scented a plot of wide ramifications to assassinate the President. At the first trial Kadrie Hanem was declared innocent and acquitted, but a few weeks later she was re-arrested on the ground that fresh light had been thrown on the "conspiracy," and she has remained in gaol until her acquittal at Smyrna last week. The incident would call for no comment, were it not for the fact that it serves to emphasize the state of "nerves" from which official Turkey suffers. Every possible device has been employed in the Press to prejudice the case, but fortunately Turkish justice is jealous of its reputation, and Kadrie Hanem has been acquitted. The blot on the Turkish escutcheon consists in the fact that the woman could have been incarcerated for so long, when obviously there was little chance of bringing any valid evidence against her. It is unfortunate for the material progress of the Republic that official Turkey is still apt to discover an enemy in every foreigner and in a large number of its own nationals. The Kadrie Hanem incident suggests that fewer people in Turkey than the Government gives the nation credit for are concerned to see any change in the existing régime, just as the vast majority of foreign countries are anxious to maintain friendly relations with a stable and progressive Turkey under any régime that suits the people.

Cyprus.

In view of the fact that fresh attempts are to be made to bring the Cyprus question to the fore again, it is satis-

factory to know that Sir Ronald Storrs has returned to the Island completely restored to health. During the absence of the Governor it was almost inevitable that those who are reluctant to accept the present status of Cyprus as a unit of the British Empire should have persuaded themselves that their cause was making headway, and the return to power of a Labour Government has encouraged them to renew an agitation on which the firm stand taken by the last British Cabinet and the tactfulness of the Governor had had a depressing effect. Whether the general attitude of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and his Ministers on British Imperial affairs will have served to confirm this encouragement remains to be seen. Fortunately, in no direction do the leaders of the Greek Cypriots receive support for any other action than the presentation *ad nauseam* of memoranda and petitions. While, therefore, they busy themselves with this form of agitation, it is to be hoped that they realise that the interests of the Island still call for the co-operation of all in an effort to advance the material prosperity of Cyprus, its inhabitants, and that they will rally round the Governor whatever the future may have in store.

Rebels in Persia.

Even at the risk of wearying our readers, we cannot refrain from reiterating our opinion that the Teheran Government, in its own interests, would have been wiser to issue some *communiqués* on the important anti-Government movement among the Kashgais and the Bakhtiariis. In the absence of genuine information wild rumours are inevitable, and reports of successes of insurgents or of Government troops are accepted in Persia with equal facility. First it is said that the columns operating from Ispahan have met with a serious reverse, then that the Bakhtiariis have been overwhelmingly defeated at Saif id Dasht. Similarly with the Kashgais around Shiraz: contradictory rumours abound. What the truth of the situation is the Persians themselves, and still less outside observers, have no means of knowing. It may be that the tribesmen of Southern Persia are destined to receive such proof of Governmental authority as, for instance, was demonstrated a few years ago by the Angora Government to the rebellious Kurds of Eastern Turkey; all that can safely be said at present is that signs of such a manifestation are wholly absent. The Teheran Government shows no reticence, on the other hand, in making known its conquest over the brigand of Khorasan, Zulfu, who a few days ago was publicly hanged in Meshed. Yet between the two operations of Government troops there was no comparison. Zulfu was an ordinary brigand who represented nobody but himself and his own ambitions, and the crushing of him was an unqualified benefit to Persia in general and to the province of Khorasan in particular. With the tribes of the South, however, it is a very different matter. They represent a permanent force, which might, as we have said before, be employed, if wisely exploited, to the immense advantage of Persia as a whole. Presumably the Teheran Government is waiting until the rising in the South is completely over before making an official statement on the subject. But such delay can only give rise to suspicion or anxiety among the well-wishers of Persia. When the Press of Teheran, with a praiseworthy courage, protests against the silence of the Persian Government over this rebellion, the inference is only too obvious.

Persian Representation in London.

Few foreign countries can have been represented in London during the last two years by so brilliant an intellect as that possessed by H.E. Hohvannes Khan Mossaed, the Persian Minister in London, whose resignation has just been announced. There have arisen during his tenure of office as Minister here one or two delicate situations in the relations between Persia and Great Britain, and it is not extravagant to say that it is very largely owing to his courtesy, graciousness, and comprehensive grasp of the situation—a grasp which is the result

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of the working, through many years, of a power of a shrewd observation of men and events—that the present degree of Anglo-Persian friendship has been reached. Without question there has been a marked improvement in the relations between the two countries during the retiring Minister's régime. A life-long lover of England himself—and what Oriental scholar has done so much as he to communicate that love to the East?—he has greatly contributed to the fact that an increasing number of Englishmen are now aware of the qualities of the Persian character and of the ambitions of her people. A sweet reasonableness, indeed, has pervaded the diplomacy of Hohvannes Khan Mossaed; he has most worthily served his country. If, as may be hoped, he devotes the remainder of his life to the interpretation of "his dear Shakespeare" to his fellow-countrymen, both the world in general and he himself may well be content. The retirement of such a man, therefore, makes one examine all the more eagerly the personality of his successor, H.E. S. H. Taghizadeh, formerly Governor-General of Khorasan. It is interesting to know that M. Taghizadeh has the reputation of being strongly imbued with the Nationalist ideals now actuating the Teheran Administration, and in wishing the new Minister a most happy stay in London, we may confidently express the hope that, the more sincerely and the more clearly the wishes and aims of the Shah and of his people are interpreted, the more closely will be bound the historic ties knitting Great Britain to Persia.

The Wailing Wall Again.

The hopes that were widely expressed of an early and amicable settlement to the vexed question of the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem seemed doomed to disappointment, for the problem has been allowed to become, in effect, a political problem. We shall not here repeat the views which we expressed, and to which we still adhere, upon the last "incident" at the Wailing Wall on the Day of Atonement, but it is quite obvious that that incident has been impressed deeply into the consciousness of Jewry. Ever since that time Jews, Orthodox and otherwise, and Muslims have regarded each other with apparently increasing suspicion. Building by Muslims in the proximity of the Wall has been going on, and not all the repeated protests of the Jews to the Palestine Government have been sufficient to stop it. It is, indeed, an exceedingly delicate problem, whether the Muslims are within their rights in acting thus. It would appear that legally they may have a good case; in any case, the matter has now been taken out of the hands of the Jerusalem Administration, to be dealt with by the Colonial Office itself. Certainly the Palestine Government would not have allowed the susceptibilities of Jews so to be wounded if the Muslims had not some legal justification. But the Jews are not letting the matter rest. A resolution was passed by the Zionist Congress at Zurich last week to authorise a delegation to go to London to ask the British Government for the fullest rights to be given to Jews to carry out their religious observances at the Wailing Wall. These rights, the Jews allege, have been seriously compromised by the construction of a new passage from Muslim buildings to the Wailing Wall, and by the interruption of services at the Wall, through the singing and dancing of adjacent Muslims. For the majority of those who take sides in this matter, the problem has, of course, gone outside the religious sphere: it is now one of national prestige. The propaganda that has been indulged in, particularly on the Jewish side, over this Wailing Wall affair has been tremendous. This fact must be recognised, if the problem is to be viewed in its proper proportions.

The Government and the Jews.

Once more the readiness of certain Jews to attack British officials in Palestine as possessing anti-Jewish prejudices is to be deplored. It is not incumbent upon Zionists to see both sides of the question (though the wisest of them attempt to do so), but if the British officials did not make it their capital and permanent duty to do so, a very

dangerous situation would arise. The rights and wrongs of this Wailing Wall are by no means so clearly established as certain protagonists would lead one to suppose. When feeling was at its height over the sad affair on the Day of Atonement, a Jewish Professor in the Hebrew University, who put the truth as he saw it above all things, is said actually to have suggested that the Jews had no rights at all at the Wailing Wall! That was courage of a high order, and although it cannot be supposed that many Jews will accept his diagnosis, we do wish that a greater number of influential Jews would look at the other side of the medal. As things are, it is becoming so easy to jibe, as a famous American traveller in the East has been heard to jibe, at the politically-minded Jews, who, he said, have all these hundreds of years been mourning and praying that they might return to Jerusalem, and, now that they are back there, still want to go on lamenting. That sentiment, of course, proceeds from a somewhat perverse view of the situation. But it must be emphasised that the matter has not become less difficult through the fact that it has to a considerable extent been taken out of the hands of the religious Jews, whose feelings have been cruelly exacerbated by antagonistic, if possibly legally justifiable, Muslim safeguards, and placed in those whose sympathy with the lamenters at the Wall is purely racial, or political. It is when one remembers the existence of such factors in the situation in the Holy Land as this Wailing Wall that the great dream of the British Government, the creation of a Palestinian nationality, which shall be neither predominantly Arab nor predominantly Jewish, seems incredibly far from possible realisation. For something that touches both the Arab and the Jew to their hearts—and this question of privilege and additional privilege at the Wall does unquestionably stir Arab and Jew to their very depths—will not readily die. All the less is there hope of its disappearance now that the trumpets of publicity have been blowing forth from both sides. In the circumstances, calmness, consideration, and constancy are more than ever desirable in British officials. Nor will they fail to show them.

INDIAN NOTES.

A Discredited Policy.

At a meeting last week of the All-India Congress Committee a resolution was proposed by Mr. Gandhi, and carried with four dissentients, declaring that the time had arrived when the national effort should be concentrated upon the preparation of the country for the campaign of non-violent non-co-operation after December 31 next, and

(Continued on page 155.)

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1929.

GREECE AND TURKEY.

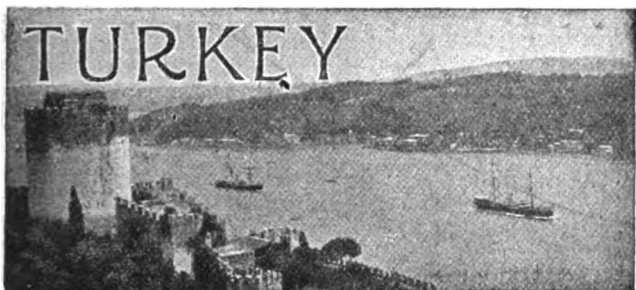
The last rupture of the negotiations between Greece and Turkey over the exchange of populations, to which the two countries committed themselves at Lausanne in 1923, is in keeping with the stormy and chequered history of the negotiations during the intervening years. It was, indeed, only a belated sense of shame, which overtook both the Governments towards the end of last year when they realised that the negotiations after several years showed no sign of being concluded, that prompted a more wholehearted effort to reach a settlement a few months ago. How long the sincerity of the effort was maintained on both sides it would be difficult to say. At least, the delegates were understood to have received from their respective Governments orders to come to an understanding, and for a time the prospect of an agreement was brighter. The old reluctance to give way on either side, or to explore common ground, soon reasserted itself, and the neutral members of the Exchange Commission were again busily engaged in reconciling differences and removing friction between the Greek and Turkish delegates. Finally a solution was evolved by the neutral members from the Greek and Turkish proposals and was submitted to both parties as a settlement to which both could agree. The Greeks, it is understood, accepted the Neutrals' proposals in their entirety; the Turks had certain reservations or emendations to make, and in the end so modified the Neutrals' scheme that it became unacceptable to the Greeks. This, at least, would seem to have been the course of the negotiations. It has been, however, exceedingly difficult to follow all the ramifications of the dispute. Neither the Greek nor the Turkish Press has been at pains to acquaint itself with the details of the discussions; each has merely vilified the other side and attributed to it, without any evidence, the sole responsibility for any deadlock, actual or threatened. Nor has the foreign observer received much help from the representatives in London of the two States in their effort to elucidate the deadlock for the benefit of the British public. The version of the Greek Minister is as follows: "The neutral members proposed many solutions, which Greece accepted in their entirety. Turkey, instead, has agreed to such proposals as she considered to be in conformity with her interests, but has made reservations in important matters of detail . . . it is the refusal of Turkey to admit their (the neutral members') suggestions . . . that is the cause of the standstill in the negotiations" The Turkish Ambassador, on the other hand, has a different version:—"Turkey," he writes, "has always been inspired by the most conciliatory sentiments and has never ceased to make continual sacrifices in the cause of peace. Thanks to this good will, to which the neutral members of the Mixed Commission have paid tribute, a project was elaborated binding in an inseparable whole the solution of all the pending questions. The rejection of this scheme by the Greek Government was the course of the recent rupture of the negotiations."

Between these two diametrically opposed versions the reader is left to make his choice. As to the question which led directly to the interruption of the negotiations there is, however, no doubt. The Turkish Government refuses to permit the return to Turkey of certain Greeks who left during the Allied Occupation of Constantinople, provided with passports supplied by officials of the Sultan, under whose jurisdiction Constantinople then was. If the Turkish Ambassador's version of the deadlock is correct, we have to infer that the neutral members of the Exchange Commission were responsible for, or have agreed to, the Turkish claim to refuse to the Greeks in question the right of return to Constantinople. No statement to this effect has been made in Turkey, and it seems unfortunate that the neutral members did not at once make the point clear. If they endorse the Turkish claim, it must be because they consider it just or reasonable, and a grave responsibility would rest on the Greeks for rejecting it. On the other hand, it would be interesting to know on what the neutral members base their alleged approval of the Turkish claim, which appears to be at variance not only with specific clauses of the Convention concerning the Exchange of Greek and Turkish populations, but also with the spirit of the whole understanding between the two countries, and in particular of the Declaration of Amnesty, with its Protocol, signed at Lausanne on July 24, 1923.

By the irony of fate, while the Turkish Government was repudiating the undertakings entered into at Lausanne, celebrations of the sixth anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Lausanne were taking place in Turkey. The occasion was one for flamboyant speeches and much self-complacency. The Treaty, one writer declares, is the turning-point in Europe's relations with the Turks. "We accepted nothing of all that the Powers dictated and forced on Germany, Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria. It is thanks to our firm attitude that while these countries are still struggling to extricate themselves from a painful situation Turkey has progressed calmly and tranquilly;" and the suggestion is made that every European should welcome the present reorganisation of Turkish national life, "which has set Turkey among the great nations of the West." Europe, however, has little time to-day to dwell in the past; it must needs be more concerned with the present. Turkey scored her points at Lausanne and no one is minded now to begrudge her the measure of success that she then achieved. Equally, however, no one is going to be misled into supposing that an infinite capacity for bargaining implies greatness or is an adequate foundation of itself for a successful State. The view of Europe is that Turkey with all her resources and her advantages should have made far greater progress in six years than she has done. Within this period Greece has absorbed a million and a quarter refugees and is all the richer for the additional man-power and intelligence that she thereby acquired. What has Turkey done for her exchanged population, and to what extent have they enriched the country? The Turkish Press would be more usefully employed in following up that line of thought than in patting itself on the back over Lausanne, and in imagining that Turkey has already taken her place "among the great nations of the West." In spite of her fourteen million population she is being left behind by Greece with seven millions and even by Bulgaria with five millions. If Greece has also held her own in the negotiations over the exchange of populations, her tenacity has not prevented her from dealing with the problem of her refugees. Turkey has haggled and four hundred thousand immigrants the while have had little or nothing done for them. It may be that, realizing this aspect of the problem late in the day, the Angora Government is trying to make amends to these unfortunates by laying hands on the property of the Greeks whom it is forbidding to return to Constantinople. If it does this, however, it is more likely to lose face in Europe thereby than to benefit its nationals.

'The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Constantinople, July 24

Breakdown of Greco-Turkish Negotiations.

After months of protracted and laboured discussions at Angora, and after repeated exchanges of views between the Turkish and Greek Cabinets through their respective diplomatic representatives, the Greco-Turkish negotiations have at last definitely broken down. The *primum mobile* in bringing about this regrettable state of affairs would appear to be the stubborn attitude taken up by the Turks with respect to the return to Constantinople of Hellenic subjects who left the country during the Occupation with their papers in order. This statement requires a little explanation.

Following upon the re-occupation of Smyrna by the Turkish forces and the almost total destruction of that city by fire, the native Christian elements of Constantinople, notwithstanding the presence of the Allied Forces of Occupation, suffered from a very severe attack of "nerves." All those who could afford it left the country, and very many seemed able suddenly to raise the wherewithal, who before had appeared to be in penury. Great numbers of these fugitives, being Turkish subjects, were almost destitute of "papers" and, sad to relate, for a variable fee, plus a *douceur* to subordinate officials, they were enabled to procure from certain Allied Passport Departments, sufficient proof of foreign nationality to enable them to pass the Turkish police. There were many "pukkah" Hellenic subjects, on the other hand, who had only to apply to the Greek High Commissioner in Constantinople to have their passports *visé*, in order to leave Turkey in entire conformity with the laws of the country, implying the right to return at their leisure. An appreciable proportion of these Hellenic subjects were not only of good social standing, but were also possessed, in many instances, of valuable property in the most populous and wealthiest parts of Pera.

It is over these fugitives travelling under the protection granted them, for a consideration, by certain Allied "Passport Bureaux" and the bona-fide Hellenic subjects that the trouble has arisen which has wrecked the negotiations. The Turkish Cabinet definitely declines to differentiate between these two classes of persons who hurriedly left Constantinople in those trying days immediately following upon the Smyrna conflagration. The Greek Delegates have laid no claim to the return to this city of any Greek of Turkish nationality who left Turkey with foreign passports. They have been consistently fighting, however, for the access to Constantinople of all Hellenic subjects who left the country with their papers in complete order.

It is by no means an easy matter for an outsider to judge of the merits of the case as presented by both parties. The fact nevertheless remains that, as an outcome of the breakdown of negotiations, the Turkish authorities have ordered the sequestration of the pro-

perties of the Hellenic subjects to whose return to the city there would appear to be no legal impediment but merely bad faith on the part of the local authorities. Many of these properties are of the finest in Pera.

Charges of Corruption.

Some three or four years ago, a company was formed in Turkey, almost entirely with French capital, with the object of exploiting one of the numerous State monopolies which have sprung up like mushrooms in the last few years. The foreign enterprise was, in this instance, to provide for the output of gunpowder, small-arms ammunition and high explosives. So far as it was possible to ascertain, matters were progressing favourably until about a fortnight ago, when very serious charges were brought against some of the original administrators of the company. Amongst the latter figures, is one of the leading lawyers of Constantinople, a certain Nessim Mazliah Bey, who was a Deputy under the old Unionist régime, but who, although now out of office like many of his former Unionist colleagues, has managed, by a diplomatic attitude, to keep on good terms with those now in the saddle. Whatever may be said of him, he has never so far been regarded as a suspect. The charge against the chairman and directors of the company is one of bribery and malversation, and Nessim Mazliah Bey, ex-Deputy, is accused of having received £150,000 as a *Rushvet* or *Douceur*, as a consequence of which he has been placed under arrest. Nessim Bey, as his name implies, is a Jew, and his co-directors, the well-known Frescos of Constantinople, co-religionists of his, are also under lock and key.

Financial undertakings in present-day Turkey where foreign capital is involved are of so delicate and intricate a nature that it will ill become the outsider to apportion blame for indelicacy, where, perhaps, blame is not due. If this were a solitary instance of speculation on a large scale in undertakings of this nature, the less said perhaps the better. But one cannot help recalling to mind a very similar case which occurred some two years ago in connexion with the French contract for the repairs to the Sultan Selim (ex-Goeben), in which both a Cabinet Minister and an Under-Secretary of State were involved. The painful circumstances which attended that inquiry led to the recall from Turkey of the French Ambassador and to his eventual death through a broken heart, although the diplomatist in question was the very last person against whom any charge of even disinterested collusion for his country's sake could possibly have been levelled.



Sofia, July 26.

Precautions Against August 1.

The Bulgarian police to-day took extraordinary measures to forestall the plans of the Executive Committee of the Communist International of Moscow, which had ordered Communists to make manifestations on August 1. They redoubled their watch over Communist groups here; they demanded from employers the names of all their workmen who were to be absent on August

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

1; they made sudden perquisitions in the provincial towns; they expelled all who could not justify their stay therein and arrested all those who could not produce an identity card. They forbade, moreover, all public meetings and particularly manifestations in the streets.

Union of the Liberals.

For a long time the profound necessity has been felt for a regrouping of the very scattered political forces in Bulgaria, where the numerous but unimportant parties are constantly weakened by bitter feuds. For years there has been talk of a concentration of parties, the only means of securing a stable and respected Government. It was in answer to this sentiment that the Democratic Entente was constituted, after the *coup d'état* of 1923. But events which followed this *coup d'état* did not allow this group fully to develop; valuable elements soon detached themselves from it or led a separate existence within it.

The idea of concentration persisted, however, and it has just had a new and powerful impulse through the decision of three or four Liberal fractions, dating from before or during the War, to make common cause among themselves and become a single party. These sections had undergone some evolution, so that it was no longer possible to distinguish the Stamboulovists of Ghenadieff or of his adversary, Dobri Petkoff, nor the scattered partisans of Tontcheff, nor even always the faithful friends of Radoslavoff. For the Liberals had departed far from their first principles. In any case, the Liberals now declare themselves to be a completely new party, directed by an executive committee without a titular head.

Thus reconstituted, the Liberal Party, which has a great number of supporters in the country, may have a considerable future, if it succeeds in keeping united after the return of M. Radoslavoff, who, now that he is amnestied, would appear to wish to return to active political life and to press his claims to leadership, if not of the whole group, at least of his personal supporters. For it is not believed that he will allow himself to die politically, although he has no longer a chance of being able to play a rôle of any importance.

The Serbo-Bulgarian Tension.

No appreciable improvement is noticeable in the relations between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. The Bulgarian newspapers continue to publish stories of the murder of Bulgarians, on the Yugoslav frontier, by Serbian soldiers and gendarmes, and the Yugoslav papers continue their violent attacks on the Bulgarian Government. This

Government only demands the application of the arrangements already agreed upon in the famous Pirot Conference (concerning the régime of dual properties, the formalities of crossing the frontier, and the constitution of a permanent Mixed Commission to investigate and to settle all future incidents); whereas the Yugoslav Government makes the condition, unacceptable to Bulgaria, that there shall be a final liquidation of all the dual properties and also the institution of a neutral zone along ten kilometres of the frontier (five each side) which nobody other than frontier guards and the indigenous population would have the right to enter, unless provided with special authorisation.

Great Britain and France intervened at Belgrade and Sofia, and in this connexion M. Bourroff, who was taking the cure at Vichy, was despatched to Paris to prepare the ground for a direct understanding with these two Great Powers. Bulgaria asked for the immediate ratification of the Pirot Agreement, declaring herself ready to negotiate with Yugoslavia for the settlement of her demands, having already accepted at the end of the Pirot Conference an exchange of bilateral properties in cases where the proprietors concerned would give their consent and the establishment of a neutral zone of one kilometre, along five hundred metres of the frontier. Great Britain immediately recommended this solution to the Yugoslavs, but France refused to suggest to Belgrade the necessary ratification—at which the Yugoslavs took courage and even proceeded to launch a diplomatic offensive against Bulgaria.

As the controversy was becoming embroiled, the Bulgarian Government published in Sofia and abroad the following statement on the Pirot Conference:—

"As is known, the Pirot Conference reached a successful conclusion. On the basis of its decisions and in accord with its Government, the Bulgarian delegation elaborated three rulings:—one relative to the movement of persons owning property astride the frontier, the second relative to the nomination of a Mixed Commission of Inquiry which would have a permanent character, and the third relative to police measures, for the purpose of facilitating passage of the frontier between the two States.

"To proceed with the application of these rulings, approved by the Sofia Government, we waited for the approval of the Belgrade Government. It is regrettable that such approval has not yet been accorded.

"The news appearing in certain organs of the foreign Press according to which Bulgaria has been unwilling to proceed to the ratification of certain decisions of the Pirot Conference, is untrue. The Bulgarian Government has ratified all the decisions of the Conference.

"Moreover, there is no truth in the statement, contained in certain foreign journals, that the Conference has not finished its labours, and that, in consequence, its decisions cannot be ratified before proceeding to the conclusion of an agreement on two other problems relative to the liquidation of properties astride the frontier and the creation of a frontier zone. These two problems were abandoned by the Conference, to be examined by the respective Governments, not only because they did not appear in the programme of the Conference, but also by reason of their complexity.

"The Pirot Conference performed its task in reaching agreement on the problems set down for it. The decisions on these problems have found application in the respective rulings which have been already mentioned and which await the approval of the Yugoslav Government, after having been approved on the Bulgarian side."

The Yugoslav Government has attempted to counteract this Bulgarian *communiqué* by inspired articles in the Belgrade Press, trying to prove that the Pirot Conference had not fulfilled its programme and that before proceeding to the ratification of the rulings agreed upon it was necessary to obtain a ruling also on the two questions in suspense. And as this thesis rests on a fundamental contradiction; namely, the absolute contradiction existing between the agreement provided for on the



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facilities of exploitation of bi-national properties and the demand for the radical liquidation, by expropriation, of these same properties, the Yugoslavs have had recourse to a diversion, by sending to Sofia a formal protest against the amnestying of Radoslavoff.

Actually, however, the Yugoslav Government has not protested against the amnestying of Radoslavoff—it could not reasonably do so—it contented itself with asking the Bulgarian Government to explain how the amnesty recently voted by the Sobranje agreed with Articles 118, 119, and 120 of the Treaty of Neuilly, all the stipulations of which it means strictly to enforce. This *démarche*, in the possibility of which no one in Bulgaria believed, has been loudly criticised in all Bulgarian circles, Government and Opposition, who have seen in it a revival of the spirit of ten years ago, of the Peace Treaties, when Mr. Lloyd George wished the Kaiser to be hanged! Moreover, the Articles cited concern only the sanctions to be applied to "persons accused of having committed acts contrary to the laws and customs of war"—whom the Allies, acting either collectively or separately, had the right to seize, and whom Bulgaria was obliged to deliver up. Such a demand for the "coupables" was made by the Serbians in 1920; but it was not persisted in, and judgment of Radoslavoff and of his colleagues, responsible for the national catastrophe, was made in the Bulgarian High Court independently of the Yugoslav claim. Now, ten years after the signing of the Peace Treaties, there is to be an amnesty. The Radoslavoff Cabinet and the ex-Generalissimo Gekoff have been amnestied since 1924. No objection was raised to this amnesty. The amnesty which the Sobranje recently voted had in mind the personal acts of the former President of the Council and of his principal and Germanophil collaborator, Tontcheff, whom the 1924 amnesty had not touched—as a result of which permission was given to them, especially to Radoslavoff, to return and to die peacefully in the country in which they naturally possess no moral standing. What have the Articles 118, 119 and

120 to do with this? The Yugoslavs know perfectly well that their protest to Sofia can have only a platonic value. It will have aggravated the tension and will for a long time have rendered impossible a direct entente between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

As a consequence of this protest Bulgarian Nationalist circles are making furious attacks against the Yugoslavs. Nor are the Moderates any less energetic in their attacks on Belgrade. As for the partisans of Serbo-Bulgarian reconciliation, they are profoundly affected by this new manifestation of hostility between the two countries.



Alexandria, July 26.

Lord Lloyd's Resignation.

All other matters in Egypt this week have been totally overshadowed by the news of Lord Lloyd's resignation, which caused as great a sensation here as apparently it did in London. Apart from certain well informed political circles, very much in the minority, the news came as a complete surprise and has been received with very mixed feelings. The main question asked is, does the fact that the Labour Government asked Lord Lloyd to resign foreshadow a drastic change in their policy towards Egypt, and if so, what form will it take?

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(Change at Kantara West)			Kantara East	...	arr. 1730
Kantara East	...	dep. 2345	Kantara West	...	dep. 1910
Jaffa	...	arr. 0750	Cairo	...	arr. 2230
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Haifa	4,945	4,115	5,435

R. B. W. Holmes,
General Manager,
HAIFA.

There is a certain jubilation amongst the Arabic Press, especially the Wafdist section, and the resignation was, in every paper, translated as dismissal. Great hopes had been put in the Labour Government, but when at first they stated that their policy towards Egypt would not differ at all from the Conservative Party's policy, these hopes seemed likely to be frustrated. This new move has, however, reawakened the hopes, and the view is held that, as the avowedly Conservative High Commissioner has been dismissed, it follows that the Conservative policy will also be entirely changed. The newspapers are not committing themselves, and are eagerly awaiting Mr. Henderson's statement in the House of Commons. The Wafd, however, does undoubtedly feel considerable relief at Lord Lloyd's departure, if only on the ground, as one of the local newspapers stated, that he regarded himself as Egypt's supreme ruler, despite the fact that Egypt had been proclaimed an independent sovereign State. Lord Lloyd always maintained public security in a most firm manner, and it is thought that his departure may be made the occasion for a revival of disturbances, which the intensive Wafd propaganda now taking place could easily stir up.

There is a slight feeling of uneasiness among the European communities. Their sole interest in the political situation lies in the Capitulations, and they feel that Lord Lloyd's resignation may imply a drastic change in the Capitulatory laws. The news of the resignation, which came on top of all kinds of very contradictory statements concerning negotiations, has led them to believe that the departure of the High Commissioner is only the first step in an entire change of British policy.

However Lord Lloyd's resignation may be viewed by the other communities in Egypt, British inhabitants as a whole feel a very deep regret. Lord Lloyd has had a most difficult period to deal with, and if he has erred, he has erred on the side of British interests. Conditions in Egypt when he arrived four years ago were not at all happy, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has effected very considerable improvements during his High Commissionership. It is felt that the coming winter will, politically, be a very difficult time, and Lord Lloyd's intimate knowledge of local conditions would have been invaluable. The feelings which Lord Lloyd inspired are

best illustrated by the following telegram, which the British community in Alexandria sent to him on the news of his resignation:—

Members of the British community in Alexandria desire to express to you their great regret at the news of the severance of your connexion with Egypt and their keen appreciation of the constant energy and enthusiasm of your efforts in their interests during your tenure of the post of High Commissioner.

A similar telegram was also sent from Cairo.

Egyptian Hotels' Profits.

Closely following the publication of the report of the Egyptian Hotels Ltd., for the last year and the news that they are paying a dividend of 35 per cent. plus a bonus of 4s. per share, a bitter attack was made by an Arabic daily on the foreign hotel companies in Egypt, on the grounds that they charge excessive prices, which have the effect of nullifying the efforts which are being made to attract foreign tourists, and thus pay unreasonably high dividends. This diatribe is entirely unwarranted and is erroneous on its two main points. First, although prices charged at hotels such as the Semiramis, Mena House, Shepherds, and others, are high, in comparison with English, American and Continental hotels of equal standing, they are by no means out of the way. These Egyptian hotels are amongst the finest in the world, and their reputation and name is such that certain tourists, especially Americans, would pay anything merely to be able to state that they had stayed there. This is proved by the fact that during the season before last, when, owing to the fact that boats were unable to proceed up the Nile, there was an immense congestion of visitors in Cairo, and rather than stay at equally good but less famous hotels, people were sleeping in bath-rooms, on floors and on the billiard tables at Shepherds, while the Heliopolis Palace Hotel, which as far as the actual premises are concerned is one of the finest in the world, was almost empty. Then as regards dividend. For the first seventeen years of its existence the Egyptian Hotel Company paid no dividend at all. The Directors followed the far-sighted policy of putting the profits back into the business, and by rigid economy and hard work built up what is now an extremely flourishing concern. Therefore, original shareholders have received dividends averaging about five per cent., and as the £1 share to-day stand in the region of £7, purchasers obtain a return of roughly 7.75 per cent. It seems rather obvious that the attack was inspired, with the intention of speeding up the Government in their intention of building a new State-owned hotel, which they are planning to construct on the banks of the Nile at Gezira.

Oil from Suez to Cairo.

The Shell Company, who have large refineries at Suez, have lately approached the Government with the object of obtaining their permission to construct a pipe-line from Suez to Cairo, so that they could transport their oil at a much reduced cost and also at a considerably greater speed. This application was referred by the Ministry concerned to the Egyptian State Railways for their opinion. They have now recommended that the application should be refused on the following grounds: That it would mean a large loss of revenue to the State, which they estimate at about £450,000 per annum. That if the Shell Co. lay down a pipe line, other companies must follow suit, and a further loss of revenue would follow. That the complaints of the time and distance of the present Cairo-Suez railway, which runs through Ismailia, will soon be without basis, as it is intended to construct a new direct line. These arguments are countered by the contention that a considerable revenue could be collected as dues from the oil companies, with the added advantage that considerably cheaper petrol would be on sale to benefit the community. The discussion is linked up with the opposition to the new railway project, on the ground that an improved road from Cairo to Suez is more urgent.

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITY.—FACULTY OF SCIENCE.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the Post of ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN. The salary offered is from £E400 to £E600 a year (about £410 to £615) according to qualifications, and the appointment will, in the first instance, be on contract for three years, and subject to cancellation by three months' notice being given on either side.

If the applicant appointed is resident in Europe, an allowance equal to one month's salary will be paid to him for travelling expenses on arrival in Cairo.

Applications, with copies of not more than three recent testimonials and giving the names of not more than three persons to whom reference may be made, should be addressed to the Director, Egyptian Education Office, 30, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, and the envelopes marked "Post of Assistant Librarian."

Application to be sent so as to be received not later than August 15, 1929.

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITY.—FACULTY OF SCIENCE.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the Post of TAXIDERMIST. The salary offered is from £E300 to £E400 a year (about £307 to £410) according to qualifications, and the appointment will, in the first instance, be on contract for three years and subject to cancellation on three months' notice being given on either side. If the applicant appointed is resident in Europe, an allowance equal to one month's salary will be paid to him for travelling expenses on arrival in Cairo.

Applications, with copies of not more than three recent testimonials, should be addressed to the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Egyptian University, Abbassia, Cairo, so as to be received not later than August 15, 1929.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 18.

Boycotting the Legislatures.

On July 5 the Congress Working Committee met in Delhi, under the chairmanship of Pandit Motilal Nehru, to consider the request of members of the Congress Party in several Provincial Councils for permission to attend their Councils, and to participate in the transaction of business. After a five hours' discussion, the following resolution was passed:—

"This Committee, having considered the several communications from members of the Central and Provincial Legislatures with respect to the resolution of the Working Committee regarding abstention from attendance at meetings of the Legislatures and having regard to the circumstances placed before the Working Committee, is of opinion that it would be in the interests of the Swaraj movement to advise the members of the various Legislatures to resign their seats. In view, however, of the importance of the question, the Committee considers that a final decision should be taken by the All-India Congress Committee. It, therefore, resolves that a special meeting of the All-India Congress Committee be convened for this purpose at Allahabad on July 26.

"Walk-in, Walk-out."

So, orders having been issued that the Congressmen were to refrain from attending the meetings of the Legislatures, and these orders having called out "communications" from several Provinces, the Committee, to show its temper, would go one better, and order wholesale resignations; but that it does not quite dare. It would, if it dared, but it dare not. So, a clear lead having been given to the larger body, if only it will take it, that larger body is to decide. The policy of non-attendance at meetings until further orders is generally spoken of as the "walk-in, walk-out" policy, and the easier it is to talk about a matter in India (giving a thing a handle for one to call it by makes it easier to talk of), the sooner will it be talked to death. A politician with whom I was talking the other day in Lucknow is probably right. His opinion is that the Allahabad meeting will turn down the resignation policy. I noted from the way the phrase "walk-in, walk-out" came off this man's tongue, that the mere phrase had decided him on which side to be. He was making no effort to see how much logical force underlies the wish of Pandit Motilal Nehru and the others at Delhi that the Congress Party should persist in this its answer to the Viceroy's act in not dissolving the Central Legislature, even to the point of their all resigning.

The Congress Party's Logic.

In 1919 the British Parliament said: "Here is a new Constitution for India. Under it will be created a number of legislative bodies, with in each a majority of elected representatives of the people. It transfers the control of certain Departments to Ministers responsible to these bodies, Ministers who shall be chosen from among the elected members. Work it for all it is worth, and, in working it, evolve a stable political order." The Congress said that it was no use; that such legislative bodies were no use; that until all the departments were transferred, nothing was any use; they would either not attend the

meetings of the Councils, or would do so only to criticise, and to pass resolutions calling upon the British Parliament to knuckle down. That was easier to do than to say. This or that individual member of the Party would introduce a private member's bill, being too hot on, say, social reform to remember all the time that "nothing was any use." For a Council through which a private member's bill can be passed, say one on the subject of child-marriage, is clearly that much use. There is no denying it. The tendency of the bulk of the members of the Congress Party is to forget their Party's logic. Not only are they deeply interested in a quantity of privately promoted legislation, but they also strongly desire to have their share in shaping certain official bills. In other words, in effect they would work the existing Constitution for what it is worth, thus contradicting the Party's assertion that it is worthless. One sympathises with the leaders, except that one knows that neither do they really believe that the existing Constitution is "no use."

The Child Marriage Bill.

I have mentioned the subject of child-marriage in India in passing. The attention of all those in Great Britain who are really interested in India, may be called to the chances of Mr. Sarda's Child Marriage Bill soon becoming law. There is just the possibility that the Simla Secretariat, a notoriously cowardly body, one terrified of taking any responsibility upon itself, may muddle things, as by not giving days enough for the discussion of the Bill, to the point of the Bill not passing. The situation is, that the Bill has twice been considered by select committees; has twice been circulated for opinion; was hung up pending the submission of the Age of Consent Committee's report. That Committee has now reported, and in favour of the prohibition by law of child marriage. Nothing can now be publicly stated as a reason why the Bill should not be pushed on. Nothing can be stated; but Simla knows well what a heavy mass of inert fear and superstition in the country would be gratified by the news that the Bill had been lost, and that children may for centuries to come still be gaily married. So one suspects and distrusts Simla. It is sometimes called "dead dog."

Miscellaneous News.

The application for the transfer to Allahabad of the Meerut Conspiracy case has been rejected by the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. One notices that your Graham Poles and Fenner Brockways, the hot-hearts who are so little fit to lead in Imperial affairs, have been plying the Secretary of State for India with questions regarding the trial. If they but show the same amount of interest in the question of child marriage!

A proposal for an All-India Medical Council has been turned down. Rightly, I imagine; but I have not yet had an opportunity of asking any doctor for his opinion. Most things in India have good names, but are bad things. Things are corrupted in India.

The English headmasters of schools here all insist on their children going up for the Cambridge Local examinations. They say that no examinations would be good that were conducted by an Indian body; no, not if all the Governments and secretariats were behind it.

The weather here to-day is such as to make a man's working with his head almost impossible. The climatic conditions in India are at times terribly against us.

THE ECONOMIC POSITION IN INDIA.

Earl Peel, the late Secretary of State for India, presided at a largely attended meeting of the East India Association at the Caxton Hall on July 31, when a interesting paper was read by Mr. Kikabhai Premchand, M.L.A., on "The Economic Position in India." Mr. Premchand is a member of the Indian Central Committee which is co-operating with the Simon Commission, and is senior partner of Premchand, Roychand and Sons, the well-Bombay financial house.

Welcoming the lecturer, the Chairman said that it was an open secret that successive Finance Members in India, like Sir Basil Blackett and Sir George Schuster, had been grateful for the advice which Mr. Premchand, who was an acknowledged authority on Indian finance and currency questions, had tendered to them from time to time.

Mr. Premchand, after paying a tribute to the advantages India had derived from the British connexion, said that the bonds between India and the British Empire had become so closely interwoven through the passage of time that it would be not merely painful but highly injurious to either if a partnership from which each had derived such substantial benefits were dissolved. He regretted the unfortunate impression which seemed to be entertained in some quarters that there was actually a conflict of interests between the two. It was only by the cultivation of mutual knowledge, sympathy and understanding that such perverted ideas could be removed and a sound and sympathetic statesmanship evolved that took into due account the vital consideration that in its political and economic life India's standards are steadily advancing and approximating more and more towards those of Western countries. On that ground it was highly desirable that moderate and sober-minded Indian opinion should be given more weight in the settlement of Indian questions than had been the case in the past.

"You know," he continued, "that the greater political rights India received after the War included the convention, at least on paper, that in fiscal matters in which the Government of India and the Legislature were agreed, the Secretary of State would not ordinarily interfere; that his intervention would be limited to the matters affecting the wider imperial interests. India has adopted a policy of discriminating protection by means of a permanent Tariff Board, to which the Government refers applications from industries claiming protection within the well-defined limits laid down by the Fiscal Commission. In 1924 the first and most important step in this direction was taken by the protection of the iron and steel industry, which had been built up at Jamshedpur, and which was established in time to render service of immense value to the Allied cause in the Great War by providing the rails and other materials so urgently required in various Eastern theatres of conflict. These vital necessities could not have been obtained from England and other countries except at the cost of serious curtailment of the no less urgently needed supplies of munitions and food. When the protective tariff on steel, at first laid down for three years, was renewed in 1927, provision was made for a basic duty to be paid by all imports, with an additional duty levied on foreign steels not coming up to the British specifications.

"Have we not here a striking example of a method of fiscal adjustment which may be applied to other industries under certain conditions agreed to by India? For example, could not the cotton-mill industry of India be protected from crippling foreign competition on these lines? I feel confident that the more such questions are fairly faced in an unprejudiced spirit and with understanding of mutual needs, the more ready will the Legislature be to protect Indian industries by such methods. I doubt whether this facility for adjustment has been adequately recognised by the Foreign Office, to say nothing of other Departments in Whitehall. It is the failure to make provision of this kind which has given rise to the idea largely entertained by my countrymen that, although India enjoys fiscal autonomy on paper, she is not actually

free to protect her industries in the way that she might desire."

Dealing with India in relation to British unemployment, Mr. Kikabhai Premchand said:—

"This brings me back to a proposition made, by inference at least, when I began my remarks, that in the wide sense of the term there is no real conflict of interest as between the two countries. A prosperous India is of enormously greater advantage to the British manufacturer and working man than an India drifting to restlessness. With cogeny Mr. Snowden, who is now again Chancellor of the Exchequer, pointed out a few weeks ago that the raising of the purchasing power of the average Indian to a very limited extent would be of enormous benefit to British trade. He suggested in the House of Commons on July 9 that the doubling of the purchasing power of the Indian people would increase the export trade of this country by £87,000,000. It is perfectly true that India would purchase more merchandise, and it is an economic factor to which the closest attention should be given. But I think we must go beyond generalities and ask to whom, under the present fiscal arrangements, this trade is most likely to go. I must remind you that foreign countries have a keen eye on the Indian market, and, as I have pointed out, in the case of textiles, have made very serious inroads into it. Unless, therefore, we pursue the policy of preference which, whilst leaving India free to develop her own industries to the maximum of her capacity, will facilitate the trade in those articles which she does not produce herself, Great Britain may find that even after the most strenuous efforts have been made to develop the Indian trade, the commercial benefits have gone to foreign competitors."

It was to be regretted that in the excitement arising from the appointment of the Statutory Commission, the much-needed Reserve Bank for India which was so carefully and ably planned by the late Finance Member, Sir Basil Blackett, failed by a narrow majority to receive legislative sanction. It was to be hoped the present inquiry would result in a great extension of banking and credit facilities in the country, and thus lay the foundations for a central banking institution as independent of political interference and control as the Bank of England. He believed that before many years are over there would be a central bank independent of political pressure and conducted on that strictly business and economic basis which can alone ensure success.

"One great advantage of the development of banking facilities which may be expected to result from the present inquiry will be the stimulation given to the investment of Indian capital. There has already been striking progress. I am amazed when I compare the amount of Indian capital available for investment to-day with the relatively small amount of money that could be obtained when I first entered my father's business in the year 1900.

"The figures, so far as they are available, are so remarkable that it is surprising to find that they have aroused so little attention and comment, but to those of you who would care to pursue this study further, I would invite attention to the illuminating speech made by the former Finance Member, Sir Basil Blackett, when at Delhi, shortly before his retirement, when he gave an impressive record of the growth of the financial strength of India. I can look back on the time when the Government of India, after having raised a loan of Rs. 5½ crores in a year, thought it had achieved something unparalleled. Contrast that with what we see to-day, when a subscription of between Rs. 30 crores and Rs. 40 crores, raised in the current year without any special advertising or propaganda, passes almost without notice, as though it were an ordinary event.

"Provided that the work of the Banking Inquiry Committee leads to the complete mobilisation of the capital resources of India, even now largely inert despite the progress which has been made, I look forward with confidence to the day when India will not only supply all the

capital required for her state and other industrial enterprises from her own resources, but will gradually become a considerable investor in overseas concerns. We already see the process at work in the increasing tendency of India to buy back her foreign debt. Unfortunately exact figures are not available, but if they were the extent to which India has purchased her sterling securities would surprise many of you and would furnish an impressive testimony to her increasing financial strength.

"Your Association has had its attention drawn to recent legislative proposals implying some discrimination between Indian owned enterprises and those which are based mainly or wholly on British capital. If these ideas are unfortunate it must be remembered that they have come to birth in a time of severe depression of Indian industries, and in the keen anxiety to help them. Rightly or wrongly they are due to a belief that in the past some British conductors of large enterprises have not always been so ready as they should to help Indian interests. It is not unnatural that the Indian business man should have some misgiving as to the growth of large and monopolistic interests not based on Indian capital. I may be permitted to observe that if there is to be forbearance it must be forbearance on both sides, and that the British and Indian conductors of industry and commerce should work together as partners with a single eye to the advancement of India's economic prosperity.

"I would correct an impression which I find to exist in some quarters in this country that what may be termed vocal Indian opinion desires severance from the British Empire. Will all the force at my command, I would impress upon you the fact that the overwhelming majority of the people, and not least the Indian commercial community in general, have not the slightest desire to see the Imperial partnership brought to an end. What they really want is to promote by every legitimate means the economic advancement of India, and they urge that to this end she should control her own fiscal policy without any interference.

"The tendencies I have indicated seem," Mr. Premchand concluded, "to me to indicate the rapid growth in the financial and economic strength of India, despite certain weaknesses which must exist in any country of such magnitude and diversity. But, at the same time, they show that, provided the whole of our capital resources are brought into productive use by the creation of an effective means of liquifying our inert capital and by the steady development of our industries through a discriminating fiscal policy, we are assured of the rapid and sustained progress.

"Those of us who are engaged in the work of the Statutory Commission have only one object in view: it is to suggest a political organisation which, whilst satisfying the wholly reasonable demand of the Indian people for the ultimate control of their own affairs within the Commonwealth, shall maintain, unimpaired, the majestic fabric of law and order, peace and security, which are indispensable to our national prosperity. We are convinced that if we, or others, succeed in this aim we shall be building up a fabric which will induce the greater strength not only of India herself, but of Great Britain and of all the partners in the Commonwealth.

"Personally, may I say, I hope earnestly to see our Imperial fiscal policy so planned and developed that the increased purchasing power of India, arising from an economic growth, shall be expressed in terms of wider Imperial trade than trade without the orbit of the Commonwealth. To these questions I have ventured to invite your attention, and I would only say, in conclusion, that their careful and unbiased prosecution must be the means of adding not only to the prosperity of India but the Commonwealth and the world."

Lord Peel said that he was in agreement with the substance of most of the lecturer's remarks. He hoped that the Royal Commission under Mr. Whitley would make a very useful contribution to the overcoming of the labour difficulties of which in recent years India had had

such bitter experience. In connexion with India's ratification of the Washington Labour Convention so many years before Japan had done so, he thought that care was necessary in regard to the ratifying of international conventions of this kind. Simultaneous ratification by all the countries concerned would be the best course, and he would like to have some common denominator to which the varying interpretations put upon such conventions by different countries might be reduced. Mr. Premchand had suggested that the convention of non-interference by the Secretary of State when the Indian Government and its Legislature were in agreement on questions of fiscal policy existed "at least on paper." He could recall no instance in his experience at the head of the India Office when, with such agreement existing between Government and the Legislature, there was interference by the Secretary of State. He had known some prominent Indians to suggest that preference would be given to Great Britain if India obtained responsible government, but he resented the suggestion that there could be any amenability to a bribe of that kind. The question of preference, like that of further constitutional advance, must be judged on its own merits. He believed its adoption would be a huge economic benefit to both countries.

A letter was read from Lord Melchett supporting the views of the lecturer. The securing of a just balance between agriculture and other industries was one of the great questions of the development of the Empire on a unified economic basis. The ideal of making the Empire a single economic unit was practicable and attainable. Only by its creation could we hope to put the Empire in its rightful place in international trade and industry, and only so could we combat and defeat those disruptive and Communistic tendencies of which the lecturer had spoken. The ideal of the Empire as an economic unit was not a political cry: it was fundamentally a great conception of a very serious business proposition which should be thrashed out by representative business men from various parts of the Empire with us at home.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 147)

agreeing with the Working Committee's view that all Congress members of the Central and Provincial Legislatures should resign their seats in order to give effect to the Congress policy. At the same time—and the rider is more significant than the resolution proper—the Committee also resolved, in deference to the views expressed by a considerable body of Congress members, that the question of withdrawal from the Legislatures should not be finally settled until the forthcoming Congress at Lahore in December. The resolution was described by its mover as a compromise between the Pandit Motilal Nehru and himself, and it serves to demonstrate anew the sharp difference of opinion among Congressmen on the "independence" and other issues. While the decision, or rather absence of one, is undoubtedly a wise one from the standpoint of the Swarajist party, for any other course would unquestionably have led to a serious revolt in the Congress party at a most critical juncture in its fortunes, it can scarcely be regarded as a happy augury for the success of the new campaign. Meanwhile the Swarajists will presumably continue to function in the Legislatures until January, and it is plain that, as we have always contended, a large number of Congress nominees recognise the futility of the boycott of the Legislatures if they are to play any part at all in the remodelling of the Constitution.

It is stated in Teheran that Ain al-Mulk, who, as we recorded in our issue of July 4, has recently been negotiating with the Wahhabi King for an agreement between Persia and the Hijaz and Najd, has submitted his report to the Government, and that the Hijaz Government has decided to send to Persia a delegate to arrange for friendly relations between the two countries.

KING FUAD OF EGYPT.

King Fuad of Egypt paid a visit on August 2 to the Royal College of Surgeons, and was made an Honorary Fellow of the College. Lord Moynihan, the President, on presenting the diploma, referred to the close connexion of the Royal College of Surgeons of England with the Egyptian School of Medicine. Dr. Aly Ibrahim, the present Dean of the School, had recently been made an Honorary Fellow of the College, and within recent years nine Egyptians, trained in the school at Cairo, had become fellows by examination of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

King Fuad, having signed the roll of honorary fellows, inspected the museum and other parts of the building.

His Majesty honoured Baroness Wentworth with a visit at Crabtree Park, Three Bridges, Sussex, during last week-end, and inspected her stud of Arab horses. He concluded his visit to London on August 6, when he left for Paris, accompanied by Sir Ahmed Hassanein Bey, Lord Chamberlain, and other members of his suite.

THE ENGLISH ZIONIST FEDERATION.

A deputation from the English Zionist Federation, consisting of Mr. Paul Goodman, Chairman of the Political Committee, and the Rev. M. L. Perlzweig, Chairman of the Propaganda and Education Committee, has been received by Sir John Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., High Commissioner for Palestine, who is at present in England.

The deputation, having congratulated the High Commissioner on the steps taken to encourage the economic development of Palestine, and on the marked improvement in the economic situation achieved since his appointment a year ago, conveyed to him the views of British Zionists on Immigration, the Employment of Jewish Labour, Land Legislation, the Jewish Community Regulations, and a number of political questions.

Sir John undertook to give careful consideration to the views expressed by the delegation, and said that his Administration would always be guided by the principles embodied in the Mandate. He added that he was satisfied that considerable progress had been made during the past year, and that there was now a feeling of stability and security in Palestine such as the country had not experienced for some years.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains interesting articles on "Excavations at Ophel, 1928," and "Jerash, 1926," by Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, "Notes on Monastic Records in the Judean Wilderness," by M. Michael Marcoff and Mr. D. J. Whitty, "The Immovable East," by Mr. P. J. Baldensperger. In addition there is a full account of the sixty-fourth annual general meeting, at which Dr. E. W. G. Masterman delivered a lecture on "The History of Ophel Hill."

Notes exchanged between the British and Turkish Governments for the establishment of a commercial *modus vivendi* have been published by H.M. Stationery Office. [Cmd. 3366; 2d.]

Dr. Christomanos, Greek Under-Secretary for Health, and General Manettas, Under-Secretary for War, have tendered their resignations, the former owing to his candidature for the mayoralty of Athens, and the latter owing to disagreement with the Government on military policy.

Vice-Admiral Kelly, commanding the First British Battle Squadron, who arrived in Phaleron Bay on board H.M.S. *Revenge* on July 23, paid a visit the following day to the Greek Minister of Marine.

Dr. Walko, Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Petroff-Chomakoff, Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires in Budapest, on July 22 signed a treaty of conciliation and arbitration between Hungary and Bulgaria. The treaty is valid for five years.

The Sayyid Muhammad Zaabara, confidential adviser to whom the Zaidi Imam Yahya of Sanaa, in the Yaman, entrusted the negotiations with King Hussain in Mecca and, later, those with the Wahhabi King, is now staying in Cairo.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Persian Parliament will reassemble on August 8 (Mordad 17).

It has been decided in Teheran to double the aerial service, run by the Junkers Company, between Bushire and the capital.

General Jevitch, Military Governor of Belgrade, died on July 30 after a short illness.

The damage done by recent floods near Tabriz, in Persian Azerbaijan, is estimated at 2,000,000 tomans (£400,000).

A woman known as Kâdrie Hanum and eight other persons were last week found not guilty, for lack of evidence, of conspiring against the life of Kemal Pasha.

Instructions were sent last week to M. Neshitch, Yugoslav Minister in Sofia, to inform the Bulgarian Government that Yugoslavia had denounced the unratiſied Pirot agreement.

The Roumanian Cabinet and many Deputies left Bucharest on July 30 in a special train for Badacini, in Transylvania, to attend the funeral of the Prime Minister's mother, who died the previous day at the age of 85 while Dr. Maniu was engaged in proroguing Parliament.

A Royal Decree has been promulgated appointing Sir Robert Hyde Greg, formerly British Minister at Bucharest, as British Commissioner of the Egyptian Caisse de la Dette Publique, in place of the late Mr. H. Farnall. The appointment dates from September 1.

A message at the end of last week stated that, as the unrest among the Baharlu Tribe had made the roads between Kerman and Yazd and Kerman and Bandar Abbas unsafe, the four garrisons from Persian Baluchistan had been marched into the Kerman area, and the Beluchi Sirdar Idu Khan had been entrusted with the maintenance of order in their absence.

Sir Victor Murray Coutts-Trotter, of Madras, India, Chief Justice of the High Court of Madras since 1924, formerly Deputy Professor of Greek in Liverpool University and Lecturer in the Law of Evidence to the University of Oxford, who died on May 12, left unsettled English estate of the gross value of £8,940, with net personalty £4,974.

Lord Headley, President of the British Muslim Society, was married to Mrs. Catherine Bashford, widow of Major Lindsay Bashford, on July 28. There were two ceremonies, one at the Registry Office at Fulham and the other at the Muslim Mosque at Woking, Lord Headley being of the Muhammadan faith.

A law was recently passed by the Teheran Majlis to engage twelve French Professors, in the service of the Ministry of Public Instruction. The Persian Minister in Paris, M. Ala, was given instructions to negotiate for the services, which are said to be urgent, of these Professors.

We learn from the *Sâtarch-yé-Djehane* that, with a view to preventing smuggling in the Persian Gulf, particularly in regard to sugar and tea, the Persian Minister of Finance has asked the Minister of Public Works for the construction of a road between Bushire and Bunder Abbas. The Finance Minister believes that the losses which the Treasury sustains are bigger than would be the cost of the construction of such a road. The project is now being considered.

Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton, High Commissioner for Iraq, paying his first visit to Mosul, arrived by air on July 23 and was entertained by the municipality. The following day he inspected from the air a large area of the Liwa, including the frontier districts, and returned to Baghdad by aeroplane on July 25.

It is stated from Khartoum on July 25 the heaviest rains known for fifteen years had fallen throughout the Sudan. The railway from Atbara to Halfa, in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, was impassable through washouts, and there had been no mails from Cairo and Europe. In the emergency one mail had been carried by the Royal Air Force to Halfa.

The Greek Government has decided to introduce a Bill when Parliament meets again for constituting a Ministry of National Defence, which will absorb the existing Ministries of War and Marine. In the new Department there will be three Under-Secretaries of State—for War, Marine, and Naval and Military Aviation.

The law for the protection of the social régime in Greece against Communism, which was recently voted in the Greek Chamber and the Senate, became operative on July 24. The promulgation of the law was expedited owing to the necessity of taking preventive measures against the Communist demonstrations being prepared for August 1.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that the King has appointed Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Falkingham Clayton, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., to be His Majesty's Consul-General for Iraq, to reside at Baghdad (with effect as from June 5, 1929).

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 8, 1929 (New Style).

July 26, 1929 (Old Style).

Rabia 1, 2, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab 2, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Leslie Scott will return to 20, Egerton Terrace to-morrow (Friday) from Norway.

Lord and Lady Irwin arrived at Garrowby Hall, their Yorkshire residence, on August 1.

Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud left London on August 6 for a short visit to France, before returning to Egypt towards the end of the month.

Sir Phiroze Sethna left Southampton on August 3 for a cruise to the Norwegian fjords.

Sir Charles and Lady McLeod left London for Scotland on July 31, and will be away for six weeks.

The Prince of Wales received Lt.-Col. C. O. Harvey, Military Secretary to the Viceroy of India, at St. James's Palace, on July 30.

Anayatullah Khan Samiji (Modabered-Dowleh) has been appointed to be Persia's representative in Iraq, and has taken up his post in Baghdad.

Mr. G. A. Mounsey, who has been appointed Assistant Under-Secretary of State has served the Foreign Office, among other places, at Constantinople.

Mr. A. S. Kirkbride, Assistant British Resident, Trans-Jordan, is Acting as British Resident during the absence on leave of Lt.-Col. C. H. F. Cox.

Miss Edith Guest, M.A., M.D., has been appointed Honorary Assistant in Egyptology at University College (London) for the forthcoming session.

The Rev. Henry Hacking, who has been nominated by the Archbishop of Canterbury Vicar of Emmanuel Church, West Dulwich, was recently a Chaplain in India.

Prince Arfa, who has on several occasions represented Persia in foreign countries, has had conferred on him by the Shah the decoration of the Order of Homayoun, First Class. Prince Arfa, who is the first recipient of this distinguished decoration, is making another journey to Europe.

The marriage took place on July 31 at St. Michael's Church, Chester Square, of Lieutenant William Josceline Clowes, R.N., youngest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. Clowes, of Norbury, Derbyshire, and of Lady Storrs, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Senior of 1, Nevern Mansions, Earl's Court. The Rev. John S. Holden, great uncle of the bride, officiated, assisted by Canon Mitchell, and was followed by a reception at 2, Upper Cheyne Row (lent by Mr. and Mrs. John Inglefield).

Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Stanley (Governor-designate of Madras), Sir James Crerar (Home Member, Government of India), Lady Simon, Sir Jagadis Bose, Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Sir Alan Pim, Sir Phiroze Sethna, Sir Cowasjee Jehanghir, Sir Leonard Adami, Sir Louis Rieu, Sardar Bahadur S. S. Uberoi, and Mr. R. S. Sarma have been elected members of the East India Association.

The Prince of Wales received at St. James's Palace on July 24, on behalf of the King, the chairman (the Honourable Sir Sankaran Nair) and the members of the Indian Central Committee. His Royal Highness subsequently received Lieut.-General Sir E. Peter Strickland (General Officer Commanding British Troops in Egypt) and Nawabzada Muhammad Iftikar Ali Khan of Malor Kotla.

Lord Sinha, who has left for Davos, does not expect to be back at Queen Anne's Mansion, S.W.1, until September 17.

Captain and Mrs. Duncan McCallum left Cheyne Walk on August 2 for Italy. They will be away from London for three or four weeks.

His Highness Raj Rishi Shri Sewai Maharaj Dev of Alwar arrived in London at the beginning of this week from the Continent, and is staying at the Hyde Park Hotel.

The King has given authority to Major Charles Gordon Ross to wear the Insignia of the Order of Saint Sava (Fourth Class) conferred on him by the King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

THE PERSIAN MINISTER IN LONDON.

The Persian Minister in London, Hohvannes Khan Mossaed, who has held office here since August, 1927, has resigned his post for reasons of health. He is succeeded by M. S. H. Taghizadeh, late Governor-General of Khorasan. Before he left Meshed, H. E. Taghizadeh was entertained by the British Consul-General. He left Teheran on July 20, and has now arrived in London.

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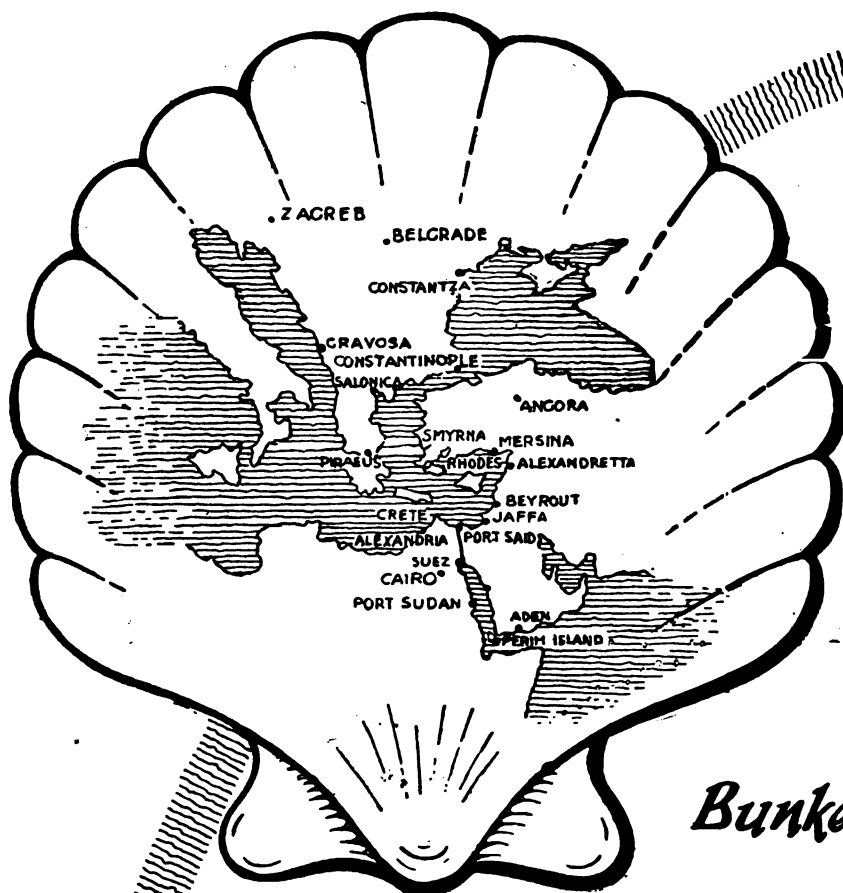
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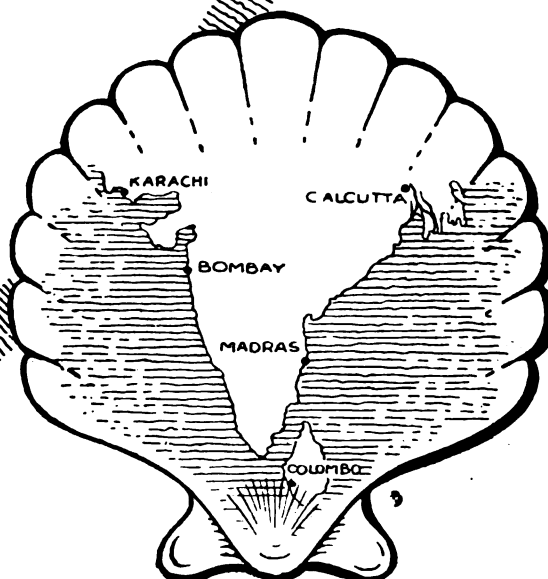
Burmah Shell Oil Storage & Distributing
Co. of India Ltd., BOMBAY.

Burmah Shell Oil Storage & Distributing
Co. of India Ltd., KARACHI.

The Asiatic Petroleum Co. (Ceylon),
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Roumanian Market.

The report of Mr. Humphreys on conditions in Roumania, extracts from which are given elsewhere in this issue, should be read by all British manufacturers interested in the development of foreign trade. It is an unfortunate fact that there are many traders in this country who have come to view the Near East markets as a whole or at any rate the Balkan markets—with considerable distrust. Certainly the experiences of some of them in that region after the War were very unfortunate, but in weighing the importance of what happened it is necessary to take into the fullest consideration the extremely unsettled conditions which existed over a long period. The short-lived post-War boom did the greatest possible disservice to British trade enterprise in the Near East. Now at long last economic conditions in that region are beginning to show signs of steady improvement, and the prospect at length exists for the gradual development of trade. It will be the fault of British merchants and manufacturers if the expansion of this country's commercial relations with the Balkan markets does not keep pace with that of its rivals. For various reasons the situation in Roumania has been more difficult than in many other countries, but, as we know, the outlook has been profoundly modified by the prudent measures undertaken by the new Administration. Last year, as Mr. Humphreys points out, economic conditions in that country were unfavourable owing to the failure of the crop for two years in succession, and it is significant in the circumstances that British trade with that country improved, the value of the exports at slightly over £3,000,000 showing an increase on the previous year's figures of nearly £300,000.

Openings for British Trade.

Mr. Humphreys points out that if Roumania has an abundant harvest this year the openings for British trade will be much more important. Fortunately this seems likely to be the case, as, according to the latest reports, the indications are that Roumania is likely to enjoy the best harvest since the War. British trade can only benefit from the expansion of the market that will result from the increasing purchasing power if our traders take steps now to enter the market. Greater activity on their part is the more essential because of the intenser competition which is foreshadowed in the market, and is indeed in evidence in every Near East outlet, for our competitors have never laboured under the handicap of under-estimating the value of Near Eastern trade. The scope for trade with Roumania is wide, as the country is mainly dependent on agriculture, and here, too, there should be scope for the development of trade in commodities not at present in favour. Mr. Humphreys gives some useful advice as to the methods for dealing with this market. They are quoted elsewhere, and I will therefore only say here that he emphasises the value of visits to Roumania for the purpose of co-operating with local agents and of getting to know the customers; and he advocates also the establishment of selling agencies in Roumania in cases where the trade is likely to be considerable.

The Turkish Exchange Weakness.

The Turkish exchange has tended gradually to weaken of late, and now stands at 1,023½ for sterling. Of the causes for this development one, to which I have already

referred, is the harvest failure of last year with the consequent lack of exports and the need for importing grain and flour to make good the shortage of home supplies. Another cause, which has been in operation in the last month or so, has been the great increase in imports with a view to anticipating the new Customs Tariff which comes into operation in October. A development of imports inevitably accompanies any pending tariff changes, but it appears that in the case of Turkey, owing no doubt to the heavy increases in duties, the imports have been on a particularly large scale, with the result that the existing warehouses at Constantinople have proved quite inadequate for the storage of the commodities. In view of existing conditions in Turkey these large imports must occasion no little apprehension, for the market has been in a depressed condition for years and it is difficult to see how in present circumstances it will be possible easily to dispose of the stocks.

Chemical and Wood Industries.

At the statutory meeting last week of this company Lord Bledisloe, the Chairman, gave some interesting details of developments since its formation in the spring to take over, through a controlling interest, a Yugoslav undertaking, for the purpose of developing chemical works and important timber concessions in Bosnia. Dr. A. J. V. Underwood has been appointed general manager in Yugoslavia, and has taken steps to reorganise the wood distillation works at Teslic. Lord Bledisloe stated that the output of the factory has been increased, and it is now working at full capacity. On account of the existing position of the artificial silk trade it has been decided not to take steps at present with regard to the erection of the artificial silk factory. Lord Bledisloe referred to the cordial relations between the company and the Yugoslav Government. As he rightly pointed out, the company is a pioneer in the field of industry in Yugoslavia. The Government has shown in this instance its desire to associate English capital with the development of the country, and it may be taken for granted that the success of the company will go a very long way towards promoting much closer financial and economic relations between the two countries.

COMMENTATOR.

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Total Assets	-	-	-	£6,028,832

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Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
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The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

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Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches. The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

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growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.*(By Our Financial Expert.)**London, August 6.*

The past week in the Stock Markets has been almost featureless, apart from activity in certain international stocks, under the lead of Hydro-Electric and the two margarine issues—Union and Unie. The latter were supported from Holland and elsewhere, on reports of an agreement with an English house and of a coming issue of bonus shares. The continued efflux of gold was a depressing factor in the gilt-edged market, but the absence of a change in Bank Rate was a steadying influence. Last week's brief interest in the Home Railways appears to have evaporated and the market has again relapsed into an idle condition. In the industrial market the volume of business was inclined to shrink still further, though there was a slightly better feeling towards the end of the week. No immediate revival can be looked for, in view of the holiday season. Moreover, all sections of the Stock Exchange are dominated just now to a greater or less extent by the monetary situation and a return of confidence depends on the ability of the Bank of England to replenish its stock of gold.

The Eagle Twins.

The results of the Mexican Eagle Oil Company for 1928 have just been published and reveal, after deducting 8,697,000 Mexican dollars for depreciation, a loss of 518,399 Mexican dollars which, deducted from the balance brought forward from last year, leaves a balance of Mexican dollars 237,899. The associated company, Canadian Eagle, on the other hand, shows a good result, for the same period, namely, a net profit of 1,838,178 Canadian dollars, of which all but 108,068 dollars was distributed in dividends. When the two companies combined, some years ago, the shareholders of Mexican Eagle were obviously well advised to retain their interest in both companies. Future prospects appear to be brighter for the Mexican Eagle, since the decrease in production which was largely responsible for the loss has ceased, and production for the first six months of this year shows an average increase of 10,000 barrels a day. Both companies' balance-sheets reveal a strong financial position, and if, as the directors point out, the Mexican Eagle is now faced with better market conditions, and is reaping the benefit of the expensive exploration outlay which last year was all charged to revenue account, then this company too should show a considerably improved profit and loss account in future years.

Motors.

Commercial motor vehicle companies received a severe setback after the War, and in the subsequent years several

of them passed their dividends. The last two or three years has seen their position considerably improved, and this is certainly apparent in the case of the four leading companies, Leyland, Dennis, Albion and Guy Motors which between them produce 75 per cent. of the heavy motor vehicles of this country. They have paid off arrears on the 7½ per cent. preference, and built up reserves, and their earning capacity in relation to capital in each case appears good. The heavy vehicles have not suffered severely from foreign competition, and with the railway companies launching into passenger motor transport and better roadway facilities their prospects are considerably brightened. Private motor car companies will no doubt have to face increased foreign competition if and when the 33½ per cent. import duty is removed next year. Besides foreign competition British producers have suffered from keen competition among themselves, but there are signs that they are at last setting their house in order and a merger of Rover, Standard, Swift, Arrol-Aster, Crossley and A.C. cars is possible in the near future. Meanwhile investors would be well advised to confine attention to companies with sound profit-earning prospects like Morris Motors whose cumulative preference yield £5 10s. per cent. and Rolls Royce with ordinary shares yielding £6 14s. per cent.

Introductions.

Capital received by a company can be raised either directly by an appeal to the investing public or by the subscriptions of private individuals. In both cases the company can and usually does apply to have its shares dealt in on the Stock Exchange. The less usual but by no means new method of raising capital by private subscriptions and later "introducing" the shares on to the Stock Exchange has been growing of late, and it has been estimated that about 20 per cent. of the new capital raised in the first six months of this year was made available to the public in this way. This method has several commendable features, the chief of which, perhaps, is that it ensures the required capital being raised without risk of a public issue which might be neglected by the public. When, however, as was the case with the introductions in the first half of this year, the private subscribers eventually sell to the public via the Stock Exchange at an average profit of about 33 per cent. it is obvious that the public and the companies concerned are paying very dearly for the advantage of the "introduction" method of raising capital. It has been suggested that the public information issued at the time of introducing the shares should state the original price paid for them, a suggestion which the Stock Exchange Committee might usefully consider.

Yugoslavia's imports for the first six months of 1929 amounted to 730,000 tons, of the value of 335,687,331 gold dinars, as compared with 712,648 tons and 347,230,311 gold dinars for the corresponding period of last year.

During the first five months of this year 923,000 tons of timber products were exported from Yugoslavia, as against 890,000 tons for the corresponding period of 1928. The value of these exports amounted to 858 million dinars, as against 708 millions last year.

In view of the increasing importance of the traffic and the number of passengers travelling between Baku and Pahlavi, the Navigation Company of the Caspian has put into service a new steamer called the Zinoviev. The vessel will make two voyages a week.

*The Persian Minister of Public Works, M. Djim, has been touring in Azerbaijan. He visited Tabriz, which was recently stricken with storms and floods, and is continuing his journey to investigate the navigation on Lake Urmia and the exploitation of the Julfa-Tabriz railway.

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THE BULGARIAN FILM MARKET.

It will doubtless be some time before Bulgarian production of motion pictures will reach a stage of commercial importance, although several attempts have been made by local concerns with small capital to produce films (says the American Vice-Consul at Sofia, Mr. Samuel Green, in a recent report). So far as known only three have been made in the Kingdom, and the small success they have made in the Kingdom, and the small success they have achieved has been due exclusively to the interest of the public in seeing domestic-made films with local characters and scenes. There are no film studios in Bulgaria, but it is understood from the proprietor of the Modern Theatre, the largest cinema concern in Bulgaria, which supplies about 50 per cent. of all films displayed in the country, that this firm contemplates the production of a large national film, the subject of which will deal with Bulgaria during the time of the Turkish domination, the story to be taken from the writings of one of the country's most noted authors.

There are about 136 motion-picture houses in the entire Kingdom, with an average seating capacity of 300 to 500. Of this total number, 26, or about one-fifth of all the theatres in the Kingdom, are located in Sofia, the capital. The average price of admission ranges from 5 to 20 leva for Sofia, Varna, and Rustchuk, and from 5 to 15 leva for the rest of the Kingdom. Usually a motion-picture programme consists of but one feature film, with a preference for films showing a great deal of action. Often comedies are shown, but the general preference is for dramas or tragedies. Western or detective films are not allowed and the ordinary comedies are not popular. Oriental films and pictures of Russian life, showing suffering and much tragedy, have been generally favoured during the last two years. Usually the programme is changed twice a week, except in features, which run for a full week. It was estimated by some importers that during 1928 the average rental charge for films was about 20 per cent. of the price paid for the film, and the charge for exclusive right was from £10 to £120 per film.

The importation of films into Bulgaria has been increasing annually. Data from the Customs section of the Ministry of Finance show that during 1926, 4,234 kilos of films were imported; for 1927, 7,294 kilos; and for 1928, 7,469 kilos. The values were: 1926, 7,321,230 leva; 1927, 22,731,610 leva; and 1928, 12,726,010 leva. The large decrease in 1928 from the preceding year was the result of a general reduction in prices and the importation of cheaper films, which came mostly from Germany and Austria. It is estimated that at least 55 per cent. of the films shown in Bulgaria were produced in Germany, 18 per cent. in France, 18 per cent. in the United States, and the remaining 9 per cent. in other countries.

Eight new motion-picture theatres were built during 1928. The estimated seating capacity of these new theatres is about 500 for Sofia and 300 to 400 for the rest of the country.

The works now being built at Marathon (says the American Commercial Attaché at Athens, Mr. Gardner Richardson) include the construction of a dam near the village of Marathon to impound the waters of the Rivers Haradra and Varnava, together with a tunnel, aqueduct, reservoirs, and distribution system. The dam is a solid concrete wall, 47 metres wide at the base and 4½ metres on top. It is 285 metres long and rises 54 metres above the river bed, and 225 metres above sea-level. This dam is the only mosaic marble-faced dam in the world. The structure will contain 178,000 cubic metres of concrete and masonry, requiring 40,000 tons of Portland cement and 10,000 tons of Santorin earth. A roadway will be built on top to permit traffic across the valley. In connexion with the dam a spill-way is being built, over which will flow the surplus or storm waters of the river when the reservoir is full. When completed, the dam will capture the waters of the Haradra and Varnava Rivers and form the new artificial Lake of Marathon, which will have an area of 2,400,000 square metres and in places will be 50 metres deep. It will have a capacity of 41,000,000 cubic metres of water.

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(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Paper and Gum.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and gum required by the Government Press for manufacture of envelopes. October 4.

Pumping Units.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, Public Works Ministry, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection at Giza and Gebireh Waterworks, Giza, of two Diesel pumping units, complete, with all accessories. October 15.

Meters.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two venturi meters required for Kafr el Sloui Waterworks at Helwan. September 14.

Steel Pipes, Etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Municipalities and Local Commissions Section, invites tenders for the supply of steel pipes, sluice valves, hydrants, and drinking fountains. September 16. (D.O.T.)

GREECE.

Drains.—The Municipal Council of Salonika invites tenders for the laying of certain drains. August 26. (D.O.T.)

ROUMANIA.

Agricultural Machinery.—The Ministry of Agriculture and Domains is likely to be in the market in the near future for the purchase of sowing, fanning, grading, and other types of agricultural machinery. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Galvanised Iron Wire.—The Department of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of 250 tons of galvanised iron wire as follows:—245 tons 4 m.m., 2½ tons 2 m.m., 2½ tons 1.5 m.m. September 1. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Passenger Lift.—A Belgrade concern is desirous of receiving quotations from British firms for the supply of two electric passenger lifts. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 15); s.s. Maimyo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 26).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 21).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 10); s.s. Masula for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 10); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 24); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay (London, August 31).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool August 31, Swansea September 3); s.s. Bantria for Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, August 31).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Bangalore for Calcutta (London, August 16); s.s. Rajputana for Bombay (London, August 16); s.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, August 30); s.s. Viceroy of India for Bombay (London, August 30).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 17); s.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus (London, August 21); s.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout and Cyprus (Manchester, August 31).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Oporto for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Bona, Malta*, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 10); s.s. Manchurian for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool August 17, Swansea August 22); s.s. Flaminian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (Liverpool, August 22); s.s. Lesbian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika*, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 24, Swansea August 24); s.s. City of Lancaster for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow August 26, Swansea August 28, Liverpool August 29). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus, via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

Street Lighting.

The new scheme of lighting on the Thames Embankment is undoubtedly a success, and one wonders why a much needed improvement has been delayed so long. It may be suggested that the equipment might, with advantage, be more artistic, and it is curious to reflect, in that connection, that when electric lighting first made its appearance everyone concerned seemed to be doing his best to make everything connected with it as beautiful as possible. It is true that each had his own standards of beauty and it is equally true that what seemed artistic at that time would not appeal to us at the present date, but that is beside the point. What is to the point is that the advent of the metal filament lamp seemed to usher in an era in which light, rather than effect, was aimed at; in which we sacrificed practically everything that we had formerly considered essential in order that we might obtain as crude and as glaring a light as possible. There are distinct signs of a revulsion of feeling and a demand is evident not only for better street lighting but also for lighting equipment which is not only efficient but which is attractive when viewed during the daytime. To all intents and purposes the arc lamp standards once so admired are now obsolete and, in their place, attractive street lighting fittings carrying the latest types of gas-filled lamps are being installed.

An engineer on the staff of the Illuminating Engineers Department of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., recently pointed out that many factors enter into the problem of providing adequate street lighting for modern municipalities. In the days of the old-fashioned type of arc lamp little or no consideration was given, he

says, to the aesthetic appearance of streets. Traffic conditions also were of almost negligible importance, and the relation between lighting and safety was but little understood. As one who had a great deal to do with such work at the time he mentions I am not completely in agreement with him in regard to the first indictment. We did endeavour, so far as our knowledge went, to eliminate any feature which we considered would or might disfigure the streets, and we did endeavour to make everything, lamps and standards alike, as artistic as possible. But let that pass, there is a great deal in what is said regarding other features.

We do, at the present time, give all such matters as he mentions, very earnest consideration, and we are quite aware that paved streets, zoning requirements, and the modern tendency towards what we call, possibly somewhat vain-gloriously, "architectural harmony," determine to a great extent the type and character of the equipment for lighting modern thoroughfares. Lamps and lighting accessories have been designed for meeting the lighting requirements of all classes of streets, and for supporting these a wide variety of ordinary fittings is available, and many of the more enterprising municipalities have had special fittings, etc., designed for their own use.

In too many cases, however, there is a manifest tendency to plan an ornamental street lighting system without much regard to the other items of street furniture that may be encountered. For instance, as he says, in many cases standards are placed in fairly close proximity to tramcar trolley poles or telephone or telegraph posts. This results in a multiplicity of supporting structures which certainly has a disfiguring effect on the appearance of the street. To obviate this, and at the same time to meet the constantly increasing demands for greater strength to resist accidental collisions for street-using vehicles, combination light-carrying and trolley supporting standards have been developed lately. The columns of these are of reinforced concrete construction, and in those of the best class crushed granite is used for aggregate. It is not easy to see why this material is used in preference to any other hard crushed aggregate. Crushed Whinstone, or coarse river gravel would probably be just as good. These standards are formed by spinning and are commonly called "hollow spun" granite standards. Now that coloured cements are obtainable there seems no reason why these poles should not be made to suit the general character of the buildings in the streets in which they are used.

Engineers will be interested to hear that in manufacturing these, cast iron moulds are first prepared. A steel reinforcing structure consisting of longitudinal rods of high quality steel, spirally wrapped with wire, is first placed in the mould and spaced therein by spacers, or short pieces of metal wedged between the wire structure and the mould. These are invisible in the finished product. The moulds are then filled with concrete, mixed fairly dry with only just sufficient water content to render the concrete sufficiently plastic to move, and then revolved at a moderate and gradually accelerating speed. During the spinning process the concrete is forced away from the centre of the mould by a centrifugal action caused by rotation, and during this a hole is left in the centre of the pole through which all cables, etc. needed can be carried after the pole is erected. After the necessary lapse of time which varies according to the quality of the cement used and the amount of water present in the mixed concrete, the poles are removed from the mould, cured in steam and hydrated according to modern practice.

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When Ciment Fondu or Ferrocete is used the time taken in manufacture and drying is very short, compared with that taken when ordinary cement is used. The centrifugal action—a somewhat similar method is used in the manufacture of concrete piping of large diameter—gives a strong durable concrete, free from voids, uniform and with a perfectly smooth surface.

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As a rule provision is made for clamping ornamental brackets, supports and lighting units at any height that may be found necessary, and the necessary wiring, as already mentioned, is taken up the centre hole and out to the brackets through a hole specially drilled in the post. A finial is provided for the top of the pole and the necessary attachments for the trolley wires can be either cut into the concrete and fixed to steel stays within its interior or they can be made as a part of the framework and so fixed in position during the manufacture of the pole. An earthing section of metal is spun integral with the pole during manufacture. This is several feet long and serves as a bedding portion which can be grouted down into a socket and fixed in the usual way. To determine the strength of a combined electric light and tram trolley standard, flexure tests have been made and the data on deflection and strength obtained. It seems that a 26 ft. pole designed for a pull of 1,000 lb. with a maximum loading of 2,000 lb. was loaded and released, the load being applied about 1 ft. 6 in. from the top. Under load this pole was deflected about $5\frac{1}{2}$ in., and, on release, sprung back to its original position, thus showing an unexpected degree of elasticity in the concrete.

Low Grade Fuel for Steam Generation.

In connexion with the substantial economies to be effected in the operation of many industrial boiler plants by utilising any lower grade fuel that may be available a striking example is the results now being obtained at a well-known colliery in the North of England. The normal method of working was to burn unscreened lump coal in the "Lancashire" boilers, with cold feed water and no economisers, and long continued tests showed the average performance was an evaporation of 5.2 lb. of water per 1 lb. of coal. The plant was then equipped with "Turbine" forced draught furnaces, and the results were, as shown by a further series of records all carried out by the colliery staff themselves, an average of 7.60 to 7.96 lb. of water per 1 lb. of coal, a great improvement. Subsequently however, the plant was overhauled generally and the boilers scaled, with the result that a much cheaper fuel, smalls from the washery plant, was used instead of unscreened lump coal. The full supply of steam was supplied as before, since the lowest quality of fuel is easily burnt by the "Turbine" furnace, and the results average 8. lb. of water evaporated per 1 lb. of coal, being an enormous net saving as compared with the original figure of 5.2 lb. with more expensive coal. In most collieries the quality of the coal used under the boilers is unnecessarily good, but apart from this the average thermal efficiency of the consumption of the coal is too low, irrespective of the quality, and it is just as important to-day, for the boiler plant in collieries and iron and steel works for example, to be operated at high efficiency, as the ordinary industrial establishment or power station. In Great Britain for example about 7 per cent. of the coal raised, say a consumption of 17,500,000 tons per annum out of a total production of 250,000,000 tons, is required to provide the necessary power, this being approximately the average figure throughout the world, partly dependent of course on the amount of water to be pumped.

There are of course other directions in which steam generation economies may be obtained, quite apart from the burning of the coal, two of the most important being softening of the feed water combined with exhaust steam

heating and proper lagging of all the boilers and steam pipes, including the flanges and boiler fronts, while the plant ought to be operated with a feed water meter to keep a constant check on the performance.

The Maentwrog Hydro-electric Scheme in North Wales.

We have now been able to obtain some detailed information concerning the interesting Maentwrog 18,000 K.W. Hydro-electric Scheme of the North Wales Power Company, Ltd., supplying electricity over an area of 4,080 square miles in North Wales, including Carnarvonshire, Denbighshire, and Flintshire, as well as part of Cheshire. In 1906 a smaller hydro-electric station of 6,000 k.w. was started up by this company at Cymdyli Beddgelert and ever since has operated at 1,130 feet head, with great success, additional 2,000 k.w. plant being added in 1913. Since the passing of the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1919, however, the Company has greatly extended its operations, resulting in the Maentwrog Scheme, the consulting engineers being Sir Douglas Fox and Partners of Westminster.

The present plant installed in the Maentwrog power house consists of three horizontal impulse type turbines of 9,000 b.h.p. running at 333 revolutions per minute and 650 feet head, the largest in Great Britain, each direct coupled to a 6,000 k.w. alternator, 660 volt 50 cycle three phase. These turbines are driven from a 72 in. high pressure pipe line, each having a 36 in. diameter branch pipe provided with a "Glenfield" 36 in. hydraulically operated cast steel sluice valve designed to operate at 60 feet head.

The reservoir is formed by damming the River Afon Prysor, the catchment area being 23 square miles, in height varying from 650 to 2,600 feet, and holds when full 7,500,000,000 gallons of water. In all, four dams have been built, the main Maentwrog Dam and three other "cut-off" constructions. On the up-stream face of the main dam is a 10 ft. diameter high pressure steel delivery pipe, having near the face an 8 ft. diameter "Glenfield" self-closing, cast steel, balanced disc valve for sixty feet head operation, connexion being made to the 10 ft. diameter penstock by taper reduction and expansion pieces. This arrangement was adopted on account of the great difference in capital cost between an 8 ft. 6 in. and a 10 ft. diameter valve, the loss in head due to throttling being negligible.

The function of the valve is to shut down automatically the penstock in the event of a sudden abnormal flow due to a burst pipe, blown joint in the pipe line, racing of the turbines, or any other cause, and includes all the latest improvements that have been introduced by Messrs. Glenfield and Kennedy, Ltd., for valves of this character. Also with regard to the transmission lines, the original installation was 80 miles of overhead line, generally at 6,000 and 10,000 volts, in connexion with the hydro-electric plant at Beddgelert, but since 1922 a great extension has been made, including 95 miles of overhead lines at 66,000 volts, 115 miles at 35,000 volts, and 75 miles at 11,000 volts. Some of the main towns supplied in the area include Abergelle, Bangor, Bethsada, Carnarvon, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Mold, Oswestry, Rhyl, Ruabon, Sandbach, Wrexham, Nantwich, and Crewe.

The address of the marine department of the Royal Exchange Assurance is now 37-39, Lime Street, E.C.3.

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British Consular Reports

III.—ROUMANIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report on the financial and economic conditions in Roumania for the year ended April last of Mr. R. J. E. Humphreys, Commercial Secretary, H.M. Legation, Bucharest:—

The year 1928 will be long remembered in Roumania as one of great difficulties, both economic and financial—in some respects the worst for trade since the war. Nevertheless, the turning point may be said to have been reached and signs are not wanting of a change for the better. The most important factor in Roumania's economic life is agriculture, and it is upon the harvest that all hopes are concentrated from the early spring onwards, as it affects not only the revenues of the country, but the livelihood of over three-quarters of the population. In 1928 the cereal crops, especially maize, proved a comparative failure for the second year in succession.

During the year the protracted nature of the negotiations for a stabilization loan contributed in no small degree to the depression in trade which was so noticeable in the later months of the year. It is true that in spite of all difficulties certain financial agreements were reached which were a necessary preliminary for ensuring the stabilization that was to be made. These agreements included an arrangement with Messrs. Henry J. Schroeder, by virtue of which all bonds of the 1913 4½ per cent. Roumanian loan which had passed through the London Stock Exchange were to be recognised by the Roumanian Government; an arrangement to pay Roumanian "Rentés" purchased in France and, finally, in November after protracted negotiations, an agreement signed in Berlin, by which Germany was to pay to Roumania 72½ million Gold Marks in full settlement of all outstanding claims, while Roumania on her part was to recognise German owned pre-War bonds.

In November the Bratianu Government suddenly resigned, and after a slight delay the Regency asked M. Juliu Maniu, the leader of the National Peasant Party, to assume the direction of affairs. One of the first actions of the new Government was to abolish the censorship on Press telegrams. This step was looked upon as an earnest of the openly expressed desire of the Government to restore confidence in the country. A further step in this direction was the announcement by the Government that they would endeavour to remove restrictions on the entry of foreign capital into Roumania by modifying the Mining Law of 1924 and the Law for the Commercialisation of State Enterprises, both of which were acknowledged as having placed foreign capital at a disadvantage. The Minister of Finance publicly stated that the Government desired to collaborate with foreign capital in a spirit of equality. Other reforms were foreshadowed. In March, 1929 the Legislature sanctioned the amendments to the Mining Law.

As this report will show, trade during the last twelve months has suffered from depression. Nevertheless, as far as the import of British goods is concerned the Board of Trade figures register a decided improvement in comparison with those of 1926 and 1927 and the total value of exports from the United Kingdom to Roumania in 1928 amounted to over £3,000,000—an increase of nearly £300,000 on the previous year. In what manner can these imports be further increased? Roumania is an agricultural country, and therefore, an importer of manufactured articles, and, as has been stated, the economic policy of Roumania is governed by this fact, and all other branches of production depend on the state of agriculture. In spite, therefore, of the loan and stabilization, the

volume of imports to Roumania and her capacity of payment for these will always be governed to a great extent by the results of the crops. Nevertheless, now that a period of greater financial security has been reached it well behoves British merchants to intensify their efforts to obtain a full share of the expansion of imports which is expected to occur in the succeeding years. This can only be done by personal acquaintance with the needs of the market whether financial or otherwise.

Banking.

In spite of the commercial and industrial depression during the year under review, banks were able to pay approximately the same dividends as in the previous year by making use of reserves which had accumulated during better times. Most of the banks confined their activities to purely banking business, withdrawing from industrial investments. These had become necessary to them after the War, owing on the one hand to the Agrarian Reform and on the other to the fact that the country had acquired important industrial territories offering profitable investments, and the Government encouraged participation in them. During 1928, however, the banks subscribed very little towards the formation of new companies.

The financial situation of the larger banks is sound, as they have sufficient funds to carry them through the present period of trade depression, and they are exercising care in regard to their clients, keeping constantly in view the possibility of bankruptcies. As a further measure of precaution they have also begun to grant only short credits, usually one to three months. Many depositors withdrew their money from the banks in the spring of 1928 in order to use it for speculation in shares, and later because the banks reduced their rate of interest, but at the end of the year the total deposits at the banks had again increased.

According to the figures published by the Institute of Statistics showing the general balance sheet of all existing banking institutions (limited companies) in 1927, the total assets and liabilities were balanced at 98,394 million lei as against 90,122 million lei in the previous year. In the safes of the banks at that date there were 3,180 million lei, while available funds amounted to 2,811 million lei. Bills were discounted for 18,075 million lei and re-discounted stocks are shown at 3,341 million lei; current debit accounts, 24,231 million lei, current credit accounts, 14,110 million lei; money at call and short notice, 25,158 million lei (as against 20,582 million lei in 1926); reserve fund, 2,085 million lei representing 25 per cent. of the capital, and other funds, 1,128 million lei. The net profits of the banks amounted to 1,783 million lei, or 21 per

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam *..	Florins to £	12.107	12.11
Athens	Drachms to £	375	375 3/16
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.86½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.22½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 13/16—27/32
Brussels	Belga to £	85	34.90½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	817
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.83
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 13/16 - 27/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1,021½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85 7/32—¼
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123.84—87
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	163 15/16
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.81½
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	670
Tehran	Krans to £	48	55½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.43
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 3/16—7/16

cent. of the capital. (The National Bank of Roumania is not included in these figures.)

The stabilization of the currency will limit the profits on exchange, based previously on frequent and sometimes considerable fluctuations in the value of the leu, but it will assist the banks to obtain credits from abroad on longer terms and at cheaper rates of interest, provided, of course, the stabilization proves a success and is fully maintained with the assistance of an abundant harvest. Under these circumstances the local banks would be able to reduce their rates of interest and to increase their turnover, which would greatly aid the economic development of the country.

Trade.

Both imports and exports considerably diminished during the year 1928, and the following figures have been compiled on the basis of declared values:—

	1927. Lei	1928. Lei	Decrease in 1928. Lei
Imports ...	33,428,546,982	32,145,101,188	1,283,445,794
Exports ...	37,703,177,742	26,919,256,503	10,783,921,179
Balance ... +	4,274,630,760	— 5,225,844,625	

These figures are given as provisional. In spite of the heavy deficit in the trade balance of the last year—the first serious set back since 1922—British exports to Roumania have continued to increase. In the absence of recent figures showing the articles imported and their country of origin (the last available are for 1925) it is impossible to detail the commodities in which an increase has taken place in imports from the United Kingdom, but it is believed that an improvement has been registered in machinery, motors, steel tubes for the oil industry, gramophones and records, comestibles, tyres and to a slight extent motor vehicles and other technical goods.

The financial situation of the country in 1928 rendered trade, especially on a credit basis, a matter of great difficulty. Even some sound and honest merchants find that their reserves do not suffice to tide them over the present crisis and it is rumoured that many of them will apply for prolongations of payment as they have been unable to dispose of their stocks of goods. Such postponements have already frequently been made. Roumanian trade generally is suffering at present from acute depression as a consequence of the reduced purchasing power of the population, and the incidence of taxation, import duties and rents. All these factors have constrained the importing firms to curtail their orders abroad. A sign of this depression is to be found in the increasing number of bills protested during the year 1928, especially towards the end of the year, while in the first quarter of 1929 trade conditions were even worse.

Should Roumania have an abundant harvest in 1929 the openings for British trade will assume a greater importance and it is for this reason that this country should not be neglected by British business circles. In any case the time has arrived when the competition for the Roumanian market will become more intense, and indeed, trade circles maintain that this is already the case, and it thus behoves British manufacturers who are already represented here, as well as those intending to do business in this country, to be very active in examining the possibilities of the market, not merely by making inquiries, but by personal visits to probe the situation on the spot.

There is no question that it would be of the greatest assistance in promoting British trade if the heads of

British houses were to visit this market at regular intervals, to find out its particular needs and to see what their foreign competitors are doing, to look after the business of sales personally and to establish personal relations with their clients. The agents, if not regularly visited, have no encouragement to look after the interests of their principals and are apt to devote their energies to the business of those competitors who make them understand that their efforts are being carefully watched.

In other words, British firms should not rest content with the mere fact that they have appointed an agent, but should co-operate with the latter in organising their sales, sending out circulars, price-lists, show cards and other advertising material (printed in French or German). They should get to know their customers and study the needs of the market and see what their foreign competitors sell, always watching, on the one hand for any new fashions and on the other for any possibilities of a change in the economic situation of the country. As regards quality, British firms compete successfully with both foreign and local products and they demand lower rates of interest, so that if they were willing to grant longer credit than their competitors the United Kingdom could undoubtedly secure a larger proportion of the import trade of this country.

When the business of a home firm is likely to extend to large proportions it may be advisable to set up a branch business or to form a Roumanian selling company, the head of which should be a man selected from the house in England. This branch or company would be able to carry such stocks in Roumania as circumstances might require. This method would eliminate the necessity of granting long credits to individual customers. The employment of an agent, branch, or selling company to represent several British firms producing similar categories of goods would have the advantage of reducing overhead expenses. For instance: selling agencies could with advantage be established for the following groups of manufactured goods: (1) Yarns—woollen, cotton, silk, artificial silk, jute, etc. (2) Textile piece-goods—woollen, cotton, etc. (3) Gramophones, records, radio, apparatus and spare parts. (4) Motor vehicles, oil motors, motor cycles, bicycles, tyres, inner tubes, sports goods, etc. (5) Colonial goods, spices, beverages and other foodstuffs. (6) Metals, sanitary goods and ironmongery, and so on.

THE DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date July 31:—

A feeling of uncertainty accompanied by lack of confidence is at the moment being fostered by the unsatisfactory industrial conditions, and the financial stringency which is just now giving rise to considerable anxiety. These factors unquestionably create a state of apathy on the part of the buyers, and determine them to continue their policy of buying only for definite requirements.

Currants.

Greek.—The conditions prevailing throughout the month, both as regards volume of trade and the prices ruling, show very little alteration. Slightly more business was transacted in the early days of the month in better qualities, but the lower and medium grades were neglected and offered at slight reductions in value. Sales comprise: Amalias, 44s. to 45s.; Zante (smalls), 45s.; Patras, 46s. to 47s.; Gulf, 48s. to 50s.; Vostizza, 48s. to 55s. S.S. Polo, Brescia, and Bosnia arrived with very small cargoes. Quotations:—Pyrgos, 44s.; Amalias and Patras, 44s. 6d. to 46s.; Gulf, 48s. to 50s.; Vostizza, 48s. to 55s. The Central Currant Office has fixed the retention of the 1929-1930 currant crop at 45 per cent., against last year's 50 per cent. The minimum buying price has also been arranged and there is a reduction in the export tax.

Sultanias.

Smyrna.—There is confirmation that we may expect a crop in the neighbourhood of 55,000 tons; at the same time we must not overlook the fact that the critical period of harvesting is still in front of us. Latest c.i.f. quotations for G.A.Q., September shipment, fail to attract buyers.

Figs.

Very little interest is displayed in new crop Genuines, and the few sales passing are without importance.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 31:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—We have experienced a quiet week in this market and on balance very little alteration in the price level has taken place. The immediate effect of the breakdown in the negotiations between the operatives and masters and the resultant stoppage of the mills on Monday was to cause prices to fall back to the lowest of the week, liquidation by nervous holders and a limited amount of short selling depressing Novembers to 16.10d. At this point, end of the month trade calling began to come in and a better undertone developed; more recently further support from the above source, helped by the advancing tendency in the American markets, has caused a recovery to last week's closing rates. At the time of writing, the trade outlook remains uncertain; no official negotiations are in progress, but a feeling prevails that the stoppage will not be of long duration; in the meantime, business in actual cotton continues practically at a standstill, although there are signs that a sharp revival in the demand, perhaps only of a temporary character, will be experienced as soon as prospects of a settlement materialise. Alexandria has contributed few features of interest during the week, and price movements at the other side have approximated fairly closely to the movements in the local markets. Latterly, there has been slight evidence of our contract regaining some of the discount at which we have been running below the overseas market; the recent strength shown by the current position and the closing in of early new crop months are encouraging features to those holding the straddle, but further favourable developments appear contingent on a quick resumption of normal trade conditions. For the immediate future prices will probably remain around the ruling level, with any decided movement dependent on the course of the American markets.

Upper Contract.—Trading in this market has been on very narrow lines throughout the past week, and day to day movements have been mainly in sympathy with the fluctuations in the American departments. Competitive varieties continue to sell at a cheap basis, and, with crop reports from Egypt continuing as satisfactory as heretofore, sentiment is becoming increasingly "bearish." Last season the marketing of the crop was helped by the very large straddle operations then in progress against sales of American; this year, unless present conditions undergo a rapid change, early hedging operations are going to weigh heavily and may readily result in values narrowing-in further with shorter stapled cottons. Spot business throughout the week has been very restricted, and the contract has received little support from trade sources.

Egyptian Spot.

As the majority of the mills are now definitely closed, it is hardly surprising that business in this department has fallen away again. Nevertheless, the outlook is not altogether as black as it might be. A few mills are still running, and buying has by no means entirely ceased. It is generally felt that although negotiations so far have resulted in a deadlock, further pourparlers will soon take place and that the stoppage will be of short duration. Certain spinners are already looking ahead, and, although purchases so far have been limited for the most part to small lots, we look for a sharp improvement on the first sign of any easing of the present unfortunate crisis. There have been no signs of panic selling and the basis for desirable lots remains as firm as ever. Spot quotations are slightly advanced on the week.

Sakels.—At from 50 to 150 on contracts the market is a narrow one and staple lots are hard to find. Very little actual business has been reported. A limited inquiry for Good and above has been in evidence, but most of it has resulted in "averaging." The lower qualities have met with very little interest this week.

Uppers.—A moderate inquiry has been in evidence within a range of pass to 20 on, and, to a less degree, up to 50 on, but on the whole business in this growth has shown a very marked decrease.

Pilion.—Beyond a persistent inquiry at from 11d. to 12d., very little interest has been shown.

Nahda, Maarad, and White.—No business reported.

Sudan and Tokar.—Slightly more interest has been shown in lower grades of Tokar, and a very moderate amount of business has been done in Sudans. We look for a good trade in these cottons when the troubles up country have been settled. Very little business has taken place on c.i.f. terms. Forwarding to spinners last week were returned as 7,316 bales Egyptians and 699 bales Sudans. Estimated spot sales, 1,300 bales Egyptians and 180 bales Sudans. Quotations of Sakel show a rise of 10 points, Uppers 3 points, and Pilion 5 points on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.00d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.60d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.70d.

M. Madgearu, Roumanian Minister of Commerce, last week tabled a Bill in the Chamber authorising the construction of a navigable canal to connect Bucharest with the Danube and the electrification of the railway between Bucharest and Brashov.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 25, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has maintained its activity but fluctuations have not been as irregular as during the previous week, and the tone, generally speaking, has been slightly weaker. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaris: November, 33.31 dollars, 0.05 dollars down; January, 33.65 dollars, 0.17 dollars down; March, 34.02 dollars, 0.15 dollars down. Ashmouni: August, 20.91 dollars, 0.20 dollars down; October, 21.37 dollars, 0.08 dollars down; December, 21.81 dollars, 0.06 dollars down; February, 22.25 dollars, 0.09 dollars down; April, 22.65 dollars, 0.09 dollars down; June, 23.05 dollars, 0.09 dollars down.

Sakel.—The week opened with excited sessions as a result of some short covering and heavy speculative buying falling on a rather narrow market. With the added supporting factor of the strength of American, November was forced up to a height of 34.25 dollars. The high levels induced some liquidation of purchases for profit taking, and when the American market showed signs of a reaction the tone of the market weakened, November falling away to approximately 33 dollars. At the close to-day a slight improvement in prices has been registered, but the tendency was undecided. During the whole of the past week trade interest in the market has been negligible; it is reported that straddle operators in Liverpool have sold November here against purchases of the corresponding month in Liverpool. Spinners remain completely without interest in new crop shipments. News from the interior regarding the progress of the crop offers little of interest. Apart from the slight delay which still exists, the state of the crop is about normal. We maintain our opinion that the future course of prices will be governed principally by the fluctuations of New York; we also look for a narrowing of the present difference between Sakel and Ashmouni.

At the Government sale by auction on Wednesday last, 1,210 bales Sakel were offered for sale, of which 481 bales found buyers.

The Sakel/Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,194 points, against 1,191 points last week and 1,310 points at this time last year.

Against the third July tender, dockets for 6,750 kantars were issued, bringing the total since the beginning of the month up to 27,500 kantars.

Uppers.—This market has shown slightly more activity than usual, due to the fact that professional traders have been much more active. The demand from abroad has not been striking, and the small orders passed were for prompt shipment. Prospects regarding



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prices remain unchanged; fluctuations will probably be governed by those of the New York market.

At the Government sale by auction on Friday last, 1,204 bales Ashmouni were offered for sale, of which 928 bales found buyers.

The Ashmouni/American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 265 points, against 250 points last week and 588 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 3 kantars, against exports 92,143 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,677,202 kantars.

Spot.—The Minet el Bassal market has been very uninteresting during the past week, and very little buying interest was shown. Our estimate of business done is Sakellaridis 1,200 bales, Ashmouni and Zagora 2,250 bales, Pilion 250 bales, White and other varieties 120 bales, making a total of about 3,820 bales.

Sakellaridis.—Business has been confined chiefly to the grades Strict Fully Good Fair and Fully Good Fair/Good, without any appreciable change in premiums from last week.

Pilion.—Continues in moderate demand and any decent staple cotton round about Fully Good Fair/Good finds a ready market. Premiums are unchanged.

Other Varieties.—The bulk of the little business which has been done has been in White, grading Fully Good Fair and Fully Good Fair/Good.

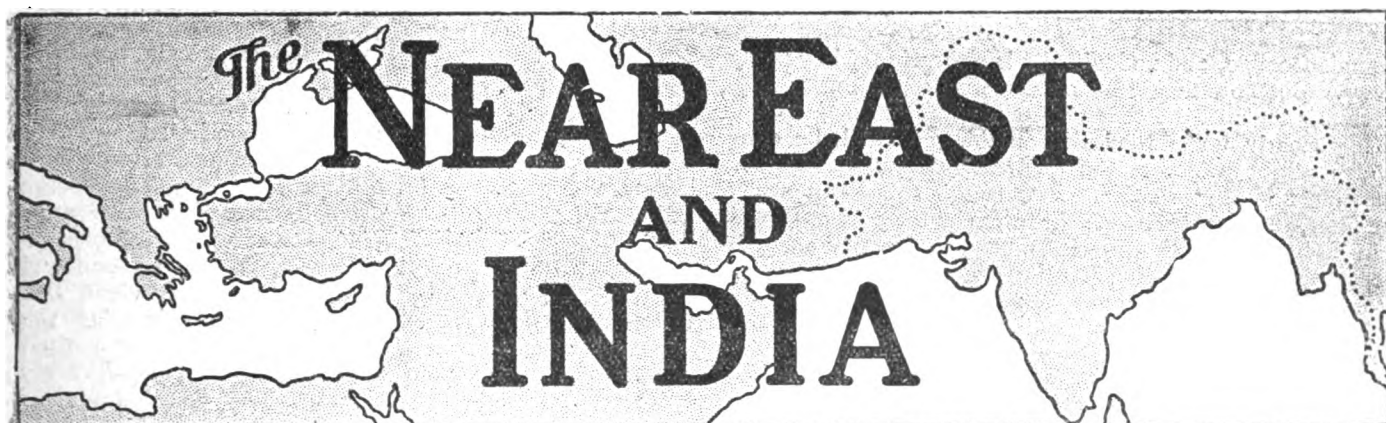
Crop, 1929.—During the past week we have had some rather cool nights. The slight delay mentioned in our report last week still exists. In certain districts of Lower Egypt, bolls have been attacked by the pink boll worm, Zagora and Nahda plantations particularly, but the proportion of the bolls attacked does not, on the average, exceed 5 per cent. Reports from Upper Egypt are, in general, satisfactory. The supply of water continues to be abundant.

BULGARIAN PRE-WAR LOANS.

The announcement is forthcoming that in accordance with the Law June 12, 1929, published in the Bulgarian *Official Journal* of June 26, 1929, all discrimination between holders of bonds of any of the following Bulgarian Government loans will cease in respect of all payments becoming due thereon after June 26, 1929:—Six per Cent. External Loan of 1892, Five per Cent. External Loans of 1896, 1902, and 1904, and Four-and-a-Half per Cent. External Loans of 1907 and 1909. Holders of any bonds of these loans drawn for repayment or coupons due after June 26, 1929, will accordingly be treated as though their bonds fall within the scope of the agreement of December 11, 1926, concluded between the Bulgarian Government and representatives of the British, French, and Dutch bondholders, and their bonds and coupons will be payable at the percentages stipulated by that agreement, irrespective of whether the coupons attached to the bonds are "barred" or not. It is not the intention of the Bulgarian Government at present to replace coupon sheets of "barred" coupons. Drawn bonds and coupons due prior to June 26, 1929, will continue to be paid as heretofore. Any holder of a bond already furnished with a barred coupon sheet, or in respect of which a barred coupon sheet for arrears would be furnished if the talon were presented for the purpose, who is desirous of appealing to the Bulgarian Government with a view to receiving payment of arrears due to him (whether in respect of interest or of drawn bonds) in some currency more appreciated than is provided for by existing arrangements, must lodge such appeal so as to reach the Direction de la Dette Publique, Sofia, on or before September 25, 1929. Appeals must be accompanied by documents proving the nationality of the holder and that he has held the bonds since before July 8, 1922.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Aug. 2.	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on July 17.
Government Stocks.			Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	...	80 1/2	3 1/2% Government Paper	...	68 1/2
Do. Pref. 3 1/2 p.c. 1890	...	71	Banks	...	1,432 1/2
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	...	88	Imperial Bank of India	...	102
Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94	...	82 1/2	Bank of India	...	19
Bulgaria 4 1/2 p.c. Gold, 1907	...	28 1/2	Central Bank of India	...	...
Do. 7 p.c.	...	82 1/2	Coal.	...	5 1/2
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	...	72	Saraboni	...	45 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. 1884	...	70 1/2	Bengal	...	15 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	...	55	Burrakur	...	22 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	...	70	East Indian	...	23 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	...	57 1/2	Equitable	...	33 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, 1902	...	60	Pench Valley	...	42 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	...	70 1/2	Raneegunge	...	61
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	...	100	Standard	...	...
Do. 7 p.c. 1924	...	100	Cotton.	...	33 1/2
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	...	100 1/2	Bengal Nagpur	...	73 1/2
Palestine 5 p.c.	...	84	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	...	57 1/2
Persia 5 p.c. 1911	...	68	Bowrah	...	17 1/2
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext.	...	44 1/2	Buckingham and Carnatic	...	14
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	...	63	Cawnpore Textiles	...	323 1/2
Do. 7 p.c.	...	106	Century	...	47 1/2
Sudan 3 1/2 p.c. Guar. Bds.	...	65	Central India	...	91
India 3 1/2 p.c.	...	56	Elgin	...	67 1/2
Do. 3 p.c.	...	99 1/2	Khatu Mankaji	...	342
Do. 5 p.c.	...	96 1/2	Muir	...	145
Do. 4 p.c.	...	19	New Ring	...	312 1/2
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	...	...	Phoenix	...	401 1/2
			Svadeshi	...	...
Banks.			Jute.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt	...	7 1/2	Alliance	...	537
Bank of British West Africa	...	4	Barnagore	...	28 1/2
Bank of Roumania	...	80 1/2	Budge Budge	...	52 1/2
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf.	...	28 1/2	Clive	...	39 13 1/2
Chartered Bank of India	...	19 1/2	Dalhousie	...	525
Eastern	...	6 11 1/2	Delta	...	857 1/2
Hambros	...	9 15 1/2	Fort Gloster	...	432 1/2
Ionian Bank	...	6 25 1/2	Gouropore	...	57 1/2
Imperial Bank of Persia	...	11 5 1/2	Howrah	...	678 1/2
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	...	17 1/2	Kamarrhaty	...	565
Lloyds	...	64 1/2	Kankarnah	...	603 1/2
Mercantile Bank of India A	...	32 1/2	Khardah	...	965
Do. B	...	33 1/2	Kinnison	...	28
National Bank of Egypt	...	34 1/2	National	...	442
National Bank of India	...	50	Standard	...	667
Ottoman Bank	...	11 1/2	Miscellaneous	...	...
P. and O. Bank Corporation	...	8 1/2	British India Corporation	...	2 1/2
Westminster	...	75 1/2	Bengal Paper Mills	...	41 1/2
Land.			Bengal Timber Trading	...	225
Kassala Cotton	...	9/-	Burn and Co.	...	388
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates	...	5/9	Chawnpore Sugar	...	16 1/2
Sudan Plantations	...	3 1/2	Champaran Sugar	...	12
Mining.			Howrah Oil Mills	...	10 1/2
Salaghat Gold Mining	...	4 1/2	ALEXANDRIA		
Burma Corp.	...	18 1/2	Prices on July 28, supplied by G.L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Champion Reef Gold	...	8 3/4	Agricultural Bank of Egypt	...	£723 33
Mysore	...	12 1/2	" " Fond.	...	£750
Nundydroog	...	15 1/2	Alexandria Water Co.	...	£154
Oerogum Gold Mining Ord.	...	9 1/2	Assoc. Cotton Ginners	...	£25 33
Oil.			Behera Ord.	...	£2213/16
Anglo-Egyptian B.	...	2 19/32	Ciments d'Egypte	...	Frs. 125
Anglo-Persian Ord.	...	47 3/32	" Div.	...	" 188
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf.	...	27 1/2	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte	...	£2 1/2
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf.	...	29 1/2	Credit Foncier Egyptien	...	Frs. 913
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	...	96	" Fondateur	...	£255 1/2
Brit. Burmah	...	6 1/2	Crown Brewery Priv.	...	Frs. 146
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	...	4 1/2	Filature Nationale d'Egypte	...	£3 1/2
Do. 8 1/2 Cum Pref.	...	26 1/2	Frigorifique d'Egypte	...	£2 1/2
Hamilton's Oil Concessions	...	-3	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des.	...	£15 1/2
Phenix Oil and Transport (p.)	...	11 1/2	Land Bank of Egypt Actions	...	£177 1/2
Do. (1/-)	...	7/-	" " Parts de Fond	...	£241
Shell Transport	...	49 1/2	Menzah Canal Navigation	...	Pt. 190
Steam Rowana	...	10/-			
Railways.			Shipping.		
Assam-Bengal	...	...	Anchor 5 1/2 p.c. Prf.	...	8 1/2
Bengal Doonars	...	...	Cunard	...	22 1/2
Bengal Nagpur	...	...	Furness Withy	...	40 -xd
Egypt Delta Light Rly.	...	...	Khediaval Mail Ord.	...	...
Nizams Gtd.	...	...	P. and O. Deferred	...	56 1/2
Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid)	...	...	Tea.		
Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb.	...	...	Assam Co.	...	2 1/16
Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb.	...	...	Bengal United Tea Ord.	...	1 11/16
Piraeus Athens and P. 1st Bds.	...	...	Bramapootra	...	33 1/2
Southern Punjab	...	...	British Indian Tea Ord.	...	3 1/2
South Indian	...	...	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord.	...	1 1/2
Rubber.			Carolina	...	4 1/2
Ceylon Para Rubber Ord.	...	...	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	...	5 15/16
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	...	...	Consolidated Estates	...	33 1/2
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	...	...	Darjeeling Co.	...	231 3/2
Hewagum Rubber Co.	...	...	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	...	33 1/2
Kepthigalla Rubber Estates	...	...	Doonars Tea Ord.	...	3
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	...	...	Doolgaram Tea	...	4 1/16
Insurance.			Doom Dooma	...	4 11/16
General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1 1/2 paid)	...	14 1/2	East Assam	...	4 11/16
London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid)	...	28 1/2	Empire of Ind.	...	2 1/2
Royal Exchange (£1)	...	6 1/2	Halem Tea	...	2 1/2
Sun Fire (£2 paid)	...	39	Imperial Ind.	...	2 1/2
Trade Indemnity (£10)	...	13 1/2	Jhansie Tea Association	...	3 23/32
Miscellaneous.			Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	...	4 1/16
Alexandria Water Co.	...	15 1/2	Jorehaut	...	23 3/2
Associated Cotton Ginners	...	15 1/2	Lanka Plantations Ord.	...	17 1/2
Dunlop Rubber	...	16 10 1/2	Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	...	7
Egyptian Hotels	...	7 1/2	New Dimbula	...	6 1/2
Do. Markets Ord.	...	25 1/2	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	...	2 1/2
Do. Salt and Soda	...	36 1/2	Nedem	...	24
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref.	...	8 1/2	Ouvah	...	34
Oriental Telephone	...	60	Pabbojan	...	6 1/2
Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord.	...	17 1/2	Standard	...	6
Waring & Gillow	...	24 1/2	Scottish Assam	...	3 1/2



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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	169	INDIAN NOTES ...	176	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		GREAT BRITAIN & EGYPT ...	177	Notes and News ...	183
The Egyptian "Proposals" ...	171	SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Correspondence—	
SPECIAL LETTERS—		The Indian Control Committee ...	175	Reparations ...	185
Egypt ...	172	SYRIAN PRESS ...	180	The Week's Finance ...	187
Greece ...	172	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	181	Motors and Motoring ...	189
Cyprus ...	173			Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	190
Calcutta ...	174			British Consular Reports—	
				III.—Roumania ...	191

Notes of the Week.

The Jewish Agency Extended.

The Zionists in Congress at Zürich last week took the fateful step of enlarging the Jewish Agency, upon which in future non-Zionists will be on an equality with Zionists. This momentous decision, however, was a foregone conclusion, and provision had been made before the Congress for the first gathering of the Enlarged Agency immediately after it. For almost all Zionists, with the exception of the Revisionists, who stoutly maintained their opposition to co-operation with non-Zionists in the political, as distinct from the economic, sphere, had convinced themselves that the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine was simply impracticable without the financial assistance of non-Zionist Jewry. That is the real explanation of this step. It is said that the Zionists needed the moral support of their Jewish brethren who had not yet seen that Palestine should be the focal point of Jewish endeavour, that the "National Home" was no longer merely a Zionist affair, but a Jewish affair; and so on. But the real factor was the financial one. Existing funds for the colonisation of Palestine were short; nor was there any prospect of their being adequately increased without going outside the bounds of the Zionists. As Dr. Weizmann said in his opening address before the Sixteenth Congress: "In the struggle for the idea we (Zionists) could stand alone, whatever our numbers were; but in the struggle for the realisation, which is subject to definite human laws and needs specific technical facilities, we require as allies the whole of Jewry." This Congress was, indeed, a vindication of the conduct and of the plans of the leader of the Zionist Organisation and of his immediate colleagues. Dr. Weizmann spoke wisely, with moderation, and with convincing sincerity. Especially was his ability noticeable in dealing with those critics who fain would have accused the Zionist Organisation of pusillanimity towards the Mandatory Government for Palestine. Whether his judgment upon the probable future will be as justified as has been his conduct in the past it is difficult indeed to

estimate. The leader of the Zionist Organisation firmly believes that by means of the Enlarged Jewish Agency there will be seen a great number of Jewish converts to Zionism. He was, perhaps, bound to say some such thing, as moral justification of the pact with Mr. Louis Marshall; and it may be that on closer examination of what has actually been accomplished in Palestine some of those Jews who have always, and especially since the Balfour Declaration, shunned the Jewish Nationalist ideal, will go over to the Zionist camp. It seems to us, however, scarcely probable that the Zionist ideal will gain very considerable numerical support, even though the attempt to realise the Zionist idea in Palestine is to be fortified. It cannot be said that the world of Jewry is enamoured of the Jewish Nationalist concept. But since this problem is one that would lead us far away from the sphere of Palestine, we cannot deal with it here: there are human and super-national elements in it which far transcend the limits of these Notes.

The Wailing Wall.

It was inevitable that the matter of the *Kotel Maaravi* (Wailing Wall) should have been raised at this Zionist Congress, and, fortunately, the real attitude of Zionists was clearly discernible through the storm of indignation to which deputies gave vent. In the opinion of the Zionist Executive, said Mr. Harry Sacher, who, however bitterly he may be assailed by certain sections of Jews, was at least speaking the mind of Zionists on this point, the problem is governed by the Mandate for Palestine. He added that the doctrine of the *status quo* hitherto adopted by the Government as a basis of its policy was not warranted by the Mandate, and that Jewish rights under the Mandate were more complete and extensive than those embraced within the principles of the *status quo*. Here, then, we have a definite claim—and it is gratifying to have on record so precise an expression of the Jewish point of view—to what unfortunately are rather indefinite rights. The Mandate, with its implication of the establishment of a "National Home" for the Jews, transcends, they say, the policy of the *status quo*. The argument

sounds feasible, and undoubtedly is sincerely held by many Jews. But how they get over the words contained in the first few lines of the text of the Palestine Mandate—"it being clearly understood that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine"—it would be interesting to discover. In so far as the phrase quoted can be held to imply a precise policy, that policy must, it seems to us, be one of preserving the *status quo*. Depart from that, and where is one? In an atmosphere of religious privilege, wholly alien to British administration. The Palestine Government having decided that the conduct of Jews on the last Day of Atonement infringed the *status quo*, that is, in this instance, the rights of non-Jewish communities, how can the Mandate be quoted against it for acting as it did? It may sometimes be wondered, indeed, whether the propaganda department of the Zionist Organisation is not a little sorry that so much was made of this historic incident, for it can scarcely be doubted that the steps taken later by Muslims, to which the Jews have strenuously objected, would not have been indulged in had there not been made this comprehensive claim to what in effect would be preferential treatment disturbing the *status quo*. In any case, the end of this most unfortunate and deplorable affair is not yet in sight.

Plots in Turkey.

One of the most notable of the less desirable features of the Turkish Revolution has been the tendency to discover plots in every quarter. Presumably it is founded in official fear; certainly it is reflected in the faithful Press of the country. The too common course of this process appears to be: a plot is reported—is it a plot?—it is a plot!—the accused are innocent! So nonsensical a sequence can surely not endure much longer. But these plot-mongers will certainly not be dissuaded from indulging their fancies by the speech which Mustapha Kemal Pasha made on August 7 at Eshi-shekir, the town in which the Court of Appeal sits. Whether there have recently been too many acquittals, or whether there is a nice little crop of trials pending, we do not know, but the President of the Republic minced no words. The Turkish nation, he said, would not tolerate acts tending to undermine the social order, and those who attempted to turn it aside from the straight course would be destroyed, by the peasants, workers, and "heroic army," working in unison. This, presumably, was the note which keeps up the people's spirits. But less obvious and less rhetorical remarks were to follow. For, turning to the members of the Court of Appeal, the Ghazi said: "To you the country

has entrusted the execution of its laws. On the laws depend the people's rights and interests. Take note of my words and keep them well in mind." These words, uttered by the apostle of Europeanisation in Turkey, may will become historic. Did they refer to past or to future events, to counter-revolutionary or to Communistic rebels? Either the Courts have mishandled some cases recently, or they have, very plainly, to enact severe punishment in the future. However interpreted, it was an ominous remark. For from the outsider's point of view, few things have been so surprising, so gratifying, as the apparent independence of the Courts, which have often acquitted persons whom Angora and the Turkish Press painted in the blackest colours. The Ghazi doubtless knows better than anyone the difficulties in Turkey, but in most countries in Europe such counsel as he offered to the Court of Appeal would be counted but interference. It will be highly illuminating to observe the effect produced on the Turkish Judicature by this dark *caveat*.

Egypt's Problem.

The unexpected success of Mahmoud Pasha in returning to Egypt with proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian agreement that go much farther in the direction of meeting Egyptian aspirations than any responsible person in the country could have anticipated has placed the Wafd in a quandary. To reject a treaty on the lines suggested would mean political suicide for the Wafd; yet to acknowledge it as a triumph for Egypt entails endorsement of Mahmoud Pasha's régime. Apparently, therefore, the attempt is to be made to discredit the present Prime Minister, in the hope that the Wafd may ride into power again on the wave of enthusiasm that will accompany the ratification of the Treaty. Whether Egypt will lend itself to these unworthy political tactics remains to be seen. The matter is entirely her own concern, and not one in which Great Britain can intervene. There should, however, be no doubt in any Egyptian mind that the mere suggestion of the elimination of the present Government in favour of a return to a Wafdist régime will be liable to compromise Egypt seriously in the opinion of those countries which have to agree to the abrogation of the Capitulations. Constitutionalism may be a fetish with some people, but its value is seriously diminished, if it has to go hand in hand with the political *gaucherie* that has hitherto been associated with the Wafd. Foreign Powers, with the experience of the last year in Egypt before them, will, it is hoped, allow themselves to be persuaded to accept the abolition of the Capitulations in the belief that Egypt has learnt the value of honest and efficient government. If the country is to revert at once to a parliamentary régime based on universal suffrage, the danger is that there will be an immediate end to effective administration and the rulers of Egypt will be once more the students and mobs that shout back the Wafd's *mots d'ordre*. It cannot, therefore, be too strongly impressed upon Egyptians that those, of whatever country, who consider that the British Government has gone too far in meeting Egyptian aspirations will desire nothing better than to see the Wafd in power once more in time to serve as a warning to the foreign Governments who will be asked to agree to the abolition of the Capitulations.

Serbo-Bulgarian Tension.

Those observers of the Balkan problem who believe that the first step in the establishment of a Balkan Federation is a *rapprochement* between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria are having at the present time to possess their souls in indefinite patience. For the truth is that no sign is discernible that the responsible authorities either in Belgrade or Sofia are disposed to yield or even to attempt to compromise. Yugoslavia in effect harps upon the inviolability of the Peace Treaties, Bulgaria upon the injustice done to Macedonia (which problem, however, should not be confused with the most recent fuss caused over the binational pro-

(Continued on page 180.)

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1929.

THE EGYPTIAN "PROPOSALS."

In approaching the subject of the proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian settlement and of the Notes that have been exchanged between the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Prime Minister, it is essential to bear in mind that for ten years the position as between Egypt and Great Britain has been unsatisfactory, when it has not been actually dangerous, and at all times anomalous. Neither party regarded the present state of Anglo-Egyptian relations as permanent, and various attempts have been made to improve upon it. The Declaration of 1922 was issued in a hurry by the British Government of the day; its intentions were good, but its tactics lamentable, for Great Britain said in effect to Egypt: "We give you what you are asking for, but we count upon your meeting our wishes in certain matters on which we set great store." The Egyptian reply was to take what was offered on the ground that it was Egypt's by right, and to refuse to make any *quid pro quo* to Great Britain. The solution of Egypt's problem, however, proved not to be as simple as the Nationalists imagined. Circumstances beyond their control, with which they had not reckoned, lent both force and justice to the contention that Great Britain's position had also to be taken into consideration; but the Wafd refused to be convinced and continued to kick against the pricks. Two years ago the more reasonable element in Egypt, in the person of Sarwat Pasha, hoping that the Wafd at last appreciated the intolerable nature of the deadlock that it had produced, explored the ground for an understanding with Great Britain which would round off the Declaration of 1922. The resultant draft treaty negotiated with Sir Austen Chamberlain was rejected by the Wafd, also in a hurry; but Egypt soon discovered, mainly owing to Lord Lloyd's insistence upon the facts of the case, that the complacent assumption that it could make full use of the independence offered conditionally in 1922 without accepting the conditions would not hold water. In due time the reasonable element in Egypt considered itself strong enough to challenge the authority of the Wafd, and the Government of Mahmoud Pasha was the result. Believing that, after a year of office, it had done something to remove from Egypt the reproach of being an irresponsible, mob-governed country, devoid of all political ability, this Government turned to Great Britain to see whether the time was ripe for a cautious and piecemeal settlement of the Anglo-Egyptian question. It found a Government in Great Britain anxious to meet it more than half-way, and the tentative overtures for a gradual adjustment of Anglo-Egyptian relations became negotiations for a Treaty of alliance and a full settlement of all outstanding questions.

However much opinions regarding the details of such a settlement may vary, there can be no doubt that the generous meeting of Egyptian aspirations by Great Britain is wholly in keeping with British traditions and with the liberal spirit that in recent generations has characterised British dealings with other peoples. Egypt has never been part of the British Empire; it has occupied an important, albeit anomalous, position in the

British Imperial scheme; but both from the nature of the original act of occupation and from the whole character of that occupation, apart from repeated promises (that its purpose was to enable Egypt one day to be governed by Egyptians, it is a just and normal development that every effort should be made to place the relations between the two countries on a footing that meets Egyptian claims without weakening the security of the British Empire. The tension that has existed in the past has been creditable neither to Great Britain nor to Egypt; for mistakes have been made on both sides. It is, therefore, from the point of view that strained relations between the two countries should be removed as soon as possible in the interests of both that the new proposals have to be examined. Whatever justification, on the strength of past services or on other grounds, can be urged on behalf of Great Britain's position in Egypt, the fact remains that, if that position is not voluntarily accepted by the Egyptians, it must rely ultimately on force—a factor that has lost much of the moral weight that it formerly carried. If, therefore, a modification of that position sacrificing no vital British interest can be devised, which has the whole-hearted approval of Egyptians, Great Britain will have established a further claim to the moral leadership of the world.

For most of the opposition that has been raised in Great Britain and elsewhere against the new proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian settlement Egypt herself—or, more strictly speaking, the Wafd—is responsible. The record of that disastrous organisation, when in power, has left in the minds of most foreign nations the impression of a people wholly irresponsible, unprogressive, lacking in political instinct and relying only on assassination to gain its ends. Little wonder, from this point of view, that any relaxation of the special privileges enjoyed in the country by foreign interests should be regarded with violent misgiving. The future, however, must be allowed to show whether the Wafd, as it has shown itself in the past, is Egypt, and Egypt still the Wafd. If the present leaders could still have their own way, they would, no doubt, summarily reject the new proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian settlement. It is difficult, however, to believe that the Egyptians, having been freed for a whole year from the political terrorism of the Wafd, will fail to appreciate the advantages that the proposals, shortly to be submitted to their judgment, hold out for Egypt. There remains the question whether the proposed settlement can count upon the support of the British Parliament and of foreign Governments, who are expected to follow Great Britain's lead in transferring the jurisdiction of their Consular Courts to the Mixed Tribunals. That the surrender of valuable privileges enjoyed hitherto by foreigners in Egypt, including a wide freedom from taxation, will not be popular goes without saying; but it is not on this aspect of the question that the settlement can be challenged. In so far as fears for the security of Britain's Imperial communications and for the safety of foreigners in Egypt are concerned, it may be pointed out that no other people will have been required to give so many hostages for their good behaviour as the Egyptians. There seems to be no valid reason why the Suez Canal should be less safe with British troops stationed on it than when they were in barracks in Cairo. Again the Egyptians will realise that, in the event of a fresh outbreak of political murder or of any gross violation of the spirit of the agreement, their newly won independence would be in grave danger of being forfeited—and then for all time. Unless, therefore, Egypt shows unmistakably that she wishes still to be identified with the political mentality of the Wafd, there should be no grounds for supposing that the new confidence inspired in the country by the Government of Mahmoud Pasha, which has rendered the "Proposals" possible as a normal and legitimate development of the efforts to place Anglo-Egyptian relations on a permanently satisfactory footing, will not be found to be fully justified by the event.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Alexandria, August 2.

Forecasts of the Treaty.

At the beginning of this week the local Press published several different versions of a Draft Treaty between England and Egypt. As the basis of each version was materially the same, it would appear that something has leaked out in London.

Some of the London papers have recently discussed Anglo-Egyptian matters in a manner which testifies to their complete ignorance of the facts. For a responsible newspaper seriously to discuss the possibility of Great Britain's abandoning her Capitulatory rights without waiting for other European Powers to agree to follow suit is ridiculous. Nothing that has been published in any of the versions of the Draft Treaty has even hinted that Britain is contemplating such a step, and it can be stated definitely that no British Government would ever do anything of the kind. The published versions of the Treaty, on the surface, make the position of Britons in Egypt difficult enough, but such a step would imply the end of all British interests in Egypt, and would leave the door open for other European Powers who might be very quick to seize the opportunity.

Egypt's Representatives.

The Wafd are still making desperate efforts to convince both Egypt and Great Britain that Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha is a dictator of the most ruthless kind, and that he does not in any way represent the Egyptian public. These two points may be partly true, but for the Wafd to suggest that they represent Egypt is also untrue. Of the two parties the Mahmoud group has the best interests of the country at heart and has an extremely good record of public services accomplished, while the Wafd are seemingly out for their own ends, and the less said about their record the better. A fact which British politicians would do well to remember when discussing the Egyptian question is, that in the last census taken in Egypt, in 1927, the proportion of literates in Cairo, the capital of Egypt and the seat of the Government Departments, was three per cent. The proportion over the whole country is probably even smaller. The greater majority of Egyptians, therefore, are entirely at the mercy of an unscrupulous persons, who, by merely giving them a false impression of current events, can lead them into any mischief. Students, and especially young men from Al Azhar, gather small crowds about them and read

extracts from the papers, and entirely on what type of newspaper is used depend the feelings of the country in general. Thus it is permissible to state that a very large proportion of the uneducated Egyptians believe, through *Al Balagh*, the Wafdist organ, that William Makram Obeid dismissed Lord Lloyd! The Wafd has an immense hold over a large part of the country, for the lower classes are very slow to change their views, and the Wafd propaganda has recently been more intensive than ever. The upper classes, to a certain extent, support the present Government, but there is not the slightest doubt that at a General Election, the Wafd would be returned to power with a large majority. The good impression created by Mahmoud Pasha in London, and his excellent work for Egypt, are being nullified here by clever distortions and mis-statements of fact by the Wafdist. Were even half the politicians in Egypt of the sincerity and disinterestedness of their Prime Minister, the time for such a Treaty as is being discussed would be ripe, but generally such ideals as public or national service merely for the good of the country are totally non-existent.

International Quarantine Board.

A very interesting film was shown this morning to a private audience, depicting the work carried out by the International Quarantine Board at their station at El Tor. Every year thousands of pilgrims from Egypt go to the Hijaz, where they mingle with other pilgrims from the Far East in which cholera is endemic. Were it not for a very thorough quarantine service it would be almost impossible to prevent infection from being brought into Egypt. As it is, however, every pilgrim returning from the Hijaz must disembark at Tor, where he is put through a very thorough disinfection, both himself and his belongings, followed by a short period in quarantine. The most modern methods are used, and the pilgrims are treated with great kindness, so that their period of quarantine is almost pleasant.

The business of transporting Egyptian pilgrims to and from the Hijaz has up till the present been carried out by private enterprise, but a decision was recently taken by the Council of Ministers, investing the Banque Misr Navigation Company with the sole rights of this business. It is understood that the Banque Misr are in negotiation with an English firm which will supply the ships and the

GREECE.

Athens, July 25.

The Growth of Athens.

Great interest is being aroused at the moment in the forthcoming municipal elections. The outstanding candidates for the office of Mayor of Athens are MM. Patses and Christomanos. The former has held the office, on and off, since 1919, and has a fine record of substantial work to his credit. When the enormous increase in the size and population of Athens and the political vicissitudes during that period are taken into account, the amount of work accomplished in the face of exceptional difficulties is striking. Among the improvements may be mentioned the increase of the water supply (apart from the Ulen scheme), construction of drains to conduct the sewage water (formerly used to water the market gardens), into the sea, covering of numerous open water channels, which had long been a menace to the health of the population, increase of asphalted streets from 150,000

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to 700,000 square metres in extent, provision of sanitary slaughter houses, beautifying of the neglected squares, and introduction of systematic irrigation of the streets. It is gratifying to know that the hitherto haphazard growth of the city is being controlled, and that the importance of regulating its expansion in conformity with a town-planning scheme is realised.

Visitors and Archæology.

Official statistics show that during 1928 45,000 foreigners visited Greece; this figure includes 15,000 members of "cruises," who are brought by large steamers and stay at most two days. The total number is an increase of about 10,000 on the average totals for 1925-1927, and the amount of money brought into the country is estimated at £350,000, as compared with an average of £250,000 for those years. A large proportion of these visitors are, naturally, American, whose numbers are likely to be increased now that it is known that the Agora excavations will begin in December. The Director of the excavations is Dr. Shear, already well known for his work at Corinth. In connexion with archæology, a Greek archæologist, M. Kyparisses, has discovered a series of Mycenæan tholos-tombs at a place called Pikermi, twenty-one kilometres from Athens on the Marathon road.

Leprosy.

The disease of leprosy has long been known in Greece, and institutions for the isolation of lepers, notably Spinalonga, in Crete, exist. Almost a scare, however, has recently been created by the revelation, based on systematic search, that there are no less than 3,000 lepers at large in various parts of the country, mostly in the islands. One of the reasons given why afflicted persons do not present themselves for treatment at the Pasteur Institute is fear of being sent to Spinalonga, which has an evil reputation. In connexion with combating disease, instruction by means of the film on the subject of malaria and its prevention is now being given in many places, and has met with success. All this goes to show that a serious effort is being made to cope with this scourge, and it had been hoped that M. Christomanos would remain in his post in the Ministry of Health, for which he is so eminently qualified. As these lines were being written, however, the announcement has appeared that he has submitted his resignation.

General Pangalos.

General Pangalos has at last been released from the preventive imprisonment, in which he has been, on and off, for three years, eight months of which in solitary confinement—a worse punishment, as he himself said, than execution. This is intelligible, since for a Greek, conversation is his principal, and often his only, recreation. Nor was this the worst part of his imprisonment. Presumably, in order to reduce his spirit still further, he was constantly being transferred from the Cretan prison to Athens and back again in the roughest weather in the most uncomfortable craft—a destroyer. The Cretan sea is notoriously choppy and the ex-dictator is a notoriously bad sailor, unlike M. Venizelos, who enjoys rough seas. Returning from Crete a few days ago he travelled on the destroyer Panther. The sea was running mountains, and the captain wished to take shelter at Melos. The Prime Minister, however, preferred to go on, and while his colleagues lay prostrate around him, sat quietly in the cabin reading a French novel and eating water-melon.

General News.

The interminable period during which arrested persons are kept in prison pending their trial is, in fact, a real evil in this country, and the hunger-strikers of Missolonghi will not have starved themselves in vain, if their action serves to draw attention to it. About two months ago, as a result of Communist rioting among the tobacco workers of Agrinion, fifteen of the ring-leaders were arrested, and, later, were transferred to the prison at

Missolonghi. After fifty days' imprisonment they were still untried. They threatened a hunger-strike if they were not released by a certain day. The day arrived, and the strike began. After eleven days' fasting they have been released.

The death at Skyros a few days ago of M. Cheimonas has removed one of the best-known Greek landscape painters. Though not possessed of striking originality, M. Cheimonas interpreted Greek scenery with skill and fidelity. He had recently held a successful exhibition in London.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 31.

Sir Ronald Storrs.

The Governor arrived on July 18, and proceeded to Mt. Troodos. He was received with the usual honours. He appeared to be in good health. It is expected that Lady Storrs will return to Cyprus shortly.

The Deputation to London.

Greek members of the Legislative Council met at Larnaca on July 20 and signed the memorial which is to be presented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. On July 23 they met again at the village of Pedoula, near Mt. Troodos, where it was decided that the document should not be submitted through the local Government, but the two Greek members, the Bishop of Kition and M. Stavrinaki. It was also decided that the members should pay their own travelling and personal expenses. As regards other costs which it is calculated should amount to about £600, it was agreed that an appeal should be made by letter to H.E. the Greek Archbishop, to convene the Holy Synod with a view to arranging that this sum should be contributed, by apportionment, by the different ecclesiastical bodies of the Church in the island. Mr. Zeno Rossides, an advocate of Limassol, will act as Secretary, having offered his services on the same terms as the two members.

The Trade Commissioner.

Major Flinn, Trade Commissioner in London, who has been for some time unwell, and has been granted sick leave from May 1, is still unable to resume his duties. Mr. W. Bevan, his predecessor (formerly Director of Agriculture in Cyprus) has been appointed to take his place temporarily from July 15. The Greek continues to regard the office as quite superfluous and considers that Cyprus derives no benefit from its existence.



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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 25.

Hysteria.

Two men, Bhagat Singh and Dutt their names, for throwing two bombs in the Assembly Chamber, and firing pistols, though the actual damage, apart from putting an end to the Assembly's business for that day, was happily not attended with serious consequences, were sentenced to transportation for life. In a year, or two or three, their names will be quite forgotten. Immediately the hysteria of India has fastened upon their names. One may open one's newspaper, and read such as this: "Lahore, July 21. Bhagat Singh-Dutt Day, which was celebrated here this evening, did not pass off peacefully as anticipated." It was expected that it would pass off peacefully? Why that? Because it was known that nothing but hysteria could have any use for a Bhagat Singh-Dutt Day. The huge majority of the people of India is totally uninterested. The Day did not pass off peacefully, or at least its celebration. The reason is that there proved to be more hysterical fools in Lahore than were known. This is the sample of Lahore's hysteria. A public meeting was held, attended by nearly 10,000 persons, including numerous women. The women would be the most hysterical.

Hysteria in Paradise.

Resolutions were passed congratulating Bhagat Singh and Dutt and condemning the Government attitude towards their demands. The President introduced to the audience the father of Bhagat Singh and a brother of Dutt. They were greeted with shouts of "Long live Bhagat Singh," "Long live Dutt." My newspaper adds "respectively," for the Indian reporter thought we might not be sure which of the two had been greeted with the shout of "Long live Bhagat Singh," or he wanted there to be no doubt how much English he knows. But to get on with the sample of hysteria in paradise. Dr. Parashutam, the report says, said that Bhagat Singh and Dutt could be compared to the *rishis* of ancient India. That is the stock praise. It is egregiously silly; for the *rishis* in their minds and souls were the farthest removed of all the people that ever have been on earth from thinking like Bhagat Singh and Dutt. Suppose that I, having turned red-hot Communist, exploded a bomb in the House of Commons, and that a Trafalgar Square speaker said that for that act I might be compared with St. Peter and St. Paul. You would stare with amazement at so outrageously silly a comparison. The comparison of Bhagat Singh and Dutt to the ancient *rishis* is no whit less outrageously silly.

Hysteria Screwed Up.

When ten thousand hysterical fools have been packed in a room for an hour, you will expect hysteria to have screwed itself up a peg or two. A later speaker, Dr. Mohammad Alam, is reported to have said that he "thought the day would come when statues of Bhagat Singh and Dutt (the names will be completely forgotten in a year or two) would be erected in all cities in India (it is safe to say that not a single statue will be erected—they cost money—in a single city) and the story of their sacrifice be written in letters of gold." That reminds me of an old story. When the partition of Bengal was effected in Curzon's day, the hysteria of Bengal rose to fever point. Men marched in slow procession, as mourning, beating hand against hand, saying "Bande mātaram" solemnly. They somehow looked supremely foolish, and one laughed, if a procession passed near one's windows. Once the processions all converged on an unbuilt-on site. There they laid the foundation stone of a Federation Hall. In it sundered Bengal was to meet once a year for ever, and cement its true, though divided, love. The next day

the owner of the site said: "That's my land—take that infernal stone away." "But you will give the site," they said to him, "to the Motherland." "I'll do no such thing," he replied; "I'm going to build a house on it to live in myself." All this was in the newspapers. None of the leaders thought they had made fools of themselves: they thought they were showing their fitness to organise government. That is the point.

Hysteria in its Dotage.

Still later in such a meeting hysteria will fall dotty. Mr. Swaroop, it is reported, moved a resolution characterising the cries "Long live Revolution" and "Down with Imperialism" as innocent (the reporter knew this time not to add "respectively"). They were, he said, prevalent all over the world. Maulana Abdul Qadir said there was nothing objectionable in these cries. Why then bother to talk about them? The resolution was carried. The ten thousand fools then felt as pleased as if they had forged a thunderbolt to hurl at the Government, and saw it before them, red-hot on the anvil. When they woke the next morning, and read the report of their inane proceedings in their newspapers, they felt the cockles of their hearts all warm. They had no more a suspicion that they had behaved like silly geese than the Bengal politicians of 1905 saw that they had done that over the stone and the man's land. Political India has very little sense and no humour, and less irony.

The Moral.

The moral is that, as many Englishmen live and work in India—I do, for one—and as we do not want our throats cut, or bread poisoned, it is legitimate of us to tell the Fenner Brockways and the other hot-hearts that, much as we may sympathise with the desire of such as Lord Sinha that the few really capable Indians should be given more responsible work and hold more honoured positions in their own country, we cannot have a large measure of political power conferred on the mass of Indians. They must not proceed, in their thinking about India, from "the faith that is in us," as Montagu and Chelmsford did. Why should we proceed from the faith that is *not* in us, when we *know*? What we know is that the mass of the Indians is ignorant in politics and totally uninterested (crowds of them are schoolboys and undergraduates). We refuse to have ourselves placed in their power.

Platitudes.

One could write on Indian politics platitudinously. I try not to. The speaking or writing of platitudes changes nothing. The platitudes of Dr. Johnson's "Rambles" cannot have changed anything. The salt of Dean Swift's "Tale of a Tub" and "Gulliver" may have changed nothing either; but if something were to change things, it would not be Johnson's platitudes but Swift's salt. The new Under-Secretary of State for India has been talking platitudes. They will not help us. He says that the concentration of some of the best brains in India on purely political issues has resulted in a great deal of necessary and urgent work of a social and economic kind being left undone. Take the social work first. Work, such as Dr. Shiels was thinking of, can do nothing. Many social workers are at work. They effect so little that it cannot be counted. Take the hospitals for instance; take rather all the medical work being done throughout India. The volume of it is so small, that compared with the lives lost this year, in one province alone, the United Provinces, from smallpox, cholera, malaria, the number of lives saved by the doctors throughout India is not worth counting. Here in Bengal we have tuberculosis too. Unless something is changed radically, the whole of Bengal, a more and more ill-nourished people, will soon be tuberculous. The change must come from what has soul-making power. Only one thing has—literature. India must wait for a great, new, living literature.

Economic Work.

Things are more hopeful in the economic sphere, because things that it pays to do, do pay. If the Indians themselves will celebrate Bhagat Singh-Dutt Days instead of gathering the riches of their little "tilled" country, let Dr. Shiels send out Englishmen. They would cost India more in that the said Englishmen would send and take Indian wealth out of the country; but that wealth—what they sent and took out of the country on retiring—and more wealth—what they and others consumed in India—they would have themselves created. Politicians may cry, "Bengal for the Bengalis." Politicians do so cry. Nature cares not a straw what those call themselves who "till" Bengal. She will yield her wealth to any.

BURMA AS A MISSION FIELD.

The World Dominion Survey Series is a series of books the object of which is to present a brief and clear description of the situation in various countries as viewed from the Christian standpoint. The most recently published volume of the series is styled "Christian Progress in Burma," and the author, Mr. Alexander McLeish, gives a detailed and interesting account of the present position of Christianity in that pictureque province of British India. Burma is much the largest of the Indian provinces. It is not densely populated, but it is a land of many races—Burmese, Karens, Shans, Indians, Chinese, Europeans and others. The total population, according to the 1921 census, is rather less than 13½ millions. Of this total the Burmese constitute the largest group, numbering as they do upwards of 9 millions. The Karens form the next largest single group of about 1½ millions. Then come the Shans, Chins, Kachins and others. The Indians are mostly immigrants, and they come chiefly from Madras. They number nearly a million. There are about 150,000 Chinese and between eight and nine thousand Europeans, with about twice that number of Anglo-Indians. There are various religions in Burma, but Buddhism is overwhelmingly predominant. Close upon 85 per cent. of the total population are Buddhists, while no other faith can boast of even 5 per cent. A missionary census was completed as recently as 1926, when it was ascertained that the indigenous Christians in the province numbered 274,105. Of these 192,027 were Protestants and 82,078 Roman Catholics. It follows that the proportion of Christians in the population is roughly one to 49, or say, about 2 per cent.

These results do not suggest that Christianity is making great headway in Burma. But on close examination they are not so discouraging as they may at first sight be thought to be. It must be remembered also that the number of workers is very small while the field of work is of great extent. The total Protestant missionary force is only about 3,889, of whom 351 are Europeans or Americans, the others being native workers. The area of Burma is, it may be noted, 233,707 square miles. The author of "Christian Progress in Burma" is surely justified in claiming that such a force is hopelessly and ridiculously inadequate for a population of more than 13 millions spread over so extensive an area. And the inadequacy becomes the more apparent when the peculiar difficulties of the task are considered. Christianity has been eagerly accepted by one of the races of Burma, namely, the Karens. But "there is," we are told, "practically a deadlock with regard to the Burmans except on the educational side." Among the 1½ million Karens there are to-day 142,000 Protestant Christians as against 9,000 Christians among the 9 millions of Burmese and Talaiings. This remarkable difference has really tended to increase the difficulties. For, as Mr. McLeish points out, "missionary advance follows the line of greatest response on the part of the people." The Karens are a collection of Indo-Chinese tribes who are believed to

have entered Burma from the direction of South-West China in pre-historic times. They are found down the whole of the eastern border of Lower Burma from Toun-goo to Mergui in the delta of the Irrawaddy and in the Pegu Yoma. They are an important section of the community all over the Lower Province except in the Arabian Division, in Rangoon, and in the districts of Prome and Thayetmyo. Their original religion was spirit worship, and many of them still hold to this faith while some have embraced Buddhism. They readily accept Christianity, and the Missions have responded to their needs. The result is that about 150 of the total missionary staff, and about 2,000 of the indigenous workers are engaged among the Karens.

There are about two millions of Shans, Chins, Kachins and other minor races. As regards these people missionary work is still in the initial stage. Nevertheless there are already as many as 12,500 Christians among them, and the outlook is encouraging. It is the Buddhist Burmese, the most numerous of the people of Burma, who constitute the greatest of the problems confronting missionary effort in that land. There is no attempt in "Christian Progress in Burma" to minimise the difficulties. The workers are far too few, but even given an adequate force the task would still be heavy. "Buddhists are strongly fortified with their literature, their established customs and strong prejudices in addition to the material enrichment their religion has had for many centuries. Buddhists have also always had their monastic schools for boys. They have taught the lads their religious liturgy and have trained them into grooves of living laid down by Gautama Buddha which have emphasised great self-denial though no real self-sacrifice. It would be strange indeed if a religion such as this could be thrown off easily. Its enormous body of Scriptures, its regular instructions, its extensive reverence for its well-versed monks are all calculated to make a permanent intellectual impression upon the people."

THE INDIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The Joint Free Conference, comprising the Statutory Commission sitting with the members of the Indian Central Committee which is co-operating in the inquiry, has now completed the work of examining witnesses in London. Short accounts of the proceedings have appeared from time to time in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*, and a list of the principal witnesses examined was given in a recent issue.

At the final sittings the Conference, with Sir John Simon in the Chair, heard Sir Amhurst Selby-Bigge, a member of the Auxiliary Committee on the growth of education in India whose findings were reviewed recently in these columns. Further oral evidence was also taken from Sir Reginald Craddock and Mr. A. L. Saunders, on behalf of the Indian Civil Service (Retired) Association. A summary of the Association's written memorandum prepared for the Statutory Commission appeared in our issue of December 13 last.

The way is now clear for the Indian Central Committee to consider the preparation of its report, and it is understood that the members of the Committee are meeting at its offices in Clement's Inn every day for that purpose. The Statutory Commission, whose report is not likely to be available until towards the end of the year, has meanwhile dispersed for the holidays. Provisional arrangements, we learn, have been made for the members to reassemble on September 24.

In this connexion it is interesting to learn from the mail edition of the *Pioneer* that reports have received wide circulation in India to the effect, *inter alia*, that "Mr. MacDonald has been guilty of a grave lack of appreciation of the endeavours and work of the Indian Central Committee." Readers of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* who read the Prime Minister's speech in the debate on the

Address will not require to be told that any such suggestion is demonstrably false.

At the moment the Indian Central Committee is examining the reports of the Provincial Committees which co-operated with the Joint Free Conference in their respective provinces, all of which have now reached this country and, with one or two exceptions, have already been published in substance in the Indian Press.

It is hoped that by means of formulating a series of resolutions covering the main aspects of the inquiry the way will be cleared for the preparation of a draft report. The latter will then be considered in detail and members asked to indicate how far they are prepared to endorse its findings and, if not, to what extent they are likely to submit individual notes of dissent.

Although it appears unlikely that the Committee will be able to present an unanimous report, the rumours which have been given publicity by the *Pioneer*—as our contemporary candidly admits “with a certain amount of malicious humour”—concerning the relations between the Committee and the Chairman and members of the Statutory Commission are so manifestly a case of “the wish being father to the thought” that no comment is necessary.

On completion of two months as the special guests of his Majesty's Government the members of the Indian Central Committee have left the Savoy Hotel. Sir San-karan Nair, the Chairman, is at 125, Victoria Street; Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Dr. Suhrawardy, and Mr. M. C. Rajah are at Artillery Mansions, Victoria Street; Mr. Kikabhai Premchand is at 58, Queen's Gate, South Kensington; Rajah Nawab Ali Khan is at Westbourne Terrace, Paddington; and Sirdar S. S. Uberoi is staying with friends at Putney.

INDIAN NOTES.

Bombay's Troubles.

The Government of Bombay is certainly under no apprehension of the risk which is said to attend him of whom all men speak well. It is too early to speak of the results of the Strike Inquiry: but the explanation by the Home Member of the apparent inadequacy of the arrangements for the maintenance and restoration of law and order has been severely criticised by the local Press. Meanwhile the unrest in the Bombay mills continues, though it is probable that the end of the agricultural season and the depletion of union funds will bring the strikers back to their work. The passing of the Bill making intimidation during times of strike or emergency a cognizable offence will, it may be hoped, assist in the process, although, as the Home Member has pointed out, the legislation, which is long overdue, is directed not so much against the present disturbances as the growing spirit of lawlessness which is pervading all industrial areas. In the matter of Land Revenue, on the other hand, the Government has met with rebuff in the Legislative Council. It was not sufficient that, in consequence of the Bardoli *débâcle*, the Government promised to suspend the introduction of revisions of assessment already approved, and to set up a system for future revisions, so elaborate and so full of safeguards as to make any appreciable increase in the receipts of Land Revenue extremely problematical. The Legislative Council, in spite of these concessions, insisted on the extension of the suspension and re-examination of approved revisions to four further talukas, which do not differ in character from any others into which revised settlements have been introduced within recent years. It is, in short, clear that the Government will find it increasingly difficult to obtain for the public purse a fair share of the increased price of agricultural produce. This is especially serious when it is remembered that the financial

success of the Sukkur Barrage scheme is dependent on adequate rates being obtained from the cultivator in return for the assured water supply provided. The material portion of the barrage works is being brought to a successful conclusion; but the cost incurred has already reached a total of nine crores of rupees, and the work will be an intolerable burden on the Bombay taxpayer unless it fully pays its way. The outlook for that taxpayer is in any case not bright. As the Governor recently pointed out to the Legislative Council, unless additional resources are found, even essential services must be curtailed, and expansion must be deferred.

Marriages in India.

The restrictions on marriage imposed by Hindu law and custom have an interest beyond the purely technical aspect of the question. The author of the latest contribution to the study of a very interesting problem (Hindu Exogamy, S. V. Karandikar (D. B. Taraporevala, Rs.6) seeks to prove that the rules now prevailing, whereby an orthodox Hindu must marry within a particular caste, or section of a caste, but outside a particular sub-caste, and also outside a long series of relationships on the paternal and maternal sides of his family, have no authority from the earliest days, so far as they can be traced, of the Indo-Aryans. On the contrary, it is probable that these followed the custom of their near relations, the Indo Iranians, who, we know, commonly practised family inbreeding to an extent which would probably now be regarded as hardly eugenic. The various restrictions upon marriage were probably borrowed, like so many other features of Indian civilisation, from the existing Dravidian or Kolarian systems of family life, which the Aryan invaders found established in the regions into which they penetrated. Manu, the first law giver of the Indo-Aryans, enunciated the rule of exogamy in its simplest form, prohibiting marriage in the gotra or family. For this prohibition, there may well have been sound eugenic or social ground. The restriction thus imposed, however, has, doubtless assisted by the totemistic rules of the non-Aryan tribes, been extended until the marriage system is not merely complicated, but narrowed to an extent which, in the author's opinion, seriously affects the outlook of the Hindus. Apart from the legal and technical side of the question, which is adequately treated by the author, he deals with considerations of more general interest. The difficulty for the Brahmin community, and for the other superior castes, has been increased by their sub-division into endless sub-castes. Apart from this, however, all the Hindu castes, high and low, are being Brahmanized with greater or less rapidity. The easiest evidence of the rise of the caste in the social scale is the adoption of Brahmanical dogmas: and among these the most obvious for adoption are the restrictions on marriage. The author ascribes the superior vigour of the Muhammadan and Christian communities to their greater freedom of choice, and particularly in their practice of marriage between cousins. On this it must be observed that the freedom of choice in these communities is in theory absolute, and that cousin-marriage is rare, at least so far as Christians are concerned; while many persons consider that the highest ability is likely to come from the union of entirely diverse stocks. The author, while deprecating the numberless petty restrictions on marriage within a caste, does not appear to go so far as to urge Hindus to marry entirely outside their caste or their religion. The argument set out in his well written book is, however, of much interest as indicating the trend of Hindu minds to free themselves from the trammels of law and custom imposed for various reasons within periods that can be historically examined.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. John Percy Eddy as Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Madras in the vacancy created by the appointment of Mr. Justice Beasley to be Chief Justice.

GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

The Foreign Office issued last week a White Paper (Cmd. 3376. Price 3d.) containing the texts of Notes exchanged between Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud, Prime Minister of Egypt, and Mr. Arthur Henderson, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, concerning proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian settlement, together with the text of such proposals. The Paper is published herewith *in extenso*.

No. 1.

*Mr. A. Henderson to Mohammed Mahmoud Pasha.**Foreign Office, August 3, 1929.*

Your Excellency.—The accompanying proposals, together with the explanatory notes to be exchanged on matters of detail, which your Excellency is about to submit to the Egyptian Parliament, represent the extreme limit to which I could recommend His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to go in their desire to achieve a lasting and honourable settlement of outstanding questions between Great Britain and Egypt.

It is the earnest hope of His Majesty's Government that patriotic Egyptians without distinction of party will examine these proposals in the same friendly and conciliatory spirit which has characterised our recent conversations, and will find in them a satisfactory basis for the future relations between our respective countries. If this should be the verdict of the newly-elected Egyptian Parliament, His Majesty's Government for their part will immediately submit the proposals to Parliament with a view to the conclusion and ratification of a treaty carrying them into effect.

I have, etc.,

ARTHUR HENDERSON.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian Settlement.

1. The military occupation of Egypt by the forces of His Britannic Majesty is terminated.

2. An alliance is established between the High Contracting Parties in consecration of their friendship, their cordial understanding and their good relations.

3. Egypt, being anxious to become a member of the League of Nations, will present in the conditions prescribed by article 1 of the Covenant a request for admission to the League, which His Britannic Majesty undertakes to support.

4. Should any dispute with a third State produce a situation which involves a risk of rupture with that State, the High Contracting Parties will concert together with a view to the settlement of the said dispute by peaceful means in accordance with the provision of the Covenant of the League of Nations and of any other international obligations which may be applicable to the case.

5. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes not to adopt in foreign countries an attitude which is inconsistent with the alliance or will create difficulties for the other Party thereto. In pursuance of this undertaking they will not oppose each other's policy in foreign countries, nor conclude with a third Power any agreement of a political character which might be prejudicial to the interests of the other Party.

6. His Britannic Majesty recognises that the responsibility for the lives and property of foreigners in Egypt devolves henceforth upon the Egyptian Government. His Majesty the King of Egypt will ensure the fulfilment of his obligations in this respect.

7. Should, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4 above, either of the High Contracting Parties become engaged in war, the other High Contracting Party will, subject always to the provisions of paragraph 14 below, immediately come to his aid in the capacity of an ally. In particular, His Majesty the King of Egypt will, in the event of war or menace of war, furnish to His Britannic Majesty in Egyptian territory all the facilities and assistance in his power, including the use of his ports, aerodromes and means of communication.

8. In view of the desirability of identity in training and methods between the Egyptian and British armies, His Majesty the King of Egypt undertakes that, should he deem it necessary to have recourse to foreign military instructors, these shall be chosen from amongst British subjects.

9. In order to facilitate and secure to His Britannic Majesty the protection of the Suez Canal as an essential means of communication between the different parts of the British Empire, His Majesty the King of Egypt authorises His Britannic Majesty to maintain upon Egyptian territory in localities to be agreed upon, to the east of longitude 32 deg. E., such forces as His Britannic Majesty considers necessary for this purpose. The presence of these forces shall not constitute in any manner an occupation and will in no way prejudice the sovereign rights of Egypt.

10. In view of the friendship between the two countries and the alliance contemplated in the present proposals, the Egyptian Government when engaging the services of foreign officials will as a rule engage British subjects.

11. His Britannic Majesty recognises that the capitulatory régime now existing in Egypt is no longer in accordance with the spirit of the times and with the present state of Egypt.

His Britannic Majesty accordingly undertakes to use all his influence with the Powers possessing capitulatory rights in Egypt to obtain, in conditions which will safeguard the legitimate interests of foreigners, the transfer to the Mixed Tribunals of the jurisdiction of the existing Consular Courts, and the application of Egyptian legislation to foreigners.

12. In view of the friendship between the High Contracting Parties and of the alliance contemplated in the present proposals, His Britannic Majesty will be represented at the Court of His Majesty the King of Egypt by an Ambassador, duly accredited, and His Majesty the King of Egypt will reserve the highest diplomatic rank at his Court to the representative of His Britannic Majesty.

His Majesty the King of Egypt will be represented at the Court of St. James's by an Ambassador.

13. While reserving liberty to conclude new conventions in future modifying the conventions of 1899, the High Contracting Parties agree that the status of the Sudan shall be that resulting from the said conventions. Accordingly, the Governor-General shall continue to exercise on the joint behalf of the High Contracting Parties the powers conferred upon him by the said conventions.

14. Nothing in the present proposals is intended to or shall in any way prejudice the rights and obligations which devolve, or may devolve, upon either of the High Contracting Parties under the Covenant of the League of Nations or the Treaty for the Renunciation of War signed at Paris on the 27th August, 1928.

15. The High Contracting Parties agree that any difference on the subject of the application or the interpretation of the provisions of the present proposals which they are unable to settle by direct negotiation shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant of the League of Nations.

16. At any time after the expiration of a period of twenty-five years from the coming into force of a treaty based on the above proposals such modification of its terms as may be deemed appropriate in the circumstances as they then exist may be made by agreement between the High Contracting Parties.

ARMY.

BRITISH NOTE.

Your Excellency.—In the course of our recent discussions, certain military questions arose and were most carefully considered. These questions fall naturally into two categories: first, those concerning the Egyptian forces which might, in the unhappy event of the circumstances arising contemplated in the first sentence of paragraph 7 of the proposals, be called upon to co-operate actively with allied British forces; and, secondly, questions touching the British forces which, under paragraph 9, will be stationed in the neighbourhood of the Suez Canal for the purpose of ensuring the defence of that vital artery of British imperial communications.

As to the first category, your Excellency and I agreed as follows:—

- (1.) Existing arrangements, under which the Inspector-General and his staff exercise certain functions, shall terminate. British personnel shall be withdrawn from the Egyptian forces.
- (2.) The Egyptian Government, however, desire in accordance with paragraph 8 of the proposals to avail themselves of the advice of a British military mission. His Britannic Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland undertake to furnish such a mission. The Egyptian Government will send the personnel of the Egyptian forces to be trained abroad in Great Britain only. His Majesty's Government, for their part, undertake to receive any personnel which the Egyptian Government may send to Great Britain for this purpose.
- (3.) In the interests of the close co-operation referred to above, the armament and equipment of the Egyptian forces shall not differ in type from those of the British forces. His Majesty's Government undertake to use their good offices to facilitate the supply of such armament and equipment from Great Britain whenever the Egyptian Government so desire.

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With regard to the British forces referred to in paragraph 9 of the proposals:—

- (i.) The Egyptian Government will provide, free of cost to His Majesty's Government, lands, barracks, etc., in localities to be agreed upon, equivalent to those now occupied by the British forces in Egypt. Upon the completion of this new accommodation, those forces shall be transferred thereto, handing over the lands, barracks, etc., thus vacated to the Egyptian Government. In view of the technical objections to effecting this transfer piecemeal it shall await the completion of the new accommodation to be provided. Having regard to the character of the region lying to the east of longitude 32 deg. E. steps will be taken to furnish reasonable amenities by planting trees, gardens, etc., for the troops, who will also be provided with an adequate emergency fresh water supply.
- (ii.) Subject to any modifications which may in the future be made by agreement between the two Governments, the privileges and immunities in jurisdictional and fiscal matters at present enjoyed by the British forces in Egypt will continue.
- (iii.) Unless the two Governments agree to the contrary, the Egyptian Government will prohibit the passage of aircraft over the territories situated on either side of the Suez Canal and within 20 kilom. of it. This prohibition will not, however, apply to the forces of the two Governments or to services maintained by genuinely British or Egyptian organisations operating under the authority of the Egyptian Government.

We also agreed that the Egyptian Government will give all necessary facilities to British military aircraft, personnel and stores on passage to or from the aerodromes placed at the disposal of the British forces in accordance with paragraph 9 of the proposals. His Majesty's Government will give appropriate facilities to Egyptian military aircraft, personnel and stores in territory under their control.

EGYPTIAN NOTE.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date dealing with certain military questions, and to confirm that it accurately represents the agreement at which we have arrived.

ADVISERS.

EGYPTIAN NOTE.

Sir,—As you are aware, the Egyptian Government have taken in hand an extensive programme of internal reform, and I realise that this task will become even more far-reaching and difficult in view of the important modifications in the capitulatory system contemplated by the proposals. I appreciate that, in order to secure the satisfactory completion of this programme of reform the best advice procurable will be required, and I take this opportunity of informing you that it is the intention of the Egyptian Government to maintain during the period necessary for the completion of the reforms in question, the employment of British subjects in the posts of Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government and Judicial Adviser to the Ministry of Justice. Future occupants of these posts will be selected by the Egyptian Government in agreement with His Britannic Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, and will receive their appointments as Egyptian officials from the Egyptian Government.

BRITISH NOTE.

Your Excellency,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date regarding the posts of the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government and the Judicial Adviser to the Ministry of Justice, and note with satisfaction your Excellency's statement of the intentions of the Egyptian Government.

POLICE.

EGYPTIAN NOTE.

Sir,—I take this opportunity of informing you that the Egyptian Government intend to abolish the European Bureau of the Public Security Department, but, in pursuance of the undertaking contained in paragraph 6 of the proposals, the Egyptian Government will retain, for at least five years from the coming into force of a treaty based on the proposals, a certain European element in their city police, which will remain for the same period under the command of British officers.

If at some future date the Egyptian Government should desire to reorganise their police force, I shall be glad to know whether they can rely upon the assistance of His Britannic Majesty's Government in this task.

BRITISH NOTE.

Your Excellency,—His Britannic Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom note with satisfaction that in pursuance of the undertaking contained in paragraph 6 of the proposals the Egyptian Government, after the disappearance of the European Bureau of the Public Security Department, will retain for at least five years from the coming into force of a treaty based on the proposals, a certain European element in their city police, which will remain for the same period under the command of British officers.

If at some future date the Egyptian Government should desire to reorganise their police force, His Britannic Majesty's Government will be happy to lend them the services of individual experts or of a police mission as they have done in the case of other countries similarly desirous of reorganising their police.

CAPITULATIONS.

BRITISH NOTE.

Your Excellency,—Paragraph 11 of the proposals provides as follows:—

"His Britannic Majesty recognises that the capitulatory régime now existing in Egypt is no longer in accordance with the spirit of the times and with the present state of Egypt.

"His Britannic Majesty accordingly undertakes to use all his influence with the Powers possessing capitulatory rights in Egypt to obtain, in conditions which will safeguard the legitimate interests of foreigners, the transfer to the Mixed Tribunals of the jurisdiction of the existing Consular Courts, and the application of Egyptian legislation to foreigners."

It will be useful if I explain to your Excellency the lines on which I think this reform of the capitulatory régime might well proceed, as I shall be prepared to support the efforts of the Egyptian Government to conclude arrangements with the Powers on these lines when a treaty based on the proposals comes into force.

It was hoped in 1920, when negotiations were in progress between the British and Egyptian Governments, that arrangements might be made for the closing by foreign Powers of their Consular Courts in Egypt. Draft laws were accordingly prepared in that year extending the existing jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals, and enabling them to exercise all the jurisdiction now exercised by the Consular Courts.

I shall be prepared to agree to the utilisation of those draft laws as the basis of the reform of the capitulatory régime if foreign Powers are willing to transfer to the Mixed Tribunals the jurisdiction of their consular courts.

On points of detail many changes will no doubt be required. These must be discussed by experts. There are, however, certain modifications which will, I think, be necessary in any event, and which I desire to take this opportunity of pointing out to your Excellency.

It may be difficult for some Powers to agree to the transfer to the Mixed Tribunals of all suits relating to the "statut personnel" of their nationals. Transfer in the case of these questions should be facultative. Jurisdiction in such matters should remain with the consular authorities unless an agreement is made between the Egyptian Government and the foreign Government concerned for its transfer to the Mixed Tribunals. I anticipate agreement that the Mixed Tribunals should exercise jurisdiction in these matters in cases where British subjects are concerned.

In the case of pardons or remissions of sentences imposed on foreigners, and also in connexion with the execution of capital sentences imposed on foreigners, the Minister of Justice will consult the Judicial Adviser, so long as that official is retained, before tendering his advice to the King.

I recognise that the conditions in which the capitulations are at present applied as regards the power of the Egyptian Government to legislate for or to impose taxation on foreigners are no longer consistent with modern conditions. I should be prepared to agree that in future any assent which is necessary before Egyptian legislation, including fiscal legislation, is applied to foreigners shall be given by the General Assembly of the Mixed Tribunals, except in the case of legislation relating to the constitution or jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals themselves, which should not come into force until it has been approved by the Powers. It should be the duty of the General Assembly of the Mixed Tribunals to satisfy itself that the legislation in question is not inconsistent with the principles generally adopted in modern legislation which is applicable to foreigners, and, with particular relation to legislation of a fiscal character, that it does not inequitably discriminate against foreigners, including foreign companies.

An extension of the criminal jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals will necessitate the preparation and promulgation of a new Code of Criminal Procedure. The draft laws prepared in 1920 contain certain provisions of importance on this subject of criminal procedure (articles 10-27 of Law II, draft of the 18th April, 1920), and your Excellency will no doubt agree that the new Criminal Code should not diverge from the principles laid down in these articles.

There are certain matters as to which it will be necessary for agreement to be reached between the Egyptian Government and His Britannic Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, but I do not think it necessary to do more at the moment than mention these subjects.

The first is the definition of the word "foreigner" for the purposes of the proposed extension of the jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals. I understand from your Excellency that the codes now enforced by the Native Courts in Egypt subject to the Native Courts all persons in Egypt other than those who by law, usage or treaty are withdrawn from their jurisdiction. I am content to accept this

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principle provided that it is understood that all foreigners who have enjoyed the benefit of the capitulatory régime in the past will fall under the jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals irrespective of changes of sovereignty effected after the War of 1914-18.

The second is the increase in the personnel of the Mixed Tribunals which will be necessitated by the proposed extension of their jurisdiction, and, as part of this question, the new functions of the Procureur Général of the Mixed Tribunals and the staff which will be necessary to enable him to discharge those functions satisfactorily. The Judicial Adviser will, so long as that official is retained, be consulted with regard to the appointment of foreign judges in the Mixed Tribunals and of foreign members of the parquet, if any.

EGYPTIAN NOTE.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date, in which you informed me of the lines upon which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom consider that the reform of the capitulatory régime might well proceed, and drew my attention to certain particular considerations to which you attach importance.

I am happy to state that the particular proposals to which you referred are in accordance with the intentions of the Egyptian Government, who are also in general agreement with His Britannic Majesty's Government as to the lines on which the reform of the capitulatory system should proceed.

As regards the definition of the word "foreigner," I would observe that, while the Egyptian Government would have no objection to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals including foreigners who possessed capitulatory privileges before the War of 1914-18, those foreigners who do not possess and never have possessed those privileges must evidently be subject to the jurisdiction of the Native Courts.

FOREIGN OFFICIALS.

EGYPTIAN NOTE.

Sir,—In the course of our conversations in regard to paragraph 10 of the proposals, it was understood that His Britannic Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland will not press for an unreasonably narrow interpretation of this paragraph, and that nothing therein contained shall prejudice the freedom of the Egyptian Government to engage non-British foreign officials for posts for which suitable British subjects are not available.

BRITISH NOTE.

Your Excellency,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date regarding the engagement of foreign officials and to confirm the statement therein recorded of the understanding which we have reached.

MINORITIES.

BRITISH NOTE.

Your Excellency,—I wish to place it on record that it was not thought necessary to mention, in the proposals, the question of the protection of minorities, which figured in the declaration of the 28th February, 1922, but that it is recognised that this question will in future be the exclusive concern of the Egyptian Government.

EGYPTIAN NOTE.

Sir,—I have the honour to take note of your communication of to-day's date respecting minorities in Egypt.

SUDAN.

BRITISH NOTE.

Your Excellency,—When discussing paragraph 13 of the proposals, we agreed that the question of the indebtedness of the Sudan to Egypt should now be examined with a view to a settlement on fair and equitable lines.

We further agreed that a representative of the British Treasury should discuss the question with a representative of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance as soon as a treaty based on the proposals comes into force.

EGYPTIAN NOTE.

Sir,—In reply to your note of to-day's date I have the honour to confirm our agreement that the question of the indebtedness of the Sudan to Egypt should be examined by representatives of the British Treasury and of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance with a view to its settlement on fair and equitable lines.

BRITISH NOTE.

Your Excellency,—It will be convenient to place on record the agreement which we have reached as regards the method by which international conventions are to be made applicable to the Sudan. The conventions which it will be desired to apply to the Sudan will naturally be conventions of a technical or humanitarian character.

In cases where such a convention is signed on behalf of both Egypt and Great Britain, and it is desired that the convention should be applied to the Sudan, the British and Egyptian delegates will, at a convenient moment, make a joint declaration, to be duly placed on record, to the effect that their signatures on behalf of Egypt and the United Kingdom respectively are intended, taken together, to cover the Sudan, and (in cases where the convention requires ratification) that, when the ratifications of both the King of Egypt and His Britannic Majesty have been deposited, the convention will become applicable to the Sudan in accordance with its terms. If no such declaration is made the convention will not become applicable to the Sudan, unless by the method of accession, to which reference is made later.

In cases where such a declaration has been made, no special mention would be made of the Sudan in the instruments of ratification.

In some cases, where the convention provides for subsequent accession, and it may be convenient that the convention should be applied to the Sudan by this method, accession would be effected by a joint instrument, signed on behalf of Egypt and Great Britain respectively by two persons duly appointed for the purpose. The method of depositing the instrument of accession would be the subject of agreement in each case between the two Governments. In such cases no question of ratification arises.

At international conferences where such conventions are negotiated the Egyptian and British delegates would naturally keep in touch with a view to any action which they may agree to be desirable in the interests of the Sudan.

EGYPTIAN NOTE.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date regarding the method of application to the Sudan of international conventions which it may be desired should apply to that country. I beg to confirm the statement therein recorded of the understanding which we have reached.

BRITISH NOTE.

Your Excellency,—During our recent discussions your Excellency expressed the hope that, on the coming into force of a treaty, Egyptian troops would be readmitted to the Sudan.

If, as His Majesty's Government in Great Britain and Northern Ireland earnestly trust, the treaty is worked in the same friendly spirit in which the proposals were negotiated, they will be prepared to examine sympathetically a proposal for the return to the Sudan of an Egyptian battalion simultaneously with the withdrawal of the British forces from Cairo.

EGYPTIAN NOTE.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date, relative to the return of an Egyptian battalion to the Sudan, and to take note of the attitude of His Britannic Majesty's Government in the matter.

No. 2.

Mohammed Mahmoud Pasha to Mr. A. Henderson.
Egyptian Legation, London,
August 3, 1929.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the letter which you handed to me to-day, covering the proposals, together with explanatory notes to be exchanged on matters of detail, which have been under discussion between us with a view to the achievement of a lasting and honourable settlement of outstanding questions between Egypt and Great Britain.

I realise that these proposals represent the extreme limit to which you could recommend His Britannic Majesty's Government to go, and for my part I am prepared to submit them to the Egyptian people and Parliament in the sincere belief that their acceptance would be in the best interests of my country.

I share the earnest hope of His Britannic Majesty's Government that these proposals will be examined by all patriotic Egyptians without distinction of party in the same friendly and conciliatory spirit in which they have been conceived and discussed by us, and that they will be found to embody a satisfactory basis for the future relations between our respective countries.

It is in this spirit and with this hope that I take back these proposals to the Egyptian people.

M. MAHMOUD.

The Pope on August 6 formally invested Mgr. Tappuni with the Sacred Pallium as Syrian Patriarch of Antioch.

Forty bandits, thirteen of whom are said to have been at large since 1925, have been captured in the Bukovina.

General Gouraud has left Paris for Italy, where he will be the guest of the Italian Government at the Army manoeuvres.

The Hungarian Government, according to a Bucharest report, has requested the Roumanian Government to make new proposals for a direct settlement of the Optants question.

The Governor of Stamboul has been asked by the "Union of Turkish Women" to form a corps of policewomen similar to that existing in London and other European cities.

The funeral of the victims of the explosion in H.M.S. Devonshire, which took place recently at Volo, Greece, was attended by Admiral Sir Frederick Field, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

The British Mediterranean Fleet is expected at Ragusa, for a stay of ten days, at the beginning of September. A gunboat is already anchored at Ragusa, and is arranging for the feeding of 20,000 ratings.

The death is reported from Belgrade of Dr. Archibault Reiss, formerly Professor of Criminology at the University of Lausanne. Professor Reiss, who was 54 years of age, went to Serbia in 1914 to inquire into the alleged atrocities committed by the Austrian Army. He subsequently went through the campaign in Albania with the Serbian Army.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 170)

perties in the regions of Bossilegrad and Tsaribrod). Neither side has really endeavoured to understand the position of the other, with the consequence that those who may roughly be called the militarists of Belgrade and the Macedonians of Sofia are at the moment implacably opposed to one another. The matter is not one of details, for in some particular case Yugoslavia may be right, and in another, Bulgaria. It is the fundamentals upon which the two Slav countries are disagreed, and neither the passage of time since the abortive Pirot Conference nor the friendly counsel of Great Britain and France has served to lessen the bitterness. Are the Peace Treaties to be given effect, or are they to be undermined? For, quite patently, if Yugoslavia were to observe in those territories which she gained as a result of the Great War the rights of minorities as conceived in the minds of Western statesmen, Bulgaria could have no valid grounds for so steadfastly refusing to recognise the sanctity of the Treaty of Neuilly. As matters now are being allowed to proceed between Belgrade and Sofia, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria alike run the risk of losing European sympathy.

End of the Persian Revolt.

It is a matter for congratulation that the revolt of the Bakhtiari against the Teheran Government has come to an end. The Kashgais, as it now appears, had a few weeks ago made terms with the central authority, and now, happily, the Bakhtiari have followed suit. In place of General Jaffar Quli Khan, the Sardar Assad, the Amir Mufakham has been appointed Ilkhani, and Murteza Quli Khan, son of the Samsam es Saltaneh, has been appointed Ilbegi—both with the definite orders to come to an under-

standing with this ancient and honourable tribe. With the appeasement of the Kashgais and of the Bakhtiari, the rebellion as a serious event may be regarded as finished—for it is scarcely to be supposed that the Khamseh confederation of tribes, in eastern Fars, will cause very considerable trouble by themselves. Naturally we look forward to learning the details of the terms of settlement, but in the meantime we may be allowed to express gratification that civil war has been avoided. It is to be hoped that the Teheran Government has done the job of settlement thoroughly, justly, and without involving humiliation.

THE SYRIAN PRESS.

Syria at the League.

[M. Robert de Caix' report to the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations has, as might have been anticipated, been subjected to a hot fire of criticism from the Damascus Nationalist Press. The following is a translation of the leading article published in the issue of *Al-Qabas* dated July 18. *Al-Qabas* is the present name of the ex-*Muqtabas*, the oldest Damascus paper, founded some fifteen or twenty years ago by Muhammad Kurd Ali, the well-known *littérateur*, now Minister of Education in Syria. The *Qabas* is edited by his brother, Adil Kurd Ali.—Ed.]

M. Robert de Caix, the French delegate to the Mandates' Commission who, in despite of Syria and the Syrians, spoke in the name of Syria, took advantage of the occasion to make the audacious claim, a claim that is in conflict both with the truth and with actual facts (if in conflict with his conscience I do not know) that the "political situation has improved." A Paris telegram informs us that the delegate, in his double capacity of Frenchman and Syrian combined, expounded the reasons that had led the High Commissioner to prorogue indefinitely the session of the Constituent Assembly, and, after referring particularly in his report to the improved political situation, he observed that the countries included in the French Mandate could not keep their engagements as long as their representatives accept the Mandate only in a strictly limited sense.

I do not know how these gentlemen, who speak for a country that reads their words and understands their declarations, have the courage to contradict themselves and flout the truth before God and the Mandates Commission by announcing boldly that the political situation in Syria has improved, and then go on to say that the Constituent Assembly has been indefinitely prorogued, because its representatives accept the Mandate only in a limited sense. How does M. de Caix reconcile the improvement in the political situation with the fact that the Constituent Assembly is prorogued? The statements are obviously conflicting; the claim is in direct variance with the truth and with the facts. Nevertheless, there are people to be found in Europe and on the Mandates Commission who listen to such language and believe it.

M. de Caix, harping on the old string, repeats that the people of the country either shut their eyes to the existence of the Mandate or refuse to swallow it whole, accepting it only in a limited sense. Who told M. de Caix that the country ever asked for a Mandate? How is it true that they shut their eyes to its existence or demand that it should be restricted? Did the country budge an inch from its negative position of non-co-operation, until the High Commissioners, in the name of France, proposed that the Mandate should be exchanged for a Treaty, showering down in their speeches and *communiqués* a rain of words such as "independence, national sovereignty, and the bonds of treaties"? While the flames of the Syrian rebellion spread from the Jabal Druze to the sea, M. de Jouvenel addressed, in May, 1926, to the Damad, Ahmad Namy Bey, his famous statement in which he said: "I agree that for the Mandate should be substituted a thirty years' Treaty between France and Syria, provided that it is sanctioned by the Syrian and French Parliaments." Three Nationalists ventured to accept the experiment. It failed, and one of the results was that the Ministers were removed from office and sent into exile. Then M. Ponsot came to Damascus in February, 1928, and published his statement, in which the people were invited to proceed to the election of deputies. He, too, said: "As to the relations between Syria and France, they will be determined in a Treaty to be drawn up by the two Governments and sanctioned by the two Parliaments." We then, for our part, did not venture to accept the elections until France had acknowledged in the person of the two official representatives her readiness to abolish the Mandate and exchange it for a Treaty. And when the Constituent Assembly was elected, and when the people's lawfully chosen deputies and the representatives of France stood face to face in due form, France "withdrew" the High Commissioner's declarations, and cancelled by a single word what she had undertaken to do four months before in the person of M. Ponsot, and two years before in the person of M. de Jouvenel. M. de Caix' attempt to justify the prorogation of the Constituent Assembly on the plea that its representatives declined anything but a restricted mandate is, therefore, a piece of sophistry contradicting the declarations of the High Commissioners. After all this, and after the country's return to the negative position taken up on the day France entered Syria, we do

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not know how the statement can be true that the political situation in Syria has improved. No! It has not improved at all. There has been no change. We regret to say even that the position goes from bad to worse and the country is administered as a Colonial possession. Treaties are made in her name. She is neither consulted nor informed. Her frontiers are delimited, not as she wishes but as others wish. She is governed by a number of officials under a French Administration. Her customs revenues are in the hands of the Haut Commissariat. The instalments of the public debt are fixed and paid out of these revenues, not as she wishes but as others wish.

When M. de Caix had finished his inquiries into the political situation, after satisfying, of course, the members of the Commission with its improvement and the country's enjoyment of freedom, sovereignty, and every sort of political comfort, he turned like a flash of lightning to the economic situation, and declared that "under the Mandate property enjoys a tranquillity unknown before, progress advances with rapid steps, and all the signs of prosperity begin to dawn in Syria." Where and how? Where and how indeed? Where is this economic prosperity? Where are this wealth and ease? Can M. le Comte de Caix, has he the courage to, produce statistics? The Customs Administration is French. It has the figures. Let the statistics, packed up in his saddle-bags, speak a little for themselves before the Commission and declare this prosperity in which we are wading up to our necks and chins.

Twenty-five million pounds [Syrian], M. de Comte, is the adverse balance between our exports and our imports, the difference spent, in the course of five years only, in the purchase of foreign goods, asphalt, benzine, motor-cars, crêpe de georgette, crêpe de chine, even of wheat and flour. Yet in the face of this they declare that the country is prosperous, abundantly blessed. During the last nine years has this hungry land been able to export anything more than *qamar-el-din* (apricot paste) and wooden clogs? And as to the wretched amount of native textiles exported to Iraq and elsewhere, let not M. de Caix forget that all the raw materials and appliances are brought from Europe.

The French, it seems, are fond of learning Arabic proverbs when the occasion offers. M. de Jouvenel was pleased to repeat: "A friends must cleave, he need not believe," after dinning into our ears, to be sure, from morning to night, his favourite maxim: "Peace for the peaceful, war for the men of war." And now M. de Caix, in virtue of an Arabic proverb, wants to make us rich in spite of ourselves and to register before the Mandates-Commission our comfort and prosperity, instead of our hunger and ruin—and that by doing honour to the Syrian proverb which says "Call your Lazarus a Dives."

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 15, 1929 (New Style).

August 2, 1929 (Old Style).

Rabia I, 9, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab 9, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaj-Kumar of Kutch is staying at the Grand Hotel, Jersey.

Sir John Aird is due to return to London on August 23 from a trip to the Dalmatian coast.

The Earl of Rosse is leaving shortly for India on a visit to the Maharaja of Cooh Behar.

Mirza Sayid Morteza Khan Sharifi has been transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Teheran to the Persian Consulate-General at Beyrout, where he will act as First Secretary.

To celebrate the anniversary of the accession of King Faisal I of Iraq, on August 23, the Iraq Minister in London and Madame el Askeri are holding a reception at the Hyde Park Hotel, from 4 to 6.30 p.m.

Mahmoud Pasha, Egyptian Prime Minister, was due to leave Paris on August 13 for Italy. He will meet Signor Mussolini and discuss with him certain clauses in the proposed Anglo-Egyptian Treaty; and will sail from Naples for Egypt on August 16.

Shaikh Hafidh Wahba, representative in London of King Ibn Saoud of the Hijaz and Najd, recently underwent a serious operation. He has been in a nursing home for the past few weeks, but is progressing satisfactorily. It is hoped that he will shortly be completely restored to health.

Sir Esmond Ovey, K.C.M.G., M.V.O., His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Mexico City, who has been appointed His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Rio de Janeiro, has served, among other places, in Tangier, Sofia, Constantinople and Teheran.

It is stated in the Teheran Press that Dr. Schniewind, who arrived in Persia from Germany early this year, to be adviser to the Ministry of Finance, has been appointed to be Director-General of this Ministry. Whether Dr. Schniewind will be given powers similar to those enjoyed by Dr. Millsbaugh is at present undecided. M. Farzine, formerly Minister of Foreign Affairs, was recently made Finance Minister.

It was officially announced last week that Sir Percy Lyham Loraine, Bt., K.C.M.G., H.M. Minister in Athens, had been appointed to be H.M. High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan. Sir Percy's first diplomatic appointment was to Constantinople in 1904, since which date he served, among other places, in Teheran, Rome, and Paris. From 1921 to 1926 he was British Minister in Persia, and three years ago he was transferred to Greece.

The Sultan of Zanzibar arrived at Zanzibar on August 6 on the return from his visit to England.

Ratifications of the Treaty of Friendship and Conciliation between Italy and Abyssinia have been exchanged at Addis Ababa.

It is announced from Belgrade that M. Svetozar Pribitchevitch, one of the leaders of Croat-Peasant Democratic coalitions against the Centralists of Belgrade, is seriously ill.

A Treaty of Friendship was signed in Mecca on August 3 between Turkey and the Dual Kingdom of the Hijaz and Najd. The independence of King Ibn Saoud's State is recognised, and most-favoured-nation-treatment is accorded to subjects of each of the contracting parties.

A meeting was held at the Haifa Technical Institute on August 3 in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Lawrence Oliphant, who interested himself philanthropically in Palestine during the 'eighties.

A public meeting at Haifa on July 28, said to have been attended by 5,000 persons, adopted a strong resolution of protest against the recent buildings by Muslims at the Wailing Wall.

A public notice, signed by Major C. E. Howard, commanding the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force, has been issued to all ex-members of the Palestine Gendarmerie, permanently resident in Palestine or Trans-Jordan and not over 34 years of age, to enrol themselves in the Frontier Force Reserve.

Where to stay in the East

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Grand Hotel de la Poste.

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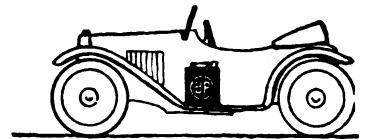
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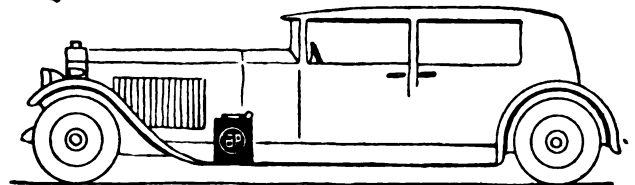
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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Roumanian Market.

Further extracts from the report of Mr. Humphreys on Roumania, dealing with the import trade, will be found elsewhere in this issue. The details given indicate plainly the extent to which the market as regards some of the most important commodities is largely in the hands of our rivals. Thus in regard to motor cars, the United States, Italy, and France head the list of countries from which Roumania draws her supplies. For machinery Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria are the chief suppliers, while Germany is again first with regard to electrical machinery. In a few lines British goods are to the fore, notably in the supply of oil motors and motor cycles, and the success of British manufacturers in regard to these commodities is an indication of what could be done in other directions if only our traders would exercise the necessary enterprise and take the requisite steps to bring the quality of British goods to the attention of Roumanian buyers. The success of British motor cycles in Roumania is due very largely to the prominent part our machines have taken in the various trials held in the Near East. Manufacturers of other commodities have the opportunity of showing their products at the numerous fairs and exhibitions held during the year. As I pointed out last week, the Roumanian market is one of great potentialities; it is also one where foreign competition is on the increase, and if our traders are to develop their relations with that outlet it is essential that no time should be wasted.

Cement for Egypt.

Attention is drawn in the current issue of the Monthly Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt to the marked improvement in the exports of cement from the United Kingdom to Egypt in 1928. Egypt's imports of cement have steadily been going up as the result of the works of development that are in progress. Thus while the value of the imports for 1926 was £E371,881, the total for 1927 was £E472,174, while for 1928 the figures were £E511,805. It is only in the last year that the expansion of the United Kingdom's trade is really noticeable, for while the British exports for 1927 at £E52,497 were roughly double the total for 1926, they only represented about 9 per cent. of the total trade, but for 1928 the figures were £E101,934, which represents about 20 per cent. of the total imports. This expansion is due to some extent to the construction of the Nag Hamadi Dam, but our contemporary points out that there has also been a large increase in the use of British cement in the country generally. The chief place in Egypt's imports of cement is taken by Yugoslavia with £E168,431 in 1928, as against £E157,606 in 1927 and £E155,578 in 1926, Belgium being second with £E146,367 in 1928, as against £E158,182 for 1927. In view of the great improvement in the British figures it is quite possible that in the near future we shall improve on our present position of third in the list. The most important producer of cement among Egypt's neighbours is, of course, Palestine, and it is obvious that she too should find a good outlet for this commodity in the Egyptian market.

Tomato Production in Cyprus.

On many occasions recently I have had occasion to refer to the efforts made by the authorities in Cyprus to develop the resources of the Island to the fullest extent. Orange cultivation, flax production, and cotton growing are some of the promising agricultural industries which have been receiving attention. As showing the desire of the authorities to explore every possible opening for trade, it is interesting to note that the possibilities of developing an export trade in tomato products are now receiving attention. The question of tomato production in the Island is discussed in a recent Agricultural Supplement to the *Cyprus Gazette*. It is pointed out that the tomato plant grows so well in Cyprus and the production of fruit is so prolific that it is worth considering whether it may not be possible to utilise the surplus fruit for the preparation of tomato extract or purée for export. The development of an export trade would require the cultivation of the tomato plant on a large scale. Inquiries received recently by the Department of Agriculture for tomato purée suggest that there would be little difficulty in finding the necessary markets, and it is possible that in the cultivation of the tomato Cypriot agriculturists may find a profitable addition to their present products.

India's Tea Production.

In view of the recent floods in some of the Indian tea districts there was every reason to expect a decrease in the latest estimate of the tea production for the current season. This has not proved to be the case, and while the estimate at the end of June showed a crop of 5,943,000 lb. more than the estimate at the corresponding date last year, the figures for the end of July at 144,216,533 lb. represent an increase of 12,343,000 lb. As stocks are standing at a high level the increase in the crop estimate is bound to have some effect on prices. The predominant factor with regard to this commodity, of course, is that the Russian market has not regained its pre-War position, and the development of tea-drinking in other countries such as Egypt has not so far compensated for the lack of this outlet. If and when Russia again takes her normal supplies of tea the balance between production and consumption is likely to be upset.

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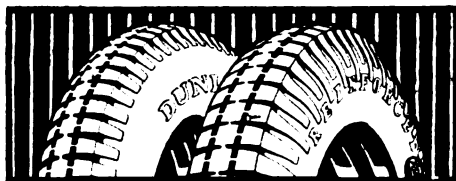
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CORRESPONDENCE

REPARATIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The letter by "Briton" which appeared in your issue of the 1st inst., and which arrived in Constantinople to-day, deals with a subject which has occupied the attention during the last week of several Britons whose losses during the War still remain unsettled.

The Paris Commission for the assessment of losses suffered by French, Italian and British nationals, after a delay of six years, now announce a final dividend of 12½ per cent., making a total of 52½ per cent. From these dividends the sums paid by "Lord Sumners' Commission" are being repaid to the British Treasury. So that except to those who received more than 52½ per cent. of their assessed claims from Lord Sumners' Commission the British tax-payer has paid nothing. The amount so paid cannot be more than a few thousand pounds on account of claims arising from losses in Turkey.

The question that has been occupying the attention of several claimants and the Council of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey is how far the surplus millions arising out of the liquidation of German property in Great Britain can be called upon under the Treaty of Versailles to satisfy unsettled claims of British nationals resident in Turkey.

Those who have studied the Treaty of Versailles allege that they have an unanswerable case, and refer questioners to Articles 231, 232, Annex I (g) Articles 233, 252, 297 (E), Annex 4 of the Treaty. The Articles in particular say :—

Article 231 of the Treaty lays down that Germany accepts responsibility for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed on them by the aggression of Germany and her Allies.

Article 232 states that although Germany's resources may not be adequate to make complete reparation, the Allied Government however require, and Germany undertakes that she will make, compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied Powers and to their property during the War and in general all damage as defined in Annex I hereto.

Annex I (g) states that compensation is to be made by Germany for damage in respect of all property, wherever situated, belonging to any of the Allied States or their nationals, which has been carried off, seized, injured or destroyed by the acts of Germany or her Allies on land, seas, or from the air, or damage directly in consequence of hostilities or any operations of war.

Article 233 states that the damage referred to in Article 232 and Annex I (g) shall be determined by an Inter-Allied Commission to be called the Reparations Commission with powers as laid down in Annexes II to VII. The

Commission shall consider the claims and give to the German Government an opportunity to be heard. They shall also (Annexes 2-10 and 11) afford a similar opportunity to the Allies of Germany when it shall consider that their interests are in question. But neither Germany nor her Allies will possess the right to take any part whatsoever in the decisions of the Commission. The latter will not be bound by any rules of law but shall be guided by equity, justice and good faith.

Article 252 of Treaty reads: The right of each of the Allied Powers to dispose of the enemy assets and property within its jurisdiction at the date of the coming into force of the present Treaty is not affected by the foregoing provisions (laying down the sequence of distribution of the reparation funds).

Article 297 (E) states that the: Nationals of Allied Powers shall be entitled to compensation in respect of damage or injury inflicted upon their property, rights of interests, including any Company or Association in which they are interested in German territory . . . The claims made in this respect shall be investigated and the total of compensation determined by the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal provided for . . . this compensation may be charged upon property of German nationals within the territory or under the control of the claimant State. This property may be constituted as a pledge for enemy liabilities under the conditions fixed by paragraph 4 hereto.

Annex 4 referred to reads: All property rights and interests of German nationals within the territory of any Allied Power and the net proceeds of their sale, liquidation or other dealing therewith may be charged by the Allied or Associated Power in the first place with amounts due in respect of claims by the nationals of the Allied Powers with regard to their property rights and interests, including Companies and Associations in which they are interested in German territory or debts owing to them by German nationals . . . they may be charged in the second place with payments of the amounts due in respect of claims by the nationals of such Allied Powers with regard to their property rights and interests in the territory of other enemy Powers, in so far as those claims are otherwise unsatisfied.

After reading these paragraphs it certainly would seem that the case of the claimants is strong and that the proper authority will, before returning to Germany the surplus funds available, referred to by "Briton," pay British nationals who sustained damage in Turkey the difference between their assessed claims and the division they have received plus interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

It must not be overlooked that His Majesty's Government has solemnly signed two Treaties, those of Versailles and Lausanne—wherein they adhere to the provision that they will be guided not by law but "by equity, justice and good faith."—I am, etc.,

BRITON IN TURKEY.

Constantinople, August 6.

EGYPTIAN STATE RAILWAYS

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Combined Railway, Sleeping Car and Hotel Coupons at reduced rates from October 1st to January 15th and from April 1st to May 31st. The Coupons will include hotel accommodation for 2 days and 1 night, 5 days and 4 nights, 7 days and 6 nights, or 10 days and 9 nights.

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	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.
From Cairo to Luxor and Return	8	—	3	900	11	600	6	900	14	—	8	900	17	600	11	900
From Cairo to Assuan and Return	9	500	4	400	13	100	7	400	15	500	9	400	19	100	12	400
From Alexandria or Port-Said to Luxor and Return	—	—	—	—	12	600	7	500	15	—	9	500	18	600	12	500
From Alexandria or Port-Said to Assuan & Return	—	—	—	—	14	100	8	—	16	500	10	—	20	100	13	—

For more details, apply to the Publicity Department, E.S.R., Cairo Station.

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CYPRUS TRADE IMPROVEMENT.

The report on the trade of Cyprus for June, states that there was an increase in both imports and exports during the month. Imports at £162,744 were £17,889 above June, 1928, and £43,660 over the quinquennial average. Exports at £150,917 were £40,274 above June last year and £50,808 above the quinquennial average. For the six months January-June the following are the values of imports and exports as compared with the same period last year:—

	Imports.		Exports.
	£		£
1929 ...	956,362	1929 ...	851,749
1928 ...	841,266	1928 ...	698,707
Increase	115,096	Increase	153,042

The principal items of import showing increase over June, 1928, were: cotton goods £888; flour £4,205; leather and leather goods £3,747; motor cars £5,325; petrol £1,687.

Exports were good, the following articles being those which accounted principally for the large increase over June, 1928: carobs £4,583; hides and skins £1,961; mules £1,997; oxen £756; potatoes £8,963; pyrites £11,888; raisins £8,042; wine £1,381. There were decreases in exports of asbestos £2,012 and cotton £5,231.

Twenty steamers called at Larnaca, 32 at Limassol and 18 at Famagusta, as against an average of 27, 28 and 21 respectively.

Flight-Lieutenant Bentley, flying a De Havilland Moth, landed at Heliopolis on August 5 with an American passenger, who chartered the machine for a flight from Johannesburg via Egypt, Syria, and Turkey to Berlin.

The production of crude oil in Roumania in June amounted to 383,341 tons, as compared with 387,143 tons in May and 336,521 tons in June, 1928. The production of the principal districts in June was as follows (in tons):—Prahova, 283,290; Dambovitza, 86,324; Buzau, 7,200; Bacau, 6,527.

The directors of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate announce that the capital reorganisation scheme has been sanctioned by the Court. The nominal capital of the company is therefore now £350,000, divided into 1,750,000 shares of 4s. each. In the circumstances it is necessary for shareholders to send in the old certificates so that these may be exchanged for certificates for an equivalent number of shares of 4s. each. It is intended if practicable to re-arrange the distinctive numbers of the shares, with a view to providing for the distinctive numbers of the shares held by each shareholder being consecutive instead of as at present in many groups of numbers, which have resulted from numerous transfers. As it is desired to issue all the new certificates on September 2, it is essential that shareholders should forward their old certificates to the company's office so that same are received not later than August 31.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Paper and Printing and Binding Materials.—The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply and delivery of the following printing and binding materials required for the Government Press:—Smooth-surfaced writing ink paper; bristol board (manilla); paper for drawing books; brown paper for drawing books; smooth-surfaced writing paper, cream-laid; marbled paper; strawboard No. 30; tissue paper; cloth embossed for binding; tarlatan for binding; wire, tinned, for stitching machine; ink, typo; ink, ruling, powder; glue. September 14. (D.O.T.)

Pipes and Motor Cars.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of pipes required for the year 1929-1930, September 21; and motor cars required for the year 1929-1930. November 2.

Paper and Gum.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and gum required by the Government Press for manufacture of envelopes. October 14.

Electric Lamp Standards.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 240 electric lamp standards with armature and globes. October 1.

Articles for Cotton Spinning Factory, Etc.—The Director-General of Prisons, No. 43, Sharia El Bustan, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of articles for the cotton spinning factory and humidifying and ventilating plant for the said factory at Delta Barrage, August 27; and for machines, engines (Diesel and semi-Diesel), boilers and electric batteries, etc. September 28.

Towels, Etc.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of towels, tassels for tarbushes, collars and caps, to the Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army, Citadel, Cairo. September 2.

TURKEY.

Copper Bars.—The Administration Générale des Chemins de fer et des Ports d'Etat invites tenders for the supply of 11,850 kilogrammes of copper bars, in sizes ranging from 25 to 35 m.m. diameter. August 27. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maimyo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 26); s.s. Makalla for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 5).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 21).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 24); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay (London, August 31).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool August 31, Swansea September 3); s.s. Bantia for Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, August 31).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, August 30); s.s. Viceroy of India for Bombay (London, August 30).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 17); s.s. Lancasterian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus (London, August 21); s.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout and Cyprus (Manchester, August 31).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Manchurian for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool August 17, Swansea August 22); s.s. Flaminian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (Liverpool, August 22); s.s. Lesbian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Malta, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 24, Swansea* August 24); s.s. City of Lancaster for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow August 26, Swansea August 28, Liverpool August 29). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus, via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, August 13.

As was only to be expected the volume of business on the Stock Exchange during the past short week has been on a much restricted scale, but thanks to the slight improvement in the immediate monetary outlook the tone was better. Gilt-edged stocks reflected the change in the monetary position, but the rise in the New York Federal Reserve Bank's rediscount rate at the end of the week came as a sudden surprise, and prices all round were marked down heavily. Whether this change will be followed by a similar move on the part of the Bank of England depends upon the extent to which speculative activity and the price of call money in Wall Street react to the Reserve Bank's change in their rate. In the miscellaneous markets activity in the recently popular counters has continued, and the two favourite margarine issues have been particularly buoyant.

For Safety.

As most investors are aware—some to their cost—there has been during the last few months a slump in the value of stocks and shares. Recently there have been signs of a better tone, but the many overclouding factors on the horizon suggest caution in choosing investments. The cotton dispute, although it has not so far seriously affected textile securities, and other wages controversies which are pending, and, above all, the unsettled condition of the Money Market with the recurring fear of the announcement of an increased Bank Rate as every Thursday noon comes round, are all factors making the Stock Exchange outlook uncertain. In these circumstances the ordinary investor may wisely avoid the temptation of low priced speculative industrial shares and confine attention to "safety first" stock. Some examples may, therefore, be helpful. The Gas Light and Coke 5 per cent. debentures redeemable 1952-7 have the merit of being stock of the largest and one of the best managed English gas companies. Last year the company made a profit of £1,421,645, covering the interest on the debentures nearly eight times. The debentures, issued to the nominal value of £3,600,000, yield £5 2s. per cent. The City of

Sidney has an issue of £2 million 5½ per cent. debentures redeemable at par in 1954, which now yield £5 9s. per cent. Bank shares, in view of the ample reserves, conservative but well informed management, and the regularity of dividends, which has become a byword, can be classed as almost "gilt-edged" investments. Westminster ordinary yield £5 5s. per cent. and Lloyds £5 4s. per cent.

Hotel Securities.

While the holiday season accounts for quietness in many branches of activity at the present time, it is also responsible for extreme activity in other directions, one of which is the hotel industry. The attention we give to hotels is usually connected with their attractions as temporary residences, but shares and debentures of some of the larger hotel companies are quoted on the Stock Exchange, and merit consideration from the investment standpoint. Conditions in the industry have been improving for some time past, but in its nature it is one in which profits are likely to fluctuate considerably and the ordinary shares of these concerns are therefore somewhat speculative. In several cases, however, the financial position is sufficiently strong for the prior charge securities to rank as well secured industrial investments. The interest on the Savoy Hotel 4 per cent. perpetual debentures, for example, has been covered some ten times by earnings in recent years, and a substantial reserve fund has been built up. On these debentures a return of £5 11s. per cent is obtained. Carlton Hotel 4 per cent. debentures, redeemable 1949, yield £6 2s. per cent., and in this case interest is covered over nine times by the last year's earnings. The market in this stock is narrower, however. The ordinary shares of the Carlton Hotel Co. return £6 4s. per cent., and those of the Savoy Hotel £6 5s. per cent.

The A.B.C. Affairs.

The report of Sir Harry Peat, the eminent accountant, on the financial position of the well-known caterers, the Aerated Bread Company which was made public a day or two ago contains some strong criticisms. In his opinion the commitments of the A.B.C. in the Abford Estates property owning company are unsatisfactory, as is also the financial relations of the parent company with its subsidiaries, whose profits have been declining. Some subsidiaries should be disposed of and others more closely assimilated by the A.B.C. proper. The board of directors, Sir Harry thinks, needs to be considerably strengthened and the secretarial and accountancy systems need remodelling and bringing up to date in order to keep the management in closer and quicker contact with the business. Modernisation of some of the depots is also considered necessary. Sir Harry Peat thinks the company capable of earning considerably more than it actually has been doing for some years. The capital is intact and well covered by profit earning assets. Sir Hamar Greenwood, the Chairman of the company has stated that some of the matters referred to in the report are already being dealt with and the other suggestions will be acted upon with Sir Harry Peat's co-operation. Investors should note that in the first place the reorganisation will need money which Sir Harry Peat suggests need not come from additional capital but by borrowing or out of revenue. Last year the ordinary dividend fell from 10 per cent. to 3½ per cent. and on this basis the present yield is £2 14s. per cent.

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SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Brce.
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The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended July 6 amounted to Rs.12,40,382, making the total from April Rs.1,81,00,488, as compared with Rs.1,78,41,407 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

The traffic receipts of the Manchester Ship Canal Company for June amounted to £132,364, as against £121,779 for June last year, an increase of £10,585. The traffic receipts for the half-year amounted to £745,160, as against £729,025 for the corresponding period of last year, an increase of £16,144.

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Bunder Abbas Isfahan Mohammerah Tabriz
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Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):— Bagdad, Basra, Kirkuk.
Branch in India:— Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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ESTABLISHED 1839.

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Capital Paid up - - - £600,000
Reserve Fund - - - £250,000
Total Assets - - - £6,028,832

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Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£3,000,000

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Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu	(Brit. E. Africa)	Jinja
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru		Uganda.

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

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The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

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97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

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growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.
The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

Motor Lorries and Agriculture.

Having spent the last fortnight in a purely agricultural district, I have been able to realise the great boon the motor truck is to farmers and market gardeners. Not only does it bring them into intimate touch with the various markets in their vicinity—they can travel as far in an hour as previously they could in a day with horsed equipment—but it enables them to sell the greatest possible quantity of goods at much lower prices than they could previously. If they care to handle produce in a wholesale manner, they can travel the district buying from other producers and selling in bulk. With a truck that will carry up to, say, two tons of roots or other commodities, they are practically independent of the railway, and, so quickly have the advantages of motor transport become known, that there is hardly a farmer in the district to which I refer who has not one or more 30 cwt. trucks, as well as a small runabout car. The truck invariably has a low-loading, general purpose farmer's body, with cattle-loading ramp and detachable slat sides above the side boards. Such a van answers practically every purpose, and, with good tyres to start with, costs very little for maintenance in a district where even the smaller secondary roads are well surfaced. With the general purposes body, root crops of every kind, from sugar beet to potatoes, can be carried, feeding stuffs can be hauled, and a couple of cows or a score of sheep can be carried if and when necessary. A point in connexion with this that may be mentioned is that with a motor truck of the kind described, the farmer is not bound to sell his livestock in the nearest market, but can carry them to any district where there may be a demand. Further, drovers' charges are avoided, as any livestock purchased can be taken away in the truck instead of it being necessary, as formerly, to pay men to drive them home.

The most widely used types of vehicle are the light one-ton van, the 30 cwt. lorry, and, for big work, the 2½ ton wagon. Most of the farmers in the Midlands prefer the 30 cwt. vehicles, as they are light and speedy and yet have ample capacity. Solid tyred vehicles are not in great favour here, as one of the essentials of the farm vehicle is that it should be able to travel on rough or soft ground, as ordinary farm roads, and by reason of their comparative narrowness solid tyres are not generally suitable for that work. Speed is another quality which the farmer seeks in his motor van, and the light, speedy vehicle is far preferable to the bigger and slower type.

A point that has to be remembered is that farm lorries often have to start up on soft ground and perhaps travel some distance along a dirt track before they reach a hard road. When root crops, in particular, are being dealt with, the ability to start up on and travel along soft ground is apparent, as it would never pay a farmer to have to employ horsed vehicles to go into the fields collecting the roots as they were pulled up and have to unload these vehicles into motor lorries at the farm. Generally speaking, unless the ground is of a peculiarly soft or boggy character, an ordinary 30 cwt. lorry with good pneumatic tyres will be able to follow the root pickers along the field and then move off at once on to the road to carry the produce to market or to the dump.

In the great market gardening districts the position is practically the same. At one time it was believed that big delivering services could be organised which would collect produce at the various gardens and carry it to market at a low cost, but the farmer has now seen the advantage of owning his own vehicle, a course which is economically sound so long as he has a constant round of tasks for it to perform. As a writer put it recently, in market gardening work it is essential to have transport available almost on the instant it is required. Prompt and efficient means of transport is the backbone of this particular industry. Practically every market gardener is the owner of at least one light lorry, and those who have not yet decided as to the vehicle they will buy are collecting information and prices with a view to purchase in the near future.

Motor Show Prospects.

There is already some speculation as to what the coming Motor Show will bring forth in the way of new developments, particularly as to prices and innovations in designs. From certain indications it would seem that we cannot expect much in the direction of price reduction; indeed, there are those who feel that we have already reached bed-rock as far as selling prices are concerned. That view is based on the fact that there have been no recent falls in the prices of raw materials, and labour costs, for certain reasons, are not likely to be lower as time goes on. In fact, many in the trade hold the view that prices will probably advance and that 1929 marked low water in that respect. However, we have the fact that works' production and works' resources have improved, and so we may expect, with some confidence, rather better value in the details of car equipment.

So far as engines are concerned, the straight eight-cylinder design is coming into favour and we shall certainly see more of these used in the new season's models. Two or three of the British-made luxury cars will be fitted with that type, and a leading Continental production will also change on to that design. So far, there is a great advance in the straight eight engine, but carburation is still rather a problem. Following to some extent on the same lines, we shall find some of the smaller cars which have hitherto had four-cylinder engines changing over to the six-cylinder type, whilst one at least of these hitherto boasting a twin cylinder engine only will fit a four-cylindered power unit. A good deal of experimental work has been going on in the various works' laboratories, and as a result higher engine speeds will be the order of the day. Gear boxes will also be improved and simpler methods of changing will be fitted on the smaller cars, but the "free-wheel" idea, about which so much was heard a few months ago, does not seem to have commended itself to manufacturers and we shall probably hear and see very little of it at Olympia this year.

In view of increasing unemployment in the country the Roumanian Government has decided to compile lists of all foreigners working in Roumania, with a view to prohibiting from further residence in Roumania all those engaged on tasks which could be equally well done by unemployed Roumanians.

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 7:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—When we wrote these notes last week a feeling of optimism with regard to the probable duration of the strike was prevalent. Speculative buying of the November position on the following day resulted in that option being forced up in the region of 16.70d. This advance was short-lived, however, and the next day saw the same month down to 16.23d. on some American selling, and general pre-holiday liquidation. Since then the tone has been steadier as a result of some trade "calling" and some mild support from Alexandria. Values on balance are only a few points lower than those ruling a week ago. November and January have tended to narrow slightly as fears of Sudan tenders diminish. Our "parity" of approximately 30 points under Alexandria shows little change, although the tendency appears to be towards a narrowing, if anything. Briefly, a complete lack of new business has paralysed all initiative, and, were it not for the steadiness displayed by American contracts, a severe drop would probably have been witnessed. Sentiment with regard to the strike has changed round and hopes of a speedy settlement are dwindling rapidly. Nevertheless, the situation is such a serious one for Lancashire that it is unthinkable that the present state of affairs will continue without both sides straining every nerve to reopen negotiations.

Upper Contract.—This contract has ruled very quiet and the tone has been rather on the heavy side, although only a small net decline has been registered on the board. Local liquidation has been in evidence, and, with the very poor offtake available, values might well have broken badly had it not been for the sentimental support derived from the steadiness of American contracts. Differences with the latter market have narrowed slightly, particularly in the later deliveries.

Egyptian Spot.

Apart from the strike up-country we have had the August holiday week-end intervening, and with more mills ceasing to run, and no move towards a settlement, the outlook has been anything but cheerful. Business in actual has shrunk to minute proportions and prices have scarcely been tested. On the whole, values have remained very steady, although, on balance, small declines have been registered. The underlying strength of American contracts, pending the report due the 8th inst., has been the chief support.

Sakels have witnessed a very small inquiry within a range of 50 to 200 on November contracts, and the low grades at about 11d. to 12d. have also produced an odd inquiry here and there. The top qualities have been neglected.

Uppers.—A moderate business has been done in cotton at from 10 to 25 on, and an abortive inquiry has been met with for the very best quality. The lower grades, for which there is usually a very brisk demand at this time of the year, have been entirely neglected.

Pilion.—A few inquiries for cotton at from 11½d. to 12d. have cropped up, but we have not heard of any actual business being put through. Better qualities have not been asked for.

Nahda, Maarad, and White.—No business reported.

Sudan and Tokar.—Business on a very moderate scale has continued in the former, chiefly in the lower qualities. Tokar has suffered from neglect. C.i.f. business has become dead and forwardings to the trade last week shrank to 2,060 bales Egyptians and 439 Sudans. Estimated spot sales for the week (four days), 500 bales Egyptians and 200 bales Sudans. Quotations of Sakel show a net decline of 5 points; Uppers and Pilion are 10 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.05d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.50d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.60d.

February, 22.50 dollars, 0.25 dollars up; April, 22.92 dollars, 0.27 dollars up; June, 23.32 dollars, 0.27 dollars up.

Sakel.—The news of the lock-out in Lancashire naturally had an unfavourable effect on the market here, but the decline caused thereby was regained on the unexpected firmness displayed by both the New York and Liverpool markets. Trade interest in the market is still lacking and the daily sales at Minet el Bassal have fallen to a very low figure. It is interesting to note that out of the 1,230 bales Sakel offered by the Government for sale on Wednesday last, July 31, only 305 bales found buyers, i.e., only 25 per cent. of the quantity offered was sold, the lowest percentage since the opening of the Government auctions. Fresh business with spinners for new crop shipment has been of negligible quantity, if not actually nil. Reports from the Delta on the progress of the crop again offer no outstanding feature. Export houses have made practically no sales to spinners of new crop cotton, and do not show any hurry to commence purchases in the interior. Hedging operations in the futures market against new crop cotton have up to now been very small. We maintain our opinion that our market will, for some time yet, continue to be governed principally by the movements of New York.

The Sakel/Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,218 points, against 1,194 points last week and 1,244 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—This market has been much quieter than the Sakel market, but here too the tendency has been rather firm. Trade interest has been more active than in Sakel, but has, nevertheless, not been sufficiently large to cause a decisive advance in prices. Moreover, the strength of the present statistical position begins to dwindle in importance, as within three or four weeks the first receipts of new crop cotton will commence to appear on the market. It would seem that the present premium of Uppers over New York is likely to be maintained for the time being. The Ashmouni/American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 243 points, against 265 points last week and 525 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 498 kantars, against exports 62,373 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,615,327 kantars.

Spot.—There is nothing new to report this week, business continuing on rather quiet lines. Of a total turnover for the week of about 3,390 bales, we estimate Sakellaridis 800 bales, Ashmouni and Zagora 2,280 bales, Pilion 170 bales, and other varieties 50 bales.

Sakellaridis.—What little business has been transacted has been confined to better grades, with a very small inquiry for low cottons. Premiums are unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—The greater part of the past week's business has been done in these growths for cotton grading Fully Good Fair/Good and Good. The low grades have been entirely neglected. Premiums are unchanged.

Pilion.—There has been a small turnover at last week's premiums. The grades in demand were Fully Good Fair and Fully Good Fair/Good.

Other Varieties.—Have been very neglected and premiums are as last week.

Crop, 1929.—In Lower Egypt the crop is making normal progress. The high temperature of the last few days has been particularly favourable to the growth of the plants. On the other hand, there have been some fairly damp nights and morning fogs which, if repeated, might cause an expansion of the pink boll worm and Nadua Assalia attacks. The damage resulting from these attacks up to the present is of no importance. In Upper Egypt, the condition of the crop is satisfactory. Opening of the bolls is proceeding normally, and it is expected that picking will commence about the 10th instant in the early fields of the extreme southern districts. The new Nile flood has reached the Delta.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam	Florins to £	12.107	12.10½
Athens	Drachms to £	375	375 3/16
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	276½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.42	20.87
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.21
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 25/32—13/16
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.87½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	817
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.80
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 25/32—13/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1.015
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84½—25/32
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123.95—98
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	163 15/16
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.76
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	667½
Teheran	Krans to £	48	55½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.42½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 3/16—7/16

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 1, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very irregular, but it may be said that, on the whole, the tone has remained fairly firm. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 33.75 dollars, 0.44 dollars up; January, 34.09 dollars, 0.44 dollars up; March, 34.49 dollars, 0.47 dollars up. Ashmouni: August, 21.07 dollars, 0.16 dollars up; October, 21.57 dollars, 0.20 dollars up; December, 22.08 dollars, 0.27 dollars up;

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British Consular Reports

III.—ROUMANIA.

(Continued from page 166.)

The Import Trade.

Motor cars and motor cycles and lorries and pedal cycles are all imported from abroad in considerable numbers. The import list of motor cars is headed by the United States makes, then follow Italy and France. There are only two British makes on the market. British motor cycle makers began last year to expand their business in this country with great hopes of further improvement. Belgian, French, German and Italian motor cycles are also seen on the roads. The import of lorries has not appreciably increased owing to the condition of the roads. The demand for pedal cycles is constantly growing and British manufacturers have begun to take some interest in this market, which up to the present has been held by French, German and Belgian cycles. Of these, large stocks are held for which long credits are granted. Important business is done in tyres and all the world renowned makes are to be found here. One British make is well introduced but there is room for others.

Oil motors are now imported principally from the United Kingdom. The improvement in British sales is due, apart from the question of quality, to the credit facilities which British firms now accord to Roumania, whose market offers a large field, in view of the numbers of engines required for the peasants' mills, for industry, agriculture and other purposes.

With regard to leather goods His Majesty's Consul at Cluj reports that efforts have been made by local dealers (in Transylvania) to import black and coloured chevreaux from the United Kingdom. These, however, were quickly ousted by goods of American origin, the dealers stating that British manufacturers either take little interest in this market or impose too onerous terms of payment. Patent leather is imported from the United States, and a little from Germany, this latter country also exporting a little box-calf leather to Transylvania. As regards footwear, although a great many hand-made shoes of local manufacture are worn, a certain quantity of factory-made shoes of Czechoslovakian, Swiss and Austrian origin are imported, while goloshes are imported from Austria and Sweden. Foreign made leather belting is being gradually driven from the market by the domestically manufactured article, which, however, is not of the best quality. Small quantities of leather for book-binding purposes and sports goods were imported into Transylvania during the past year.

His Majesty's Consul at Timisoara states that the sale

of shoes has suffered from the reduced purchasing power of the population. There are, however, important imports of shoes, in spite of the high duty, chiefly from Czechoslovakia. Coated canvas for linen shoes, different cottons for lining and artificial satin are brought from Great Britain, though Italy and Czechoslovakia are competitors. Flax yarn and linen threads also come from the United Kingdom; in these articles Germany and France are the competitors. Great Britain sends also rubber-crêpe and shaped rubber soles; the United States is her rival in the latter.

Most of the imported machinery comes from Germany, then, in order of importance from Czechoslovakia and Austria and smaller quantities from the United Kingdom. These competitors grant credit facilities and very often send their goods on consignment. Last year textile machinery mostly came from Czechoslovakia, Germany, and a small share from the United Kingdom. Machine tools are supplied as a rule by Germany and smaller quantities by other countries.

Electrical machinery also comes from Germany, who heads the list of imports, and such firms as the A.E.G. and Siemens Schuckert have their own selling branches in Roumania, which hold stocks on the spot and secure most of the Government and municipal orders for town lighting, motors and other machinery and materials. Other countries practically do not count in this branch.

Notwithstanding the exceedingly high import duties, some foreign coal of better quality, which is not produced in this country) was imported for domestic and industrial purposes. Generally such foreign coal is brought from Poland and in smaller quantities from the United Kingdom. Coke for industrial purposes is imported in large quantities and competent judges are of opinion that Great Britain could secure a larger share of this trade if greater credit facilities could be given. Most of the sugar factories and metallurgical works use imported coke.

Sulphate of copper is manufactured in this country but in insufficient quantities to meet the home needs, and in inferior quality. Farmers prefer British brands which are imported in large quantities. German firms have endeavoured to extend their sales of sulphate of copper, but they have not been very successful.

Dyes, up to last year, came almost exclusively from Germany, and in very small quantities from Switzerland and Italy. In the beginning of 1929, however, British dyes were successfully introduced on this market. Other British chemical products find a good market in Roumania, e.g., glycerine, cocaine, morphia, menthol, insulin, mercury, carbolic acid, camphor, etc.

Agriculture.

The actual area sown in cereals and other crops has increased each year since the war, until it exceeds the

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normal pre-War figure, but the same cannot be said of production. No increase has been attained in the yield of the leading cereals and the effects on agriculture of the unfavourable weather of the years 1927 and 1928 have diminished the purchasing power of the farmer. Improvement seems contingent upon the inculcation of more up-to-date methods both as regards ploughing and fertilising of the soil and the use of selected seed. The competent authorities have expressed their intention of abolishing export taxes on cereals in the near future.

The following provisional returns issued by the Ministry of Agriculture show the areas sown in the autumn of 1928 for harvesting in 1929 (the 1927 figures are given for comparison):—

	1928.	Hectares.	1927.
Wheat	2,902,936	...	2,946,600
Rye	292,602	...	275,802
Barley	130,182	...	107,439
Rapeseed	18,189	...	63,207

The wheat area is 43,664 hectares less than in 1927, while those of barley and rye have increased by 22,743 and 16,800 hectares respectively. The rapeseed sowings,

however, amount to little more than a quarter of those of 1927.

The Roumanian Ministry of Agriculture has issued the following figures intended to give an approximate idea of the number of fruit trees in Roumania in 1927. No scientific census has been made as it is intended to take a general agricultural census in 1930: plum trees, 48,361,996; walnut trees, 3,625,287; apple trees, 7,813,914; pear trees, 3,411,239; cherry trees, 7,976,396; apricot trees, 994,078; peach trees, 915,584; quince trees, 1,069,238.

(To be continued.)

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for July was 75,920 tons.

The London Office of the Banque Franco-Serbe is now at 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.

Messrs. Yarrow have secured an order from the Yugoslav Government for the construction of a powerful flotilla leader.

Father Koroshetz, Yugoslav Minister of Communications, has been appointed Minister of Mines and Forests, and M. Radivojevitich, the present Minister of Mines, has been appointed Minister of Communications.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Aug. 12.	Railways.		Prices on Aug. 12.	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on July 24.
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	...	80 1/2	Assam-Bengal	...	94	3 1/2% Government Paper ...	...	68 1/2
Do. Pref. 3 1/2 p.c. 1890 ...	...	70 1/2	Bengal Doonars	...	182 1/2	Banks	...	1,430
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	...	70 1/2	Bengal Nagpur	...	91 1/2	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	102 1/2
Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	...	81 1/2	Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	...	42 1/2	Bank of India	...	19 1/2
Bulgaria 4 1/2 p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	...	82 1/2	Nizams Gld.	...	235	Central Bank of India ...	...	...
Do. 7 p.c.	...	82 1/2	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ...	...	42 1/2	Coal	...	5 as
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	...	70	Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	...	59	Baraboni	...	45 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. 1884	...	70	Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	...	58	Bengal	...	15 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	...	53 1/2	Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	...	56 1/2	Burrakur	...	22 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	...	70	Southern Punjab	...	193	East Indian	...	23 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	...	69 1/2	South Indian	...	115 1/2	Equitable	...	33 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ...	...	57 1/2	Rubber	...	...	Pench Valley	...	40 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	...	59 1/2	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	9 1/2	Raneegunge	...	61
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	...	70 1/2	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	19 1/2	Standard	...	...
Do. 7 p.c. 1924	...	100	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	17 1/2	Cotton	...	...
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	...	88 1/2	Hewagann Rubber Co. ...	...	14 1/2	Bengal Nagpur	...	72 1/2
Palestine 5 p.c.	...	100 1/2	Kepthigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	35 9	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	56 1/2
Persia 5 p.c. 1911	...	84	Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	...	Bowrah	...	17 1/2
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext	...	67 1/2	Shipping	...	...	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	14 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	...	80 1/2	Anchor 5 1/2 p.c. Prf. ...	...	8 1/2	Cawnpore Textiles	...	330
Do. 7 p.c.	...	80 1/2	Furness Withy	...	30 6 1/2	Century	...	480
Sudan 5 1/2 p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	...	103 1/2	Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	56 6	Central India	...	91
India 3 1/2 p.c.	...	65 1/2	P. and O. Deferred	...	...	Elgin	...	70
Do. 3 p.c.	...	57 1/2	Tea	...	...	Khatau Makanji	...	342
Do. 5 1/2 p.c.	...	99 1/2	Assam Co.	...	23 3/2	Muir	...	145
Do. 4 1/2 p.c.	...	87 1/2	Bengal United Tea Ord ...	...	14 1/2	New Ring	...	312 1/2
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	...	18 1/2	Bramapootra	...	33 1/2	Phoenix	...	457 1/2
Banks	...	...	British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	3 1/2	Svadeshi	...	412 1/2
Agri. Bank of Egypt	...	715 3/2	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	14 1/2	Jute	...	548
Bank of British West Africa ...	...	41 1/2	Carolina	...	4 1/2	Alliance	...	24 1/2
Bank of Roumania	...	80 1/2	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	24	Barnagore	...	545
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf.	...	28 3/4	Consolidated Estates	...	33 1/2	Budge Budge	...	39 1/2
Chartered Bank of India	...	194	Darjeeling Co.	...	215 1/2	Clive	...	542
Eastern	...	611 1/2	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	33 1/2	Dalhousie	...	552
Hambros	...	915 1/2	Doonars Tea Ord.	...	215 1/2	Delta	...	854 1/2
Ionian Bank	...	625 3/2	Dooloomram Tea	...	17 1/2	Fort Gloster	...	442 1/2
Imperial Bank of Persia	...	115 1/2	Doom Dooma	...	41 1/2	Gourepore	...	57 1/2
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	...	164	East Assam	...	44	Howrah	...	60 1/2
Lloyds	...	64 1/2	Empire of Ind.	...	24	Kamarhaty	...	569
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	...	32 1/2	Halem Tea	...	113 1/2	Kankarrah	...	603 1/2
Do. B	...	33 1/2	Imperial Ind.	...	21 1/2	Khaddah	...	1,11 1/2
National Bank of Egypt	...	34	Jhanzie Tea Association ...	...	34	Kinnison	...	2813 1/2
National Bank of India	...	50	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	2 1/2	National	...	457 1/2
Ottoman Bank	...	114 1/2	Jorehaut	...	4	Standard	...	701 1/2
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	...	84	Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	17 1/2	Miscellaneous	...	...
Westminster	...	75 1/2	Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	...	7	British India Corporation ...	...	23 1/2
Land	...	...	New Dimbula	...	54	Bengal Paper Mills	...	41 1/2
Kassala Cotton	...	9 1/2	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...	24	Bengal Timber Trading ...	...	383
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates	...	5 9	Nedem	...	511 1/2	Burn and Co.	...	16 1/2
Sudan Plantations	...	34	Ouvah	...	6	Cawnpore Sugar	...	12
Mines	...	...	Pabbojan	...	24	Champaran Sukar	...	91
Salaghat Gold Mining	...	47 1/2	Standard	...	315 3/2	Howrah Oil Mills	...	...
Burma Corp.	...	18 1/2	Scottish Assam	...	219 3/2	ALEXANDRIA	...	...
Champion Reef Gold	...	80	Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...	...	Prices on Aug. 2, supplied by G.L.	...	...
Mysore	...	12 6	Upper Assam	...	...	Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.	...	...
Nuerydroog	...	16 3	Insurance	...	...	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	£721 32
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. ...	...	90	General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £14 paid) ...	...	15	Assoc. Cotton Ginners	...	£1415 16
Oil	...	...	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ...	...	28 1/2	Behera Ord.	...	£125 32
Angle-Egyptian B	...	217 3/2	Royal Exchange (£1)	...	63 1/2	Ciments d'Egypte	...	£115 24
Angle-Persian B.	...	44	Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid)	...	38 1/2	Div.	...	£182
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	...	27 6	Trade Indemnity (£10)	...	13 1/2	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	...	£116
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	...	29 9	Miscellaneous	...	...	Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	...	£150 2
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	...	96	Alexandria Water Co.	...	14 1/2	Fondateur	...	£250
Brit. Burmah	...	6 1/2	Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	15 6	Crown Brewery Priv.	...	£146
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	...	44	Dunlop Rubber	...	17 1/2	Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	...	£13 1/2
Do. 8% Cum Pref	...	26 9	Egyptian Hotels	...	7	Frigorifiques d'Egypte	...	£15 1/2
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	...	3	Do. Markets Ord.	...	25 1/2	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des.	...	£173 16
Phoenix Oil and Transport (p.) ...	...	11 6	Do. Salt and Soda	...	35 1/2	Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	...	£237
Do. (l./s.)	...	7 1/2	Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	...	84	Parts de Fond	...	£190
Shell Transport	...	419 3/2	Oriental Telephone	...	60	Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	...	...
Steaua Romana	...	10 1/2	Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord. ...	...	17 3		...	...
	...	...	Waring & Gillow	...	25 1/2		...	...



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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	193	INDIAN NOTES	195	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	201	Notes and News	207
The Jewish Agency and Palestine	195	SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Turkish Business Profits in 1928	209
SPECIAL LETTERS—		The Shatt al Arab	202	Economic Conditions in Bulgaria	209
Egypt	196	SYRIAN PRESS	203	Company Meeting—	
Turkey	197	CORRESPONDENCE	204	Cyprus Asbestos Company ...	210
Cyprus	198			The Week's Finance	211
Calcutta	199			British Consular Reports—	
				III.—Roumania	212
				IV.—The Persian Gulf... ..	213
				Engineering Topics	215

Notes of the Week.

Persia and Foreign Powers.

The success with which Persia is regularising her position with foreign Powers is very striking. With her immediate neighbours, Russia and the British Empire, she has in the last year or two reached working agreements. With Iraq she recently made a notable gesture of reconciliation, and the reception accorded in Baghdad to the new Persian representative, Inayatullah Khan Samiyi, was a symbol of the intense relief that an extremely unsatisfactory state of affairs was at an end. The friction, which at one time threatened to be serious, between Turkey and Persia, is at this very moment being resolved by a Frontier Commission based on Maku. And the latest success of Persia is to be noted in her dealings with the King of the Hijaz and Najd. In some ways, this last, though not vitally important like her relations with nearer States, represents Persia's most picturesque success. For a Wahhabi State to have attained good relations with a quintessentially Shiah State—and the traditional attitude of Wahhabis towards Shiahs needs no explanation—is something on which Persia no less than King Ibn Saoud may justly be congratulated. It is a most gratifying manifestation of good will in quarters which might not have been looked upon as likely to generate good will, and it is yet another indication that both Riza Shah Pahlavi and King Ibn Saoud know well how to overcome local prejudices. On the whole, Persia's foreign policy as conducted in recent years must afford very considerable satisfaction to her gifted people. It is an appropriate, if fortuitous recognition of the prestige which Persia has gained that the next meeting of the Council of the League of Nations should be presided over by the Persian delegate.

Russia and the Yaman.

The slight hysteria that was displayed in a few circles when it became known that Soviet Russia had accomplished what Great Britain even yet has not been able to accomplish, namely, a Treaty with the Imam Yahya of the Yaman, turns out to have been as unjustified as calm observers of the situation thought it at the time to be. For *Al-Yaman*, the only journal, we think, that is pub-

lished in the Yaman, last month printed the text of the Russo-Yaman Treaty. This friendly and commercial agreement, which is designed for a period of ten years, really provides for little else than the recognition by Russia of "the complete independence of the whole Yaman" and free commercial intercourse between subjects of the Imam and Russian subjects. Why it should have been supposed that such provisions were, in effect, a further lever to dark Bolshevik designs in India and the whole Middle East is not very clear. What the Imam Yahya, as an independent ruler, is able to do with Powers outside his State, whether they be Italy, Russia, or some other Power which has not yet recognised him, he can certainly do with no lack of British good will. British interests repose in the main in the integrity of the Aden Protectorate, by guaranteeing which the Imam could have a Treaty to-morrow with the British Empire. Actually it is little that either Italy or Russia can achieve in the Yaman, and those observers were possibly wisest who asserted, in face of the Italo-Yamani Treaty and of this later Sanaa Treaty, that what the Imam would still most fondly cherish would be a Treaty with Great Britain. Certainly there is nothing in the published clauses of the Sanaa Treaty which can raise great enthusiasm in this independent Arab State. One cannot help feeling that this continual talk of Soviet activities in Arabia, in the sense of the Arabs' being converted to Bolshevik doctrines, is singularly unintelligent. Possibly you may work on the so-called feelings of devout Muslims for the purpose of some particular incident, but you surely cannot, unless you directly govern them, pervert their mental and religious attitude. The atheism of Moscow has very little chance of spreading in the sublime atmosphere of Sanaa; one can imagine the fearless Zaidis, in their garden of the Yaman—"Arabia Felix"—saying to Bolshevik teachers what T. E. Brown said of his garden—"No God? Nay, I have a sign!"

The Macedonians and Sofia.

Nothing could more plainly indicate the difficulties under which the Bulgarian Government works in connexion with the frontier with Yugoslavia than the

manifestation of open Macedonian hostility to it. Macedonian influence upon the Sofia Administration is, of course, unceasing, but for the most part it is kept in the background. Enough of it is known, however, to give a handle to the Yugoslav accusation that the Sofia Government is under the thumb of the Macedonians, and it is true that great reluctance is often shown in the Bulgarian capital in dealing with this menace. M. Liapcheff himself is peculiarly reluctant to take such severe measures as in other circumstances would seem to be indicated. But from time to time the Bulgarian Government resolves to show that, after all, it itself is master of the country, and that these illegal steps of the Macedonian Brotherhood must be checked. Last week, for instance, a conflict arose between the Macedonian Revolutionaries and Government troops in the neighbourhood of Petritch. The Revolutionaries had rebelled against the authorities' examining consignments to them, and the Government asserted its right to such an examination in convincing fashion. Again, on August 13, a band of Revolutionaries attempted to cross the Yugoslav frontier in the neighbourhood of Trn, and the Bulgarian frontier guards had to fight them before they would yield up their arms. Such firm conduct as this is bound to create the greatest resentment among the recalcitrants of the I.M.R.O., and it may be that serious conflicts will occur before it is fully realised that the Sofia Government is what every right-minded observer of the Balkan situation must hope it to be—in earnest. For no real peace in the Balkans is possible until the Bulgarian Government has mastered its Macedonians. Whatever Yugoslavia may do in her newer territory, she will, it is to be expected, have abundant defenders so long as the I.M.R.O. is in existence.

The Wailing Wall Once More.

It has been obvious, during the past few weeks, that some untoward incident was possible in Palestine as a result of the whipping up of Jewish indignation over the question of the Wailing Wall. So passionate, indeed, had been the expression of Jewish sentiments that the Ninth of Ab (August 15) was looked upon with some anxiety, lest hot-headed partisans should disregard the advice of the local Jewish leaders in this matter. The Palestine Zionist Executive, the Chief Rabbinate and the National Council had expressly demanded "that all action in the matter should be taken only with their consent." On the whole their advice appears to have been accepted. But, according to an official announcement issued by the

Palestine Government on August 18, some hundreds of young Jews attempted to make political use of the Ninth of Ab at the Wailing Wall. The result of such unwise action could have been foreseen: Muslims assembled in strength to deny the use by Jews of the Wailing Wall for purposes other than their usual practice of prayer. Immediately telegrams were despatched to the papers, depicting the disorders in the most lurid colours. It is, however, a tribute to the efficiency of the local authorities responsible for law and order that the situation at the Wall on the following day was perfectly normal. No doubt more will be heard of this affair. But in consideration of the highly emotional circumstances it is probably gratifying that the actual disorder appears to have been comparatively slight.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Floods in Sind.

The announcement of the distinction of K.C.S.I. recently bestowed upon Sir Louis Rieu, has been followed by the news of his retirement: and his many friends will be grieved to hear that its cause is ill-health. His successor is Mr. W. F. Hudson, also a former Commissioner in Sind, who will bring to the Government a quality of briskness and dispatch in which it has been regarded as lacking of recent years. Although not too robust in health, Mr. Hudson is still an excellent tennis player, almost as skilful as he was when he played for Oxford. Meanwhile the mention of the Sukkur Barrage in last week's issue brings to mind another of the troubles of the Bombay Government. Following the earlier and far from reassuring reports of the floods in Sind comes the news that the embankment of the Abul Cahal, which irrigates Khairpur State, has been broken near Gambat. The town is apparently safe, but the country for twenty miles round has been submerged and unless the flood waters from the burst Shyok ice dam dissipate themselves in the upper reaches of the Indus the inundation is likely to be extensive. In former days such floods were a commonplace: and, though they did much immediate damage, they enabled large areas to be cultivated, while the temporary nature of the villages destroyed allowed them to be easily refounded. The increasing embankments and canalisation of the Indus, however, have caused such floods to be a rarer phenomenon in recent years, while villages, roads, and the system of cultivation generally have become more permanent in their nature. The damage caused by an unusual inundation is, therefore, far more serious than used formerly to be the case, while the adventitious compensatory advantages are smaller.

Bengal and Primary Education.

The Bengal Primary Education Bill, which we have mentioned more than once lately, has been shelved by the newly elected Legislative Council. Following the example of its predecessor the new Council has referred the Bill to a large Select Committee, which procedure means, of course, that there will be no progress. The Select Committee which was appointed by the old Council was the largest on record, and it made an exhaustive study of the Bill. Now there will be a further prolonged scrutiny, and another voluminous report. The real reason doubtless is that there is no party in the Council who will venture to face unpopularity by imposing the taxation which is contemplated by the Bill. Taxation is nowhere more unpopular than in Bengal; and measures which necessitate new taxes have a very slender chance of getting through the legislature. For years past there has been an insistent demand, on the part of the educated classes, for the establishment in the province of a system of primary instruction. But now that the question of meeting the cost has to be considered enthusiasm seems to have vanished. This is greatly to be regretted, for the need is really urgent. Bengal is a backward province in regard to primary education.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1929.

THE JEWISH AGENCY AND PALESTINE.

The Jewish Agency, a composite institution of Zionist and non-Zionist, long talked of, hoped for, and, in some quarters, feared, is now an accomplished fact. In scenes of tremendous enthusiasm, its inaugural meeting took place in Zurich last week. The main feature of the early speeches was, as might have been expected, an emphasis on the fact that Palestine was now to become what is called by successful commercial men—and prominent among the advocates of this "mixed" institution for the colonisation of the Holy Land by Jews are not a few such men—a "business proposition." There is something, we think, although this is not the place to dilate upon it, in the complaint made by certain Zionists, that this new Jewish Agency implies a toning-down of the Zionist ideal. For the non-Zionists, from whom it is hoped to draw considerable sums of money for Palestine, that is, for the Jews in Palestine, will contribute rather from a sense of duty than towards the accomplishment of an ideal. It is not, of course, for non-Jewish observers to express any opinion on whether they are right or wrong in so doing, but the point should be recognised. Less and less, presumably, we shall hear mention of Jewish Nationalism in Palestine, more and more of business methods and reasonable returns among the Palestinian Jews. The Holy Land is, in short, to be "Americanised." The keynote of the Jewish Agency is sound, practical methods: as Mr. Louis Marshall put it—"as a practical people they were going to help to up-build Palestine in a practical manner." He spoke, naturally, only on behalf of non-Zionist American Jewry; but it needs little foresight to understand that it is their note, their method, which has roused the enthusiasm of successful Jews, Zionist and non-Zionist, in Europe, and which will in all probability dominate the counsels of the Enlarged Jewish Agency. For it had for some time been felt, even among the Zionists themselves, that the mode of colonisation in Palestine was not sound; it was obvious, indeed, that at the quick end of certain enterprises was inevitable shipwreck. That was one of the reasons which prompted the formation of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission—a body which examined Jewish colonisation in the Holy Land from the severely practical aspect. After its report had been published it was patent that the establishment of the Enlarged Jewish Agency was merely a matter of time, or alternatively, that for the Zionist ideal in Palestine, hitherto perhaps unsoundly pursued at times (as all ideals are, whether inevitably or not, pursued) would be substituted a mere idea—the "upbuilding" of Jewish colonies in Palestine. Whether this substitution will remain a permanent factor in the situation, or whether, later on, there will be a reversion to the possibly finer, wilder ideals of the first years of the Jewish Agency, must

be left for Time, the Arabs, and the British Mandatory Power to decide.

What is likely to be the material effect on Palestine of this new Jewish Agency? A Budget of £750,000 a year is provided for, and a million pounds annually is foreshadowed. Manifestly there must, with all this wealth, be a considerable difference in the circumstances of the Jewish colonists. Mr. Louis Marshall warned the Council of the Jewish Agency, indeed, against expecting any great results at once; but Dr. Weizmann said that he looked forward to an immigration programme of 100,000 Jews into Palestine in the next five years. Which of these two more or less contradictory statements is likely to be correct, we have no means of judging, but certainly, if Dr. Weizmann's forecast is sound, the position in Palestine may call for new plans on the part of the Arabs. It has been the habit of the native inhabitants of Palestine during the last few years to regard the menace of being numerically overwhelmed by the Jews as increasingly slight, but the most recent solidifying of extra-Palestinian Jewish forces has caused them considerable anxiety. Hence, in part, their resolve to demand representative institutions, and no longer to indulge their non-co-operation policy. If there is to be—what it is difficult, indeed, to believe—an annual Jewish immigration into Palestine for the next few years of 20,000—the much-talked-of Arab-Jewish collaboration will surely become not less, but more difficult. For it is a delusion, widely entertained in these latter days, that all problems can be solved through the emollient of economics, that political, national, or racial ideals and ambitions invariably lose their edge on contact with prosperity. It is sometimes, but not always so. Because the Jewish settler brings money into the pockets of the Palestinian Arab it does not follow that the Arabs will increasingly welcome him. For the despised Arab, though quick enough to appreciate financial advantage, is by no mean unaware of the motive of the donor. The problem does not solve itself in that way. Not the financial, but the psychological key it is which will unlock the Arab's heart.

The matter is, admittedly, extremely difficult. The Jewish Nationalist ideal—that ideal of making "Palestine as Jewish as England is English"—has without doubt been modified, if not entirely banished. The Arab of Palestine no longer fears Jewish political domination. But this new accession of wealth to the Jewish colonists will present fresh problems, for though it may, and certainly will, spill over into Arab pools, its main content, naturally, will be preserved in constantly expanding Jewish reservoirs. Now will these pools and reservoirs ultimately coalesce, or will those who control the reservoirs insist on their not being contaminated by the too long stagnant pools? If Mr. Felix Warburg, who is one of the most influential persons connected with the new Jewish Agency, is a true prophet, the Muslims and Christians will continue to look enviously at their well-equipped neighbours, the Jews. Mr. Warburg said, at a meeting of the Jewish Agency Council last week, that it was the duty of the Government in Palestine to supply an equal proportional contribution for education and health to Jewish, Arab and Christian institutions alike. He added that "they, the Jewish Agency, would provide the additional sums necessary to make their institutions the best." A perfectly natural, inoffensive remark; but how great a problem in co-operation it implies! With the impulse in Jewry to make of Palestine a cultural centre there can be few to quarrel—few, indeed, will not admire it profoundly. The appearance in the Holy Land of a pure Jewish type is something to move the imagination. But it should not be supposed that with the passing of the Jewish movement into apparently smoother waters and into a more moderate atmosphere, the problems of Palestine are at an end. In a sense they are only beginning, for not until now has a comparatively united Jewry started to storm the ramparts of Zion.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



The Proposals.

Alexandria, August 9.

The documents relative to the proposed agreement between England and Egypt have now been published. They have been received by the Egyptian Press on the whole in a most sensible, calm manner, strikingly at variance with the frenzied outbursts in the English newspapers. The general opinion in Egypt, except, perhaps, among the Wafd, is that these proposals are of such vital importance to Egypt that any premature decision regarding them is impossible, and only after the nation has had time fully to digest each item, will it be possible for an opinion to be given. That the new proposals mark a great step forward in the relationship between the two countries is everywhere commented upon, and, if it is possible to judge from the reserved comments already made in Egypt, public opinion is very favourable towards the new Treaty.

It seems quite clear that the reason which led the British Government to expedite the negotiations leading to the drawing up of these terms, was the extraordinarily good impression made in London by Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, and, perhaps to a much larger degree, the record of his Government in maintaining peace and order throughout the country for more than a year. It must also follow that the British Government was entirely unmoved by the frenzied efforts of the Wafd, under the leadership in London of William Makram Obeid, to persuade them not to give a hearing to Mahmoud Pasha. The charges brought by Professor Obeid were wild and entirely unsubstantiated, and obviously calculated to give an entirely wrong impression of internal Egyptian affairs. They give an adequate impression of the mentality of the Wafdist party, and show, also, that that party has only one object: to get back into power by any means whatsoever. It is, therefore, incredible that the British Government should insist that elections should take place at once in Egypt, and on the lines of universal suffrage. Such a step would put the Wafd back into power and thus undo all the good work done by the Mahmoud Cabinet during the last year. The Wafd has immense influence on the ignorant masses of Egypt, which are totally incapable of discriminating between the high-sounding phrases used by the Wafd while out of power and their corruption and wilful neglect of the nation's interest when in power, and the sound, solid work and reforms actually carried out by the Mahmoud Party.

Until the advent of the present Government, nothing had ever been done in Egypt to ameliorate the extremely hard lot of the ordinary Egyptian working classes, yet in twelve months Mahmoud Pasha initiated innumerable reforms, which are designed entirely to alter the status of the Egyptian lower classes. What is even more important from a European point of view, is the fact that measures for the maintenance of public security have improved so considerably under his régime, and when the reforms in the Police force and the Ghaffar forces, which he initiated, are completed, Egypt will be as safe to live in as many European countries.

The opinion is held in certain influential quarters that the action of the Labour Government in rushing through these new proposals is against Egypt's interests. The proposals are certainly the inevitable outcome of the 1922 policy, which declared Egypt an independent, sovereign State, but it would—it is alleged—have been much wiser to have waited a year or two until Egypt was more fitted to assume absolute control of its own destinies, before such a step was taken.

The Wafdist Press is still continuing its intensive anti-Mahmoud campaign, but while this may still impress the ignorant classes, Mahmoud Pasha is daily gaining the support of a rapidly increasing body of the more intelligent of his compatriots.

An American's Views on Africa.

A well-known American business man, Mr. Ernest Filsinger, Vice-President of the Royal Baking Powder Company, arrived in Egypt this week by air from Johannesburg. Mr. Filsinger was in Johannesburg on business when he received a request from his firm in America to proceed to Berlin, and as he was anxious to make business arrangements in other African towns, he chartered Captain R. R. Bentley, the famous South African airman who had piloted Lady Bailey and Lady Heath on their recent African flights, to take him over Africa and then on to Europe. Captain Bailey said that thanks to the excellence of the Shell Company's organisation throughout Africa, it was possible to arrange the flight at 48 hours' notice. After calling at a large number of towns they arrived in Cairo last Monday, having made the trip, including stops at various towns of periods ranging from one day to one week, in three weeks, whereas had they been obliged to travel by road, rail and steamer, they would have taken at least four months.

Mr. Filsinger was greatly impressed by the British administration in Africa. He says the officials display such practical idealism, breadth of view, imagination and intelligence as to arouse his profound admiration. He was immediately struck by the recent commercial development of the country, and in his opinion Africa will before long play an exceedingly important part in world commerce. Another thing which called forth his praise was the excellence of the roads, especially in Uganda, which he considers are as well kept as many in England. This is mainly due to the fact that the Government made gifts of good quality motor cars to the native chiefs, who, having cars, wanted good roads to drive them on, with the result that a net-work of excellent roads soon appeared. He also considers that really intelligent methods are being used to educate the native tribes on practical lines, which enable them to help themselves.

Captain Bentley and Mr. Filsinger arrived in Alexandria on Thursday and will leave for Constantinople to-morrow. They expect to arrive at Berlin about August 20, whence they will proceed to England.

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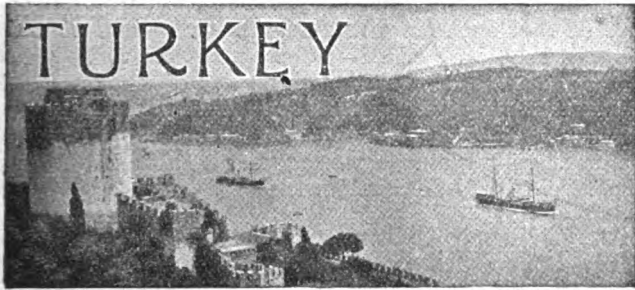
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*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

Communications in Egypt.

Steps are already being made to improve the means of communication in Egypt, and to that end the Government intends to purchase six steamers for the transport of passengers, 18 boats for the transport of goods, and pontoons and other accessories, for the inauguration of a river service on the Nile. Whether this scheme will prove workable or not remains to be seen, as the upper reaches of the Nile are navigable for boats only of extremely shallow draught, except during certain periods of the year, and river transport is of necessity much slower than rail or road.



Constantinople, August 6.

The Ghazi in Constantinople.

Notwithstanding repeated assertions in the local Press that it was the Ghazi's intention to spend the summer months on his model farm near Tchan Kaya, the President of the Republic arrived in Constantinople yesterday morning at very short notice.

Instead of detraining at Ismidt and completing the journey to Stamboul by sea—the usual routine hitherto followed on these occasions—Kemal Pasha remained in his "coupé" until the Presidential train reached Pendik, where he motored to the Villa of Ismet Pasha, the Premier, who is spending the summer vacation on the

shores of the Gulf of Ismidt. After spending about an hour with the Premier, the Ghazi took the train to Haidar Pasha. There he embarked in the *Seuyudlu*, the smaller of the two ex-Imperial yachts, which conveyed him to the steps of Dolma-Baghtche Palace, to the booming of cannon, the hooting of ships' syrens, and the waving of many flags. The reception at Haidar Pasha was of the simplest nature, the travelling escort across the Bosphorus consisting of a solitary police barge, in place of the usual array of cruisers, destroyers and torpedo boats.

Death of Savfety Zia Bey.

Deep regret has been felt in official and diplomatic circles at the sudden death of Savfety Zia Bey. The "Chef du Protocole," a relatively young man, collapsed and expired within a few minutes at an informal dance which was being held at the Prinkipo Yacht Club, a favourite resort of Ministers and Deputies on leave in Constantinople during the summer months. He was recognised generally as an official who discharged the multifarious and exacting duties of his difficult office with great tact and *savoir faire*. Perhaps his greatest encomium is the fact that he died without leaving a single enemy among his colleagues—an epitaph that any man could wish for in these times of sycophants, tuft-hunters and time-servers.

The obsequies of Zia Bey were carried out on strictly European lines, and—for the first time on record in Turkish annals—his sorrowing womenfolk have published in the local Press an expression of their gratitude for the sympathy shown to them by all classes on the occasion of their bereavement.

Statistical Data.

The foreign expert who two years ago carried out the statistical survey of the density of population in various parts of Turkey, has found time, after achieving his main object, to regale the reading public every now and then with statistical data which, although bearing only indirectly on the main issue, nevertheless provide interest-

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ing material for the student of social questions in this part of the world.

It is thus possible to learn that in Constantinople the Benedicts are in the minority, the bachelors outnumbering them by nearly 65,000. One is now no longer at a loss to explain the strenuous opposition which was raised in celibate circles some few months ago when the imposition of a relatively heavy tax on unmarried men was mooted in official quarters.

Divorced persons of both sexes do not exceed 9021 in number—a remarkable fact in a city where polygamy and facile divorce were not so long ago the rule rather than the exception.

Illiterate persons in Stamboul, notwithstanding the rapid increase in the number of primary and secondary schools, still number 481,244, thereby exceeding the number of those who can write and read by nearly 170,000. It is only fair to remember in this connexion, however, that these figures refer to 1927, at which time the new alphabet had not yet been introduced and popular night schools had not yet been founded. It will be interesting to see what progress the 1930 statistical survey will record in this matter.

In regard to occupations, the Vilayet of Stamboul possesses 89,517 farmers or agricultural labourers, 52,856 industrial workers, 70,100 merchants, 13,392 members of the liberal professions (excluding doctors), 13,409 Government officials, 18,917 troops of all ranks, 35,767 clerks in business establishments, 4,226 postal and telegraph clerks, and 3,396 medical practitioners.

Included in the statistical returns, unfortunately, are 2,164 deaf and dumb, 374 cripples, 1,307 armless persons, 352 hump-backs and 5,477 persons classified under "miscellaneous physical disabilities"—including, probably, blind persons who are not otherwise specifically indicated.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, August 7.

The Asbestos Mines.

A strike of some 200 workmen at the Amiandos Asbestos Mines at Troodos, who demanded shorter hours and higher wages, led to some rioting, which was promptly dealt with. About fifty ringleaders and other have been charged before a District Court, many being sentenced to various terms of imprisonment up to one year. Order was soon restored at the mines.

Fresh Archæological Discoveries.

Excavations by the Swedish Mission at and near Trikomo, in the Famagusta district, have yielded a number of interesting finds of Babylonian, Phœnician, Egyptian, Greek, and Cypriot workmanship, dating from the 16th to the 12th centuries B.C., from a grove of the Mycenaean epoch, and from various tombs. The objects include bracelets, rings, ear-rings, vases of pottery, axes, knives, and many other things, besides about 100 skulls and other human remains of the epochs mentioned.

The Greek Deputation for London.

The Bishop of Kition, who with M. Stavrinaki, was chosen by the Greek members of the Legislative Council to proceed to England, has declined to act, and it has been decided that once more a larger and more representative meeting should be called—to consist of the Holy Synod, Greek members of the Council, and other leading Greeks from all parts of the island, with a view to arriving at further decisions. It is regrettable that more time and money should again be wasted over what can but be, if carried out, a futile mission.

More Visitors to Cyprus.

The Italian steamer President Wilson brought about 300 travellers, chiefly German, to Limassol. The majority visited Kolossi, a village about eight miles distant, to inspect a mediaeval tower built by the Hospitallers in the 14th century. Their name is preserved in a village, towards the north, called Spitali. It was at Limassol itself, which also contains an interesting mediaeval tower, that King Richard Cœur de Lion was married to Princess Berengaria.

Water Supply of the Capital.

As in so many past years, anxiety is once more felt at Nicosia, not only on account of a possible insufficiency of water, but owing to alleged inadequate supervision of channels against contamination. Whatever may be the responsibility of the Water Board, which is an active body, it would seem that it would be well if the whole question of the water supply could be taken up by the Government, and an increased supply provided for.

Canon Newham.

Canon Newham, Director of Education, who has been seriously ill in hospital at Nicosia, is better, and much gratification is expressed by all classes.



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The Ven. Archimandrite Gennadios Themalis, of The Greek Church Vicarage, Greek Church Street, Cardiff, who died on December 12, aged 78, left estate in England of the gross value of £4,086, with net personality £4,020. He left—£1,500 upon trust to use the income for the benefit of "some young man of my country who should so desire to study theology (he is to be most moral and intelligent), or if not used for this purpose it shall be used for teaching religious lessons in the schools of my country"; £400 for the church he established in Antwerp, the income to be paid to the priest for teaching religious lessons to the children of the community; £250 to the Clerical Association of the Clergy and its organ of publicity, *Clerical Association*; £250 to the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, Athens, and to their organ and newspaper, *New Creation*; £200 to the ethical and religious periodical, *Regeneration*; £300 to "my pupil and young chorister, Antony Arapis, who has repeated perseveringly since he was a child that he intends to become a priest," so that he may study theology, but if when he becomes of age he shall change his mind the said legacy shall lapse; £70 "with my blessing" to Helen Karavokyran, "because I used to live in her parents' house and taught her on my knees her religious duties when she was small"; £70 "with my blessing" to Virginia Rose Feorenzi, "because I lived and took my meals in her parents' house as a brother and she taught me music"; £300 for setting in order and publishing his MS. speeches or sermons, religious and moral discourses, Sunday lessons, various poems, etc., and the MS. treatise on the teaching of Greek music and for the publication of the picture of his representation in colours of the system of the five ancient Greek philosophers, some in pictures and some in his university note-books on psychology; £300 to the Church of St. Nicholas, Cardiff; £150 for the continuation of his work of sacred pictures; and £150 "to serve as first fruits of gifts" for the purchase of a plot of land for the burial of Orthodox Greeks; and £100 for the expenses of his funeral and £50 for distribution "to the poorest of the poor" after his funeral.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 1.

The Boycott of the Legislatures.

The Allahabad meeting of the All-India Congress Committee ended as was foreseen. The opposition throughout the country to any immediate resignation of Assembly and Council Congress members was too strong, and the Working Committee had to recommend to the larger Committee that the decision be postponed until the Congress meets at the end of the year in Lahore. The resolution passed is long, but it is too important not to give nearly in full. The text is:—

"In view of the general situation in the country, this meeting . . . is of opinion that the time has come when all national effort should be concentrated on the preparation of the country for a campaign of non-violent non-co-operation after December 31, 1929, and agrees . . . that all Congress members . . . should resign their seats to give effect to this campaign; but having regard to the views expressed by a considerable body of members . . . this Committee resolves that the question of withdrawal from the Legislatures do stand over till the forthcoming Congress at Lahore. This Committee further desires the public in general, and the members of the Legislatures in particular, to prepare for withdrawal . . . should such a course be necessary, on and from January 1 next. . . ."

Compromise.

More important than the decision was a note struck in the speech of Mr. Gandhi recommending that the resolution be passed. He said, as reported in the *Pioneer*: "In conclusion he asked those who listened to him not to forget that preparation and organisation alone sometimes frightened the enemy and avoided battle. From this point of view, therefore, they must not slacken their efforts at organisation. He therefore appealed especially to those legislators who wished to remain in the Councils during the next few months to realise the responsibility that lay on them." The speech was in Hindi. Mr. Gandhi was not satisfied with the summary in English that was published, and caused it to be published the next day that what he stressed was that preparation and organisation were means for avoiding battle, and that there was no suggestion of frightening the enemy. No indication could well be plainer than that, that Mr. Gandhi and Pandit Motilal Nehru do not want things to come to non-violent non-co-operation, civil disobedience, and non-payment of taxes (what a mouthful) after January 1; no "hint" to the Government of India and the British Legislature not to force them to resort to that could be broader.

The Way Out.

In the minds of these leaders, who now obviously do not want things to come to a crisis at the beginning of next year, the way out is a Round Table Conference between themselves and the British Cabinet, or a committee of it. That is why Mr. Gandhi made such a point of declaring himself a man for compromises. "But he for one," the report read, "was a man for compromises. He had made a compromise with Mr. C. R. Das and Pandit Motilal Nehru after his return from jail. Now it was not a question of compromise between him and Pandit Motilal Nehru, but between them both on one side and some of the Swarajists on the other." So he said, but the more important compromise in his mind (students of the subject in England must think of Mr. Gandhi as a subtle-minded man, one of somewhat the same kind as Disraeli) was one between the National Congress and Great Britain. An indication that this is so lies in the fact that the *Pioneer*, which has shown strong sympathy with the Congress, or the Nationalists generally, now writes in a modified and more conciliatory tone. It has changed as much as Gandhi has changed since last December in Calcutta, and in the same direction. On the

same day on which Mr. Gandhi's correction was published the *Pioneer* had a leading article in which such things as this occurred: "'Preparation and organisation,' says Mr. Gandhi, 'have sometimes frightened the enemy and avoided battle.' If we read his mind aright, and if we are doing him and his colleague in compromise, Pandit Motilal Nehru, no injustice, we believe that they sincerely wish to avoid this battle, and would most heartily and honestly welcome a peaceful solution."

The Congress Difficulties.

The Congress leaders may well desire a compromise. First, part of their following, the more active part too, is hot headed enough to think that the political severance of India and England is practical politics. That is rubbish, and the leaders know it. All moderate opinion in India desires a British army to keep out invaders. Secondly, to talk of non-violent non-co-operation, civil disobedience, and non-payment of taxes is easier than to rouse the whole country actively to carry out that policy. Would it even paralyse the Government of India, if carried out? Not every one by any means would refuse to pay taxes. I, for one, would pay my income tax; others would pay theirs. I, for one, would still want taxed tobacco to smoke, and some one would be found ready to import it, and pay the custom duty. Others would want their tobacco. So, while a great deal of the ordinary revenue would not be raised, a great deal of revenue would be. Then suppose the Government held up a few large cities to ransom, levied contributions on them, what answer would the Congress find to that? Or suppose there was a forced loan. Or suppose the British Government was found ready to finance the Government of India during the crisis. The Congress weapon might prove far too blunt. It would. The part that has already been tried, the boycott of foreign cloth, has proved too blunt a weapon. It fails; the traders' protest against it will militate against what partial success it has had. So the Congress leaders want to get out of the hole in which they have landed themselves.

New Muslim Parties.

Another indication that there are forces compelling the Congress leaders to seek to compromise their differences with the Government of India is that the need has been found to organise Muslim Parties in support of the Congress policy. The implication is that the bulk of the Muslims are indifferent or hostile. One of the new bodies bears as its name the Congress Muslim Party of Bombay. The other is an All-India Party, and is called the Nationalist Muslim Party. The Muhammadans of India are so divided, that they do not trouble whether you spell the word "Moslem," or "Muslim." That, however, is a very small matter. Pandit Motilal Nehru addressed a letter of congratulation to Mr. Brelvi on the formation of the Congress Muslim Party of Bombay. "I heartily welcome the formation of the Congress Muslim Party," he wrote, "and wish it every success. Nothing can be more disastrous to our political emancipation than the hostile attitude adopted by some Muslim reactionaries towards the Indian National Congress. They are trying to revive the early days of the Congress, when Mussalmans kept aloof from the great national institution on unwarranted suspicions similar to those they are now instilling in the minds of their co-religionists."

The "Reactionaries."

It is not by any means only a matter of "some reactionaries." Mr. Mahomed Ali, in answer to a question put to him as a witness before the Riots Inquiry Committee in Bombay, said: "I am still a Congressman, will go to the Congress and argue with Congressmen, but unfortunately it has become a Hindu communal organisation. Pandit Motilal has not the courage to stand against Dr. Moonje, with the result that the Hindu Mahasabha is all-powerful in the Congress to-day. Hindu leaders, except on one occasion, have failed to condemn Hindu aggression. The Hindu political leaders pretend to be

nationalists, but are really communalists." That answer was given several days after the publication of the Pandit's letter to Mr. Brelvi. In that letter he argued that there were no real grounds for Muslim suspicion of the Congress. His arguments have clearly made no impression on Mr. Mahomed Ali. I may add that he is the Mahomed Ali, not another man of the same name.

Land Revenue Matters.

Of Bardoli and land revenue matters generally I have written more than once. I have not yet succeeded in meeting any one sufficiently well informed in that obscure subject to explain clearly to me how in a sphere of administration that we were all led by Curzon to think was the last sphere in which Government would be found to be at fault—how in that sphere, ever since 1922, or some such date, Government would have appeared to have acted on wrong principles. It is very strange. The Government Settlement officers are understood to be highly expert men. Yet they may err so gravely, apparently, that a body of mere peasant cultivators know they have no case that will bear looking into. This appears so. Perhaps it is a legacy from the Great War. There is a promise of legislation in the Bombay Presidency, and, I believe elsewhere.

ANGLO-INDIANS AND THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

(From a Correspondent.)

Colonel Gidney, the leader of the Anglo-Indian community, has submitted, to the Statutory Commission and to the Viceroy, a supplementary note on the question of unemployment among Anglo-Indians. He discusses in detail the various aspects of this difficult problem; and, if his facts and figures are to be depended upon, it would certainly seem that the prospects of the community are gloomy. Most of the avenues of employment which have been hitherto open to them are, Colonel Gidney says, being closed. It is true that the number employed on the Indian railways has increased with the expansion of the railway system; but other communities show a very much larger proportionate increase. And in all other State services, whether central or provincial, and in commerce, in industry, and elsewhere, the Anglo-Indians are suffering from a steady decrease of employment. As a general rule the Indian is willing to accept a lower scale of pay; and this willingness is helping him as regards commercial and industrial avocations. And so far as regards Government service Indianisation is now the accepted policy.

According to the Note it is this policy which is the chief cause of the trouble; for the community has always depended primarily on the State and the Railways for employment. Colonel Gidney estimates that at the present time the number of employed Anglo-Indian men throughout the country is about 22,400. Of these the great majority work on the railways—which are now chiefly State lines—or in the various Government services and departments such as, for example, the Posts and Telegraphs, Customs, Excise, Police and so forth. Of the minority some are teachers and some follow the learned professions, while others are in business, and others work on the land. It is admitted in the Note that until the introduction of the Reforms the community—depending on the Government—lived "in the pseudo-security of a measure of preferential treatment." The Reforms scheme with its policy of Indianisation came as a rude awakening.

The community was then and still is, Colonel Gidney says, in a state of educational unpreparedness. Its members are not educationally equipped for the open competition in which they are required to face; and it follows that for the time being "Indianisation can only mean anti-Anglo-Indianisation." Colonel Gidney further complains that cases are "on record where Anglo-Indians

have been discharged to be replaced by Indians pursuant to this policy of Indianisation." But the community, by approaching the Secretary of State, has arrested this deprivation to some extent. It claimed protection under an Act of Parliament which enacts that Anglo-Indians are natives of India for economic purposes. And the Government has since declared that, being statutory natives of India, Anglo-Indians must be included in all schemes of Indianisation, and must eventually run a level race with the Indians. In other words, they are natives of India; and this status, Colonel Gidney says, the community has definitely decided to accept.

Regarding themselves as natives of India the Anglo-Indians are not opposed to the realisation of self-Government. But, like all the Minority communities, they are apprehensive of the future. They fear that a further devolution of power from the Europeans to the Indians will prejudicially affect their interests, and will handicap them to an even greater extent than they are now handicapped in the competition for a livelihood. They want some form of safeguard against this eventuality. They ask that they may "not be crushed under the wheels of any speedy chariot of political experiment or advancement, and that the right to live consistent with their European standard, culture, and Christian religion may not be denied them." Their fears in this connexion are not groundless, as there is a decided tendency on the part of the Indians to regard them as aliens, and to refuse to accept them as natives of India for employment purposes.

It is quite possible therefore that the Anglo-Indians may not get fair play even though they accept the status of Natives of India. And they are therefore entitled to ask for that consideration which every minority community in India has a right to expect from the British Parliament. They are also justified in calling attention, as is done in the Note, to the anomaly of the existing system of European education in India. The Indians are educated on one system; the Anglo-Indians on another. The Indian looks to the Indian universities for higher education. The Anglo-Indian takes the Cambridge Local Examinations. This difference has tended, Col. Gidney thinks, to separate the Indians from the Anglo-Indians. It has brought about a cleavage; and it has induced "an educational superiority complex" on the part of the Anglo-Indians. And what is more it tends to alienate the sympathy of the Indians at a time when the future of the community must depend on the existence of good relations with them. There is force in the contention that the question should be considered, for if the Anglo-Indians are henceforth to have the status of natives of India there should be a uniform system of education for all Indians alike.

INDIA AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Sir Mohamed Habibulla, who is leading the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations, the personnel of which was announced in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of June 26, has arrived in London, accompanied by his son and his secretary, Mr. G. S. Bajpai, I.C.S.

The party were received by a large number of Indians, among whom were the Maharaja of Burdwan, Sir Umar Hayat Khan, Dr. Paranjpye (representing the India Office), Mr. S. E. Gupta (representing the High Commissioner for India), Mr. and Mrs. Nehru (representing the India Social Club), and Mr. M. C. Raja (of the Indian Central Committee).

Sir Mohamed will remain in London until the end of the month conferring with his colleagues and the India Office.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Dwarka Nath Mitter as Puisne Judge of the High Court of Calcutta, in the vacancy which will be created by the retirement of Mr. Justice Bepin Behari Ghosh on September 3 next.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 22, 1929 (New Style).

August 9, 1929 (Old Style).

Rabia I, 16, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab 16, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Hesketh Bell left London last week for Yugoslavia.

Lady Edward Spencer Churchill will leave England for Belgrade on August 29.

Major Sir Archibald and Lady Boyd-Carpenter left England for a cruise in the Orsova on August 17.

Sir John Chancellor, High Commissioner for Palestine, is returning to-day (Thursday) to Jerusalem.

Sir Thomas and Lady Pile are leaving at the end of this month for a cruise to Spain and Greece.

The Maharaja of Rajpipla left London on August 15 for Paris.

Sir Abe Bailey gave a dinner party at 38, Bryanston Square on August 21, to meet Sir John Chancellor, High Commissioner for Palestine.

Baron de Robeck and Sir D'Arcy Lindsay were among the passengers who left last week in the Mantua for Bombay.

Sir Percy Loraine was received in audience by the King on August 15, and kissed hands upon his appointment as High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan.

M. Georges Cattau, Secretary to the Royal Egyptian Legation, left London on August 15 for St. Moritz on leave, and will be away for about two months.

Mrs. Cressy-Marcks has arrived in Europe from Bombay in the Maloja. She returned to her Buxton house on August 17.

King Fuad of Egypt left Paris on August 17 for Naples, where he will embark for Alexandria. He was accompanied by the Egyptian Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Sesostri Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Athens and Belgrade, left London on August 15 for Paris, where he met King Fuad.

Mr. Akio Kasama, Japanese delegate to the International Labour Office, has been appointed Minister in Teheran. The Japanese Legation in Teheran was established on August 8.

The Turkish Ambassador left London last week for Angora on leave, and will return in October. Mme. Ferid Bey has left for Switzerland. During the absence of the Ambassador, Sevkhi Pasha, Counsellor, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

The Foreign Office announces that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Sydney Philip Perigal Waterlow, C.B.E., formerly his Majesty's Minister in Bangkok, who was appointed his Majesty's Minister in Addis Ababa in November last, and succeeded in that office by Sir Sidney Barton, K.B.E., in March, to be his Majesty's Minister in Sofia in succession to Mr. R. A. C. Sperling, C.M.G. Mr. Waterlow entered the Diplomatic Service in 1900.

It was announced from Khartoum last week that sentence of death on one of the native murderers of Capt. V. H. Ferguson, who was killed on December 12, 1927, has been confirmed by the Acting Governor-General of the Sudan.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Remains of Serbian soldiers who died fighting on the French front have been brought to Split by the cruiser Dalmatia.

The Soviet Government of Russia is reported to have issued a decree prohibiting the use of Arabic characters for printing.

The diplomatic mission from the Wahhabi King, Ibn Saud, was received by the Shah of Persia on August 12 in Teheran.

It is reported that over 1,000 houses have been destroyed and many persons drowned by the floods in Tabriz.

Two more generals have been appointed Grand Zupans of the Kossovo province of Yugoslavia, and another general to be Grand Zupan in the Srem.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that Field-Marshal Lord Allenby, Colonel of the Life Guards and the 16th/5th Lancers, has been appointed Honorary Colonel of the 5th Battalion, the Welch Regiment, Territorial Army.

The first meeting of the Council of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, as reorganised in virtue of the recent decision of the Zionist Congress, opened on August 11 in Zurich in the presence of about 2,000 visitors, including representatives of the Swiss Government and the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

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THE PERSO-IRAQI FRONTIER ON THE SHATT AL ARAB.

(From a Correspondent.)

Lands intersected by a narrow forth
Abhor each other. Mountains interposed
Make enemies of nations who had else
Like kindred drops been mingled into one.
Cowper—"The Task" (Bk. II.).

Of no frontier are Cowper's lines truer than of the section of the Perso-Iraqi frontier with which this essay deals, although in this case, as in many others, geographical considerations are secondary to those of language and environment.

Basrah was conquered by the Turks in 1688, and was held by them till they were ejected by the Indian Expeditionary Force in 1914, though it was held, for a year by the Persians under Sadiq Khan, brother of Karim Khan Zand, in 1777, and for a shorter period by the Muntafiq Arabs in 1787.

The authority both of Persia and of Turkey over the lands which they respectively claimed at the head of the Persian Gulf was insecure during the whole of the eighteenth century, nor were geographical conditions stable. The Karun, which till 1766 had no natural connexion with the Shatt al Arab or Bahmishir channels, and entered the Persian Gulf *via* Qubban and the Khor Musa, changed its bed in that year, and carved out a new channel for itself along an artificial canal which had been dug as a boat channel from Marid to Khumbek on the Bahmishir, which thus became the main stream of the Karun.*

As a consequence of this geographical change, the village of Muhammarah began to assume commercial importance, and, indeed, to rival Basrah as an emporium of trade: it was held by the K'ab Arabs, who, though originally emigrants from Turkish territory, had since 1765 (when they defeated the Turks in a naval engagement) ceased to be Turkish subjects, and in due course became, *vi et armis*, subject to Persia. In 1837 the Turks seized Muhammarah, plundered and destroyed it. Haji Jabir, who was at the time deputy of the Kab Shaikhs, whose headquarters were at Fallahiyah, on the Jarrahi, appealed, not in vain, to the Persian Government, and from this date the active intervention of the latter in the affairs of Muhammarah began. The Bahmishir was, however, still mainly used by boats bound for Muhammarah. At this period the position was fairly clear: the territorial rights belonged *de jure* to Turkey—*de facto* to Persia, and a diplomatic tug-of-war was in the circumstances inevitable. Persia claimed an indemnity of one million pounds sterling, Turkey claimed Muhammarah, the island of Abadan and the surrounding territory. A rupture appeared imminent, and Great Britain and Russia offered mediation. This was reluctantly accepted, and resulted in the Treaty of Erzeroum, signed in 1847 and ratified at Constantinople in 1848. This Treaty included the following stipulation:—

Art. 2 (Extract).

The State of Turkey also firmly undertakes that the town and seaport of Muhammarah, and the Island Al Khizr, and the anchorage place, and also the lands of the eastern bank, i.e., of the left side of the Shatt-al-Arab, which are in the possession of tribes acknowledgedly attached to Persia, shall be in possession of the State of Persia, in full sovereignty. And besides this, Persian ships shall

* Kinneir, "Geographical Memoir of the Persian Empire, 1813."

have the right to navigate the said river in full liberty, from the place where it flows into the sea, as far as the point of junction of the frontiers of the two parties.

Before the Turkish Government consented to ratify this Treaty it secured from Great Britain and Russia certain "explanations" of the Treaty: with these explanations we need not here concern ourselves, as they do not directly affect the present question.

The Treaty, however, laid down no definite boundary, and in 1850 the limitrophe Powers (Persia and Turkey) and the Mediating Powers (Russia and Great Britain) appointed representatives to fix a line. The Commissioners of the Mediating Powers made recommendations in 1850, which were not accepted, and it was not till 1869 that their conclusions were presented, in the unsatisfactory form of a map of the frontier on which two lines were marked, within which in their opinion the frontier lay.

Meanwhile, on the Shatt al Arab, a *modus vivendi* had been reached on both the territorial question and the line along the river: the latter had been tacitly agreed to be the *medium filum aquæ*, islands on the West and East of which belonged to Turkey and Persia respectively as riparian owners. On the water itself both parties exercised rights of police and Customs supervision, not without occasional bickerings, but with a fair measure of agreement.

When, however, in 1910 the question of the frontier was raised afresh, it was inevitable that the diplomatic basis should be the Treaty of 1848, and it was in accordance with its provisions that a line was agreed on by the Persian and Turkish plenipotentiaries at Constantinople in November, 1913.

But in the Shatt al Arab important concessions were made to the geographical and commercial changes that had taken place since 1848. The Treaty of Erzeroum allotted to Persia the port and anchorage in the Karun opposite the old town of Muhammarah and lying between that town on the one bank and the island of Abadan on the other. The agreed boundary awarded to Persia as the anchorage of the town of Muhammarah one-half of the Shatt al Arab for about one mile below to a point some four miles above the mouth of the Karun, a substantial modification the expediency of which was dictated by the fact that modern steamers could in no case anchor opposite the old town of Muhammarah as in former days. In other respects the boundary line in the region of the Shatt al Arab complied with the clear meaning of the Erzeroum Treaty by following low-water mark of the Abadan shore and the islands adjacent thereto, thus creating, as may well be imagined, an anomalous situation at the modern port of Abadan. This boundary line was in due course demarcated on the ground in 1914 by Perso-Turkish Frontier Commissioners, assisted by British and Russian Commissioners with powers of arbitration.

Had it been suggested to the Turkish Government in the course of negotiations at Constantinople in 1911-1913 that Persia should be given an anchorage in the Shatt al Arab, in the same way and of the same size as that conceded above and below the mouth of the Karun, it is highly probable that it would have been conceded. As far as is known, no such suggestion was ever made by the Governments principally interested, *viz.*, the Persian and the British Governments—a regrettable omission, for oil shipments were already being made though only to the amount of 40,000 tons in 1912 (seven months) and 80,000 tons in 1913.

The British Government were at this juncture doubtless influenced by the fact that the Turkish Government had, in the course of the comprehensive Anglo-Turkish negotiations then current in connexion with the Baghdad Railway and other matters, agreed in principle to establish under their own control a Conservancy Commission for the lighting, buoying, and, if need be, dredging of the Shatt al Arab, the first Director or which was to be a distinguished British engineer. With this prospect in view they no doubt thought that any anomalies that might arise from the inconvenient frontier prescribed by the

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Treaty of Erzeroum would be amicably adjusted on the spot.

A few days after the last boundary pillar of the Turco-Persian frontier had been erected and the final protocol signed, Turkey declared war on Russia, and threw in its lot with the Central Powers. A month later a British Expeditionary Force entered Basrah, and the control of the Shatt al Arab was temporarily vested under military and international law in the hands of the British Commander-in-Chief on the spot, who, five years later, in 1919, delegated his powers by proclamation to the Director of the Port of Basrah, subject to the administrative control of the Civil Administration of Mesopotamia. The regulations drawn up for the guidance of the Port Director were in conformity with the Treaty of Erzeroum, and gave administrative effect, for the first time, to the decisions of the Constantinople protocols of 1912 relative to the Turco-Persian frontier and to the frontier demarcated on the ground by the Frontier Commission in 1914. A pilotage service was organised, lights and buoys and steering marks were erected, with admirable efficiency, and with a minimum of friction with the Persian Government's representatives: harbour masters were provided at Magil to berth ships, and were likewise allotted for the same purpose to Abadan.

When a National Government came into being in Iraq, the ultimate control of the Port Directorate passed as a matter of course to the Iraq Government, subject at first, however, to a greater degree of supervision on the part of the High Commissioner than in the case of other Departments, as the port wharves, and other assets, were the property of the British Government. The intention was, and apparently still is, to create a Port Authority on the lines of the Port Trusts that exist in most of the great ports of the world; but the technical difficulties involved have hitherto proved insurmountable, and the Director continues to work as an official of the Iraq Government, under the control of the Finance Department. Under his auspices, the Port has been managed with notable efficiency and economy, and the bar of the Shatt al Arab has been dredged to a depth of 28 feet, the necessary funds being placed at the disposal of the Iraq Government by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., whose tankers constitute the greater part of the total traffic on the Shatt al Arab as far as Abadan.

Yet the situation remains anomalous, for whilst the control of the river is vested wholly in one of the limitrophe States, namely, Iraq, the bulk of the shipping is bound for Persian ports—Abadan and Muhammarah—and the Persian authorities are unable to place police and Customs patrols on the river, as of old. Hence, no doubt, a good deal of local friction, and the decision of the Shah to press forward schemes for a deep water port in Persian waters at Khor Musa, connected by rail with the interior. The success of this project, however, will not make it any less necessary to reach a reasonable readjustment of the frontier régime on the Shatt al Arab. It is emphatically not a case for arbitration, for the only point that could be submitted to the decision of an arbitral tribunal would be, in present circumstances, the interpretation to be placed on the relevant clauses of the Treaty of Erzeroum, and the verdict is scarcely in doubt. On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that though by common law, failing specific provision to the contrary, as in the unique case of the Shatt al Arab, the riparian States own the bed of the stream to the *medium filum aquæ*, it has been repeatedly held that the land only is thus owned, not the water in the stream, which is not deemed capable of private ownership. The right to use the water, whether for irrigation, power, or navigational purposes, is, however, subject to the obligation not to inflict substantial damage to other riparian owners, up or down stream.

It is clear, therefore, that there is every ground and much need for a diplomatic settlement, which will take into account the change that has taken place in conditions since the frontier was settled in 1912. It is time to abandon the attempt to administer the Shatt al Arab in

1929 on the lines laid down in 1847. Change is a function of growth, and if Treaties are to be respected, means must in the long run be found to modify them to meet changing conditions, such as those which have followed as a consequence of the Treaty of Lausanne. The Shatt al Arab is the only international river of the Old World which is subject to unilateral control. So long as control on these lines is maintained, it will continue to separate, rather than to unite, and to be a source of friction, rather than an aid to communication.

It should not be beyond the scope of practical diplomacy for Great Britain, as the Power principally concerned, to bring together the riparian owners, Iraq and Persia, with a view to the conclusion of a tri-partite agreement which would form the basis for a permanent settlement of the many local issues involved.

THE SYRIAN PRESS.

Muslim Waqfs in Syria.

[The Muslim *waqfs* (pious foundations) of Syria were administered during the Turkish régime by the Government. They had been administered hitherto under the French Mandate by a board of supervision and control presided over by a Frenchman. This arrangement has called forth loud and frequent protests. It is now reported that the *Haut Commissariat* has opened an inquiry into the matter. The board of control's proposal appears to be that the *waqfs* should be administered in future by the local authorities, and this proposal is resisted by the Muslim Nationalists on the ground that the local authorities are not free agents. We reproduce the leading article on this subject that was published in the issue of *al-Shaab* dated August 2.—ED.]

We have referred on various occasions to the question of the Muslim *waqfs*. This administration and its board of control, which employs officials appointed by the French authorities and not responsible to the Muslims, is under the thumb of the *Haut Commissariat*. Whenever the opportunity occurred, we have demanded that this supervision should cease as soon as the Syrian Constitution was promulgated, and that the *waqfs*, as the Islamic Council of Beyrouth has requested, should be handed over to the Muslims to whom they belong, in order that they may be administered by national councils elected for the purpose. In connexion with the board of control's present proposal that these *waqfs* should be handed over to the local authorities, we mentioned some time ago the counter-proposal made by the Islamic Council of Beyrouth, that religious councils should be elected *ad hoc* to take over the administration of the *waqfs*, religious (shariah) law cases, schools, orphanages, hospitals, and, generally, all similar Muslim institutions, on the ground that this is what Muslim opinion demands and approves. We called upon the *Haut Commissariat* to comply with the wishes of the Muslims and to accede to their joint demands by handing over to them the *waqf* administration and by rejecting the board of control's proposal, as being inspired by interests that debar the Muslims from the enjoyment of their property and its superintendence through their own representative courts. We fear, however, that the *Haut Commissariat* may have decided to adopt the proposal put forward by the board of control, whether by confirming it or modifying it, and to carry it through in the teeth of Muslim opposition in Syria, in spite of the fact that the board's proposals are contrary to Muslim interests, this, too, at a moment when all the Muslims, both of the coast and the interior, are agreed in demanding that their *waqfs* should be restored to them and taken out of the hands of the little ring that has fastened upon them and mismanaged them.

In our opinion the text of the Constitution and the vote of the Beyrouth Islamic Council should be enough to induce the *Haut Commissariat* to make over to the Muslims what is nothing more than their due, to renounce the exploitation of the *waqfs*, and to take them out of the hands of the present board. Further, if these reasons are not enough to assure to the Muslims their rights, we do not know how this exploitation and control of the Muslim *waqfs* can be justified, when the *waqfs* of all the other communities have been handed over to them years ago. The Muslims alone are distinguished by this mark of disfavour and deprived of their rights, while their *waqfs* are seized by a set of profiteers who have laid their hands on them and take what they please.

We desire to state that the whole responsibility for the continuance of the present state of affairs and the results that are likely to arise from it rests with the *Haut Commissariat*, and if this fact should lead the *Haut Commissariat* to hand over the *waqfs* to the local authorities (as the board of control, inspired, of course, from above, has proposed) and the courts erected by them, the responsibility for doing so still lies with the *Haut Commissariat*, for everyone knows that though local authorities are triumphant our courts are mere ciphers behind which stands the Mandatory Power and whose course every French official can direct as he likes.

Accordingly, if the *Haut Commissariat* wishes to be relieved from the responsibility of allowing the Muslim *waqfs* to fall into decay and ruin, it must hand them over to the Muslims, their rightful owners, and to no one else. Let the Muslims have the responsibility of their administration and reform, let them deal with them as they

see best, but to impose their administration on the Muslims through the agency of phantom courts, acting in pursuance of the *Haut Commissariat's* wishes and inspired by its behests, will not in the least relieve it from the responsibility of ruining the *waqfs*.

Lastly, if the Mandatory Power is persuaded that the Muslims of the coast and the interior are incapable of administering their *waqfs*, that they need the guidance of leading-strings, and that the other communities deserve more than they to be given independence and the management of their *waqfs* and other religious matters, she is making a grave mistake. The Muslims of Syria are quite capable of managing their own vital concerns, they do not at all need the guidance of leading-strings. In the sphere of politics and social life they have given proof of a high enough degree of culture to fit them for the loftiest stages of liberty and independence. The policy of their adversaries is dictated simply by self-interest and greed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

RECENT EVENTS IN NAJD.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The inaccuracies which occasionally appear in the letters of your Jidda Correspondent have recently aroused comment, among some at least of your readers who are acquainted with the facts of recent events in Najd. Your number of June 6 provides a notable example of the curious errors of your Jidda Correspondent, who takes on himself the duty of relating the course of events on the Persian Gulf coast from a distance of several hundred miles away in the Hijaz.

Among numerous inaccuracies in the letter to which I refer, the most remarkable is that contained in the paragraph which begins: "Of greater relative importance, however, are the operations undertaken by Abdulla ibn Jiluwi against the Ajman sections which have recently been prominent in Kuwait territory; they appear to have been heavily dealt with and their leader, Dhaidan ibn Hithlain, is reported officially to have been killed. These operations should secure a long period of peace . . ."

The true facts of this regrettable incident are as follows. A part of the Ajman tribe, under their Shaikh Dhaidan ibn Hithlain, had openly declared against King Ibn Saoud, and allied themselves with the rebel *Ikhwan*. A large force, consisting partly of townsmen of the Hasa and partly of contingents from the Bani Khalid, Al Murra, Bani Hajir and loyal Ajman, were dispatched against them, under the command of Fahad ibn Jiluwi, the son of Abdulla ibn Jiluwi ibn Saoud, Governor of the Hasa. The rival armies faced one another near Sarrar, the home of Dhaidan ibn Hithlain. An exchange of letters ensued, the exact contents of which are not known. As a result, however, Dhaidan, with a few horsemen, visited Fahad, and dismounted at his tent.

It is difficult to say whether Fahad in reality contemplated treachery or not, but a report was carried back to Dhaidan's followers that their chief had been treacherously kidnapped. The Ajman, greatly excited, advanced to avenge their leader, and delivered a night attack on ibn Jiluwi's army. Dhaidan ibn Hithlain was apparently killed by the orders of Fahad ibn Jiluwi, who was himself killed shortly afterwards by a man of the Ajman. The "loyal" Ajman joined their rebel cousins, while the remaining badawin contingent fled without firing a shot. Fighting continued between the rebels and the Hasa townsmen until dawn, when the remnants of the latter made good their escape. The action was a complete and unexpected victory for the rebel Ajman, who are still in arms against King Ibn Saoud.

In view of the wide circulation and educative value of your paper, I have ventured to trespass on your space to correct these inaccuracies. Deeply as all those who desire peace and good order in Arabia may sympathise with King Ibn Saoud in his present difficulties, the dissemination of

faulty information on the subject can, in the long run, do nothing but harm.—I am, etc.,
July 20. "VERITY."

NON-ARAB TRIBES IN SOUTH ARABIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I am writing with reference to the recent correspondence on the subject of Non-Arab Tribes in South Arabia.

I have in my possession a very old book, "The Koran, Translated into English," etc., etc., to which is prefixed "A Preliminary Discourse, By George Sale, Gent." "Printed in 1734"; and in relation to the various points raised by your correspondents a few extracts from this book may prove of interest.

I will give the extracts under their sub-titles as they appear in the book, word for word.

"THE PROVINCE OF YAMAN." The province of YAMAN so called from its "situation to the RIGHT HAND, or fourth of the temple of MECCA," or else from the HAPPINESS AND VERDURE of its soil, extends along the INDIAN ocean from ADEN to cape RASALGAT, part of the RED sea bounds it on the west and south sides, and the province of HEJAZ on the north. It is subdivided into several provinces, as HADRAMUT, SHIHR, OMAN, NAJRAN, etc., of which SHIHR alone produces the FRANK-INCENSE. The metropolis of YAMAN is SANAA, a very ancient city, in former times called OZAL, and much celebrated for its delightful situation, but the prince at present resides about five leagues northward from thence, at a place no less pleasant, called HISHN ALMAWAHEB, or the CASTLE OF DELIGHT.

This country has been famous from all antiquity for the happiness of its climate, its fertility and riches, which induced ALEXANDER THE GREAT, after his return from his INDIAN expedition, to form a design for conquering it, and fixing there his royal seat; but his death, which happened soon after, prevented the execution of this project, etc., etc., etc.

"THE TRIBE OF AD." The tribe of Ad were descended from AD, son of AWS, (or Uz, Gen. x. 22.23.) the son of ARAM, the son of SEM, the son of Noah, who after the confusion of tongues settled in AL AHKAF, or the WINDING SANDS in the province of HADRAMAUT, where his prosperity greatly multiplied. Their first king was SHERAD, the son of AD, of whom the eastern writers deliver many fabulous things, particularly that he finished the magnificent city his father had begun, wherein he built a fine palace adorned with delicious gardens, to embellish which he spared neither cost nor labour, proposing thereby to create in his subjects a superstitious veneration of himself as a God. This garden or paradise was called the garden of IREM, and is mentioned in the KORAN, and often alluded to by oriental writers. The city they tell us is still standing in the deserts of ADEN, being preserved by providence as a monument of divine justice, tho' it be invisible, unless very rarely, when God permits it to be seen, a favour one COLABAB pretended to have received in the reign of KHALIF MOAWIYAB, who sending for him to know the truth of the matter COLABAB related his whole adventure; that he was seeking a camel which he had lost, he found himself on a sudden at the gates of this city, and entering it saw not one inhabitant at which being terrified, he stayed no longer than to take with him some fine stones which he shewed the KHALIF.

The descendants of AD in process of time falling from the worship of the true God into idolatry, God sent the prophet HUD (who is generally agreed to be HEBER) to preach to and reclaim them. But they refusing to acknowledge his mission or obey him, God sent a hot and suffocating wind, which blew seven nights and eight days altogether, and entering at their nostrils past thro' their bodies, and destroyed them all, a very few only excepted, who had believed in HUD, and retired with him to another place. That prophet afterwards returned into HADRAMAUT, and was buried near HASEC, where there is a small town now standing called KABR HUD, or the SEPULCHRE OF HUD, etc., etc., etc.

"THE INUNDATION OF ARAM." The first great calamity that befell the tribes settled in YAMAN was the inundation of ARAM, which happened soon after the time of ALEXANDER THE GREAT, and is famous in ARABIAN history. No less than eight tribes were forced to abandon their dwellings upon this occasion, some of which gave rife to the two kingdoms of GHASSAN and HIRA, etc., etc., etc.

The tribes which remained in YAMAN after this terrible devastation, still continued under the obedience of the former princes, till about 70 years before MOHAMMED, when the king of ETHIOPIA sent over forces to assist the CHRISTIANS of YAMAN against the cruel persecution of their king DHU NOWAS, a bigotted JEW, whom they drove to that extremity, that he forced his horse into the sea, and so lost his life and crown; after which the country was governed by four ETHIOPIAN princes successively; till SEIF the son of DHU YAZAN of the tribe of HAMYAR obtaining succours from KHOSRU ANUSHIRWAN, king of PERSIA, which had been denied by the emperor HERACLIUS, recovered the throne and drove out the ETHIOPIANS, but was himself slain by some of them who were left behind. The PERSIANS appointed the suc-

ceeding princes till YAMAN fell into the hand of MOHAMMED, to whom BAZAN, or rather BADHAN, the last of them, submitted, and embraced his new religion.

This kingdom of the HAMYARITIES is said to have lasted 2020 years, or as other say above 3000, the length of the reign of each prince being very uncertain.

"THEIR LANGUAGE, LEARNING, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ETC., BEFORE MOHAMMED." The ARABIC language is undoubtedly one of the most ancient in the world, and arose soon after, if not at, the confusion of BABEL. There were several dialects of it, very different from each other; the most remarkable were that spoken by the tribe of HAMYAR and the other genuine ARABS and that of the Koreish. The HAMYARITIC seems to have approached nearer to the purity of the SYRIAC, than the dialect of any other tribe; for the ARABS acknowledge their father YARAB to have been the first whole tongue deviated from the SYRIAC (which was his mother tongue, and is almost generally acknowledged by the ASIATICS to be the most ancient) to the Arabic.

The map in Sale's book shows the coast line of the province of Hadramaut as reaching from Lasaa, a few miles east of Aden to within a few miles of Dhafar. Dhafar is shown as in the province of Shiha.

Is it possible that the Non-Arab tribes to which Mr. Thomas refers are descendants of the Ethiopian forces?

—I am, etc.,

"INTERESTED."

July 30.

ALBANIA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—In your issue of June 27, I read with great interest the comments you made on Albania, on Mgr. Fan Noli, and on the present King of the Albanians, Zogu I.

I must admit that your statements were absolutely correct. There is no comparison between the King of Albania and Fan Noli as far as popularity, influence, and power in Albania are concerned. Fan Noli is a patriot, but though well known among the Albanians in the United States of America, he is very little known in Albania. Ahmed Zogu has been a leader since he was sixteen years old.

Such being the case, I consider your remarks very logical. Nevertheless, every Albanian is duty-bound to make known the sufferings of the Albanian people, who are in need of protection. The fate of the Albanians was decided in London, and Sir Edward Grey was the man to mark the boundary line of Albania. The Albanians to-day consider England as the creator of free and independent Albania. The Albanians are familiar with the fact that Great Britain has done a great deal for Albania. They appreciate what Gladstone, Lord Bryon, E. M. Durham, Peacock and others have done for the Albanian cause.

The Governments of the great nations must keep an eye on the affairs of the small nations and on those who are under the yoke of some other Government, which must be bound to international and humanitarian laws. Some nations in the Balkans, however, do not respect such laws, and commit terrible things on those who desire to upkeep their customs, their language and the ordinary rights of human beings.

THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA has, in my opinion, the distinction of being impartial, and I hope it will do justice by protecting the rights of Albania; and by doing this will assist the unfortunate and suffering Albanians. The Albanians have the right to depend on the protection of Great Britain for two reasons: (1) England is an impartial nation in the Balkans, and her advice will be listened to by the Balkan nations; and (2) Great Britain knows well how to help nations from her own experience—for all nations under the English Government are living happy and content. Such being the case, I hereby ask you to take the place of the good Samaritan and help the Albanian cause.—I am, etc.,

ATHANAS THIEMEL BODI.

48, Boyeston Street, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

The raising of the Persian Consulate-General at Baghdad to the status of a Legation is officially announced in Teheran.

The choice of the name of Andrew for Yugoslavia's youngest prince, who was christened at Bled on August 14, has aroused great enthusiasm in Slovenia, where the name is common.

The British and United States Ambassadors in Turkey went last week on a ten days' voyage round the Turkish ports on the Black Sea.

The Court of Appeal at Eskishehr has confirmed the sentences recently passed at Smyrna on 24 Communists who were convicted of spreading subversive propaganda. It is stated that they will be imprisoned at Sivarek.

The King has approved the General Service Medal with Clasp "Southern Desert, Iraq" being granted to personnel of the Royal Air Force who took part in the operations against the Akhwan in the Southern Desert, Iraq, between January 8 and June 3, 1928.

Book Review

SCHWEICH LECTURES, 1926.

"PALESTINE IN GENERAL HISTORY." By Theodore H. Robinson, J. W. Hunkin and F. C. Burkitt. *The Schweich Lectures of the British Academy, 1926* (Published for the British Academy by Humphrey Millard, Oxford University Press. 6s.)

Professor Robinson describes Palestine's foreign relations from the earliest times to 612 B.C., and Mr. Hunkin carries on the story to the destruction of the Jewish State by Titus in 70 A.D. Each discusses his allotted period briefly and lightly within the limits of a single lecture, and the result is a handy and by no means unreadable summary of the heavy mass of research and intelligent guesswork that has during the last half century accumulated around the subject of Western Asia from Hittite to Roman times. Seen within this perspective Palestine appears merely as a tiny buffer state:—

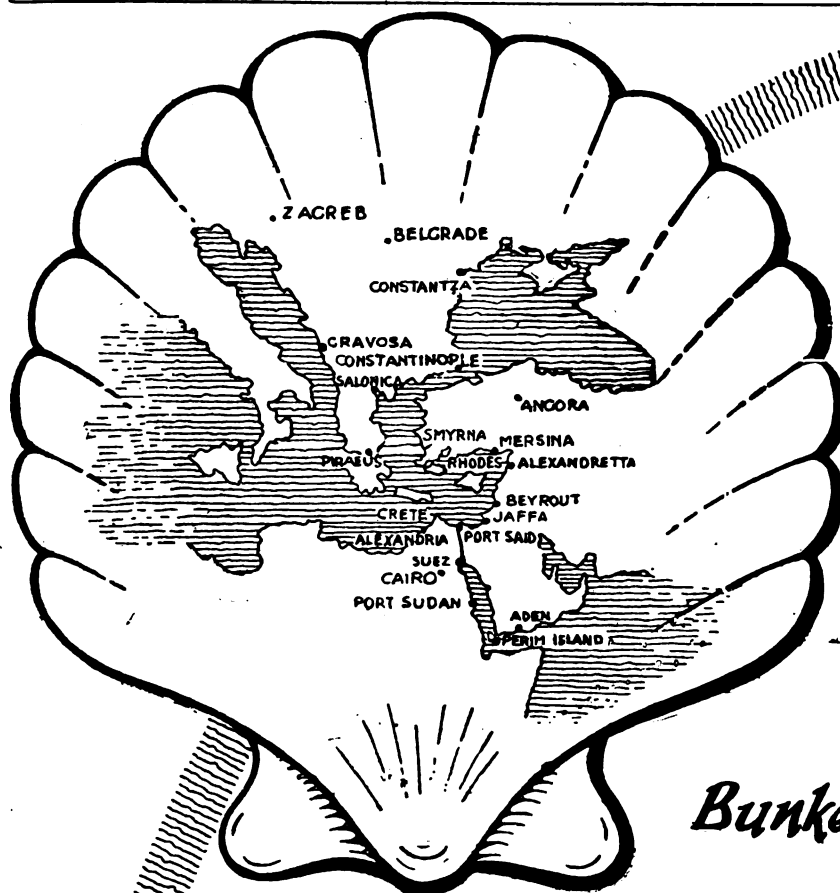
Palestine was from the earliest times a bridge between the great civilisations of the ancient world; and how the land became a desirable, indeed a necessary possession, is seen as soon as one or the other began to aim at universal empire. She was thus dominated in turn by the Egyptians, by the Hittites, and by the Assyrians, and might have become the seat of a Philistine Empire but for the rise of Israel. Yet even that people failed to secure independence except for short intervals during which both the great powers were distracted by internal troubles.

Mr. Hunkin's lecture on Palestine's links with its greater neighbours, from the time of the neo-Babylonian Empire, through the Persian and Hellenistic ages, up to the Roman conquest, is an able boiling-down of much learning, and has the advantage of being abundantly illustrated by photographs of contemporary material—material familiar enough, but usefully collected here.

Professor Burkitt, in the third lecture, maintains his reputation for fresh ideas and a readableness often on the level of good journalism. His contribution is a short article in which he endeavours to make sense out of the sudden rise, the moderate flash of prosperity, and then the sudden collapse of the two desert kingdoms of Palmyra and Petra. He offers as the key to the problem the verse from the "Song of Deborah," "In the days of Shamgar the highways were unoccupied and the travellers walked through byways." And so, in the days of Ptolemaic and Seleucid rivalries the highway, the great road from Egypt through Gaza, by the sea plain and across to Damascus, and so to Homs, Hamath and Aleppo to Babylon—the route of Abraham and the Baghdad railway—was no road for peaceful merchants: they were compelled to go "through byways," in this case the route south of the Dead Sea, by Edom and Petra; hence the Nabataeans, the lords of Petra which dominated this route, for a time grew prosperous. But with the *pax Romana* the old route was opened up again, and Petra gradually disappeared from history. Thus it is that we hear nothing of Petra before 311 B.C., and after 107 A.D. it became a backwater of civilisation before long to disappear from the map and to be discovered as a curiosity in the 19th century.

Palmyra is first heard of in 42 B.C. It lies astride an inferior caravan route (one of the present motor routes) some hundred and more miles south of that easier, better watered road of Abraham and the Baghdad railway. The rise of the Parthians whom the Romans could never dislodge, blocked the northern road, whereupon the citizens of Palmyra, outside the territories both of Rome and Parthia, acquired wealth as organisers of the southern caravan route, until the political ambition of the royal house of Zenobia provoked Rome into making an end of this upstart state; and then it, too, with the *pax Islamica* lapsed into its present condition of an interesting ruin.

The volume falls below other "Schweich Lectures" in importance; but even so it might have been usefully dignified with an index. And is the disuse of final *sigma* in certain Greek transliterations a grotesque misprint or a recently scholarly convention?



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Diesel Oil, Kerosene
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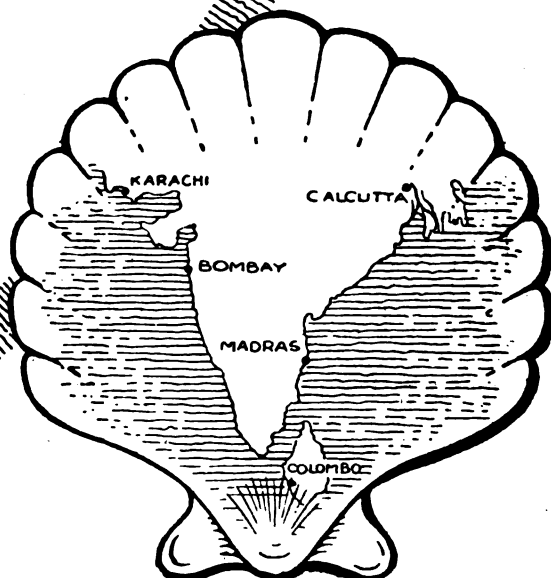
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Persian Gulf.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found extracts from a very interesting report on the Persian Gulf by Lieut.-Commander Forester, Acting British Vice-Consul at Bushire. The regions covered by the report are Bushire, Bandar Abbas, Muscat, the Bahrein Islands and Kuwait, the trade of which in the aggregate is of considerable importance. Thus the value of the imports through Bushire for 1927-28 was £2,056,275, that of the exports being £1,395,242, while for Bandar Abbas the figures for the same period were £934,999 for imports and £350,452 for exports. The total trade of Muscat for 1927-28 was £518,944, that of the Bahrein Islands was £3,043,222, while that of Kuwait was £629,447. British trade is to the fore in the markets fringing the Persian Gulf generally, but there is no doubt that more may be accomplished in the future given the requisite enterprise on the part of our traders. Attention may be drawn in this connexion to the reference in the report to openings for British trade. The writer points out that in favourable circumstances Persia should provide a progressive market for a very large range of commodities. It is, however, a poor market, and it is essential that it should be catered for with that point always in view. In other words, it is not the slightest good to expect to find a large market there for expensive products, and the reason why our trade rivals have been so successful in this outlet is that their goods have been offered at prices well below ours.

Suez Canal Traffic.

The figures of the Suez Canal traffic are an important index of the extent to which world trade is reviving, and it is satisfactory therefore to be able to record the fact that the record figures of the first half year of 1928 have been easily surpassed by the tonnage using the Canal in the first six months of this year. The figures were 16,854,000 tons, which represents an advance of 862,000 tons on the 1928 total. It is significant that the greater part of this increase was in the outward movement of merchandise, which, of course, is largely composed of manufactured articles. Actually the outward movement totalled 7,979,000 tons, an increase of 495,000 tons, while the figures for the homeward movement were 8,875,000 tons, an increase of 367,000 tons. The order of the leading countries using the Canal was unchanged during the period. The British figures were 9,642,000 tons, an increase of 598,000 tons, representing 57.2 per cent. of the traffic as compared with 56.6 per cent. for the corresponding period of 1928. Holland was again second with 1,757,000 tons, an increase of 71,000 tons, but has now only a very slight lead over Germany, whose total is 1,732,000 tons, an increase of 150,000 tons. France occupied the fourth place with 1,042,000 tons, an increase of 105,000 tons.

Cyprus Asbestos Company.

At the recent general meeting of the Cyprus Asbestos Company, a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns, interesting details were given of the progress during the past year. The production of asbestos was 16,287 tons, so that there has been a further increase of 5,000 tons in output. The tonnage milled was 433,271 tons, and it is anticipated that 475,000 tons will be milled this year, giving a production of about 18,000 tons. The construction of further mills has been proceeded with, and the company's total ore milling capacity for a full season is now about 550,000 tons, which will permit of a further increase in production next year without the construction of more mills.

Re-organisation in Roumania.

An interesting review of the economic and financial situation in Roumania since the monetary stabilisation has recently been issued by the Minister of Finance. As he justly points out, successive Governments since the War have largely confined their efforts to develop the production of the country to legislative action. This has failed, of course, to stimulate the country's consumptive capacity, while the exports have fallen rapidly owing mainly to a series of bad harvests. For the period from 1919 to 1928 there was a favourable trade balance for five years and an adverse balance for five years, the commercial balance for the whole period being adverse to the extent of 1,141 millions of gold lei. The Finance Minister is optimistic as to the outlook, pointing out that in regard to agriculture on which the country's prosperity depends considerable progress has been made in recent years. Monetary stabilisation, he points out, has given security and a relative fixity of values to agriculturists. He admits however, that the new taxation is onerous, and unfortunately there is no prospect at present of the Government being able to effect a substantial reduction. Its incidence is felt throughout every branch of the nation's activity, and while many other countries are now suffering from the same thing to a greater or lesser degree its effect on Roumania's life is undoubtedly particularly pronounced.

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Capital Paid up	-	-	-	£600,000
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	£250,000
Total Assets	-	-	-	£6,028,832

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A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ...	£4,000,000	Paid-up Capital ...	£2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ...	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund ...	£3,000,000

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Aden	Calcutta	Colembo	Lahore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe	Uganda
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all the Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

Head Office — **SOFIA** — Founded in 1865

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, 522,000,000 leva

97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.
The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

TURKISH BUSINESS PROFITS IN 1928.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, August 6.

At a time when the sustained depreciation of the Turkish lira, the imminent application of the new Customs Tariff, and cognate financial matters form the subject of almost daily speculation and criticism in the Turkish Press, it is instructive to study some other statistical data just published by the Ministry of Economy. From these tabulated statements one learns that 23 companies operating in Turkey last year with a working capital of £T4,563,000 were enabled to declare dividends totalling £T562,304, or roughly 12 per cent. Seventeen companies with a total capital of just over four millions balanced their books with a trading loss. Eleven companies of a total capital of £T1,953,000 entered into voluntary liquidation, their place being taken by four newly-founded establishments with a total capital of £T1,200,000.

As regards the mercantile marine, eight companies with a total capital of £T3,346,000 earned £T512,080, whereas four companies of a gross capital of £T235,000 suspended their operations and withdrew from the market. Coming to banking establishments, it is instructive to gather that 30 banks with a gross working capital of £T34,547,000 announced profits of £T2,704,363 bearing in mind that one Turkish financial establishment alone accounts for half of the latter, i.e., £T1,362,461.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

[The following notes are taken from the bulletin of the British Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce of Sofia, dated July 31.]

General Situation.

In consequence of the congested condition of the market for goods of foreign origin (especially textiles, machinery, motors, gramophones, and leather) combined with the disquieting increase in the adverse foreign trade balance, almost all private banks, at the suggestion of the National Bank, undertook a more or less drastic curtailment of credits to importers. The increasing tension of the monetary situation is intensifying the effects of this policy. There is much probability that importers and wholesale dealers in imported goods will have to overcome serious difficulties for some time to come.

This situation may undergo a substantial change for the better if the final crop results prove generally better than last year's. In any case, the practical effects thereof are not expected to come into play before the end of October, and, as far as tobacco is concerned, the early spring of 1930.

The purchase of rolling stock and road material for the railways is continuing, although on a somewhat smaller scale. According to official information, three railway engines for the State Collieries at Pernik are to be purchased by direct negotiation and without adjudication. Three more engines are to be ordered in the same way for the Administration of Railways, and tenders will be invited for another ten engines. These purchases appear to be followed with keen interest by French, German, Italian, and Czechoslovak manufacturers.

A French concern has been awarded a large contract for the delivery of a complete electric power generating plant at Vutcha (Southern Bulgaria). The competition has been very keen. As far as information is available, no British tender has been submitted.

Miscellaneous.

The Ministry of Agriculture has circulated an order to all officials inviting them to advise the population to economise in the use of fodder on account of the prospective shortage of this year's crop which is by one third smaller than that of the previous year.

According to official data furnished by the Labour Section of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Labour, the number of employees in industrial undertakings during June was 70,831, against 82,169 in May, and 71,383 in June, 1928.

The wholesale commodity index number (on the basis of 1914 equals 100) for June was 3,245, as compared with 3,338 for May and 3,318 for April, and 3,078 for June, 1928. The general level of wholesale prices, therefore, has decreased by 2.9 per cent. as against May and by 5.4 per cent. as compared with June 1928. This slight decrease in the cost of living is due to reduced prices in the following groups: "Foodstuffs of vegetable origin" (6.6 per cent.), "Animal foodstuffs" (0.2 per cent.), "Fuel" (4.1 per cent.) and "Various" (0.2 per cent.).

Tenders will be invited shortly by the State Railway Administration for the supply of locomotive tyres, locomotive leading wheel tyres and 15-ton wagon wheel tyres, for an amount of 3,000,000 leva.

The large edible oil industrial undertakings in 1927, in which year the last census was taken, numbered 15. The capital invested in these undertakings as at December 31, 1927, aggregated 2,972,894 gold leva.

The deposits with the Postal Savings Office during the first six months of 1929 aggregated 216.6 millions of leva against withdrawals of 204.7 millions of leva. Therefore during the first six months of the year the deposits exceeded the withdrawals by about 11.8 millions of leva. During the same period of 1928 the deposits amounted to 214.2 millions of leva against withdrawals of 155.1 millions of leva, leaving a surplus of 59.5 millions of leva over withdrawals.

The Suez Canal Company announce that on and after January 1 next the maximum authorised draught of water for vessels using the canal, which is now 32 ft. (9m. 75) will be increased by one foot, thus making it 33 ft. (10m. 06).



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to the Secretary

WESTMINSTER BANK

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Company Meeting.

CYPRUS ASBESTOS COMPANY.

Large Increase in Output.

The ordinary general meeting of the Cyprus Asbestos Company, Ltd., was held at Amiandos on July 31.

Mr. H. L. Jones, who presided, read the Managing Director's speech, as follows:—

Gentlemen,—As you will have seen from the Director's report and accounts, production for 1928 amounted to 16,287 tons, so that for the second year in succession we have obtained an increase in output of just over 5,000 tons. The tonnage milled in 1928 was 433,271 tons, as against 301,839 tons in 1927. Recovery yield at 3.76 per cent. compares with 3.71 per cent. in 1927.

Results to date indicate a further slight improvement in the recovery yield to about 3.8 per cent., and, as we expect to mill this year 475,000 tons, production should be about 18,000 tons.

Steady Improvement Anticipated.

In this connexion it will interest you to know that since the mines were originally opened in 1906, something like ten million tons of rock have been quarried. Of this total almost one half has been quarried during the last two years, and the signs of improvement in the recovery field, which supports geological indications, lead one to conclude that the low yield of 3.71 per cent. in 1927 is unlikely to be repeated and that we may now look forward to a slight but steady improvement.

More Mills Completed.

Primary Mill No. 7 has been completed and is running satisfactorily. Primary Mill No. 8 will be running in a few days. These mills will raise the total ore milling capacity for a full season to about 550,000 tons, so that an increase in production can be obtained next year without the addition of further mills.

The Central Power Station Building Extension has been completed and a fifth 330 k.w. set installed. The sixth set, which completes the power programme for the time being, will be erected shortly.

Expenditure on capital account in connexion with development of the quarries, which figures in the accounts under the heading of "Development Account," is now coming to an end, and should cease after the end of the current year.

Working Costs.

The lowering of working costs becomes an easier problem with each increase in the annual production, and this no longer presents any technical difficulties. What in future we produce in any one year must be governed by what we can dispose of at remunerative prices. The market generally appears to be expanding, and, provided we are not in too much of a hurry to press on towards the figure which I hope we shall one day reach, namely 40,000 tons, there seems little fear that stocks will rise to an inconvenient level.

Subject to prices remaining fairly stable, I look forward to an increasing margin of profit which should result in very satisfactory figures.

The total crude oil production of the Roumanian oilfields during June was about 400,000 tons, as against 375,000 tons for the preceding month, and 340,000 tons for June, 1928. The production of the principal operating companies during the month was as under (in tons):—Steaua Romana, 67,930; Astra Romana, 63,006; Rom.-Americana, 41,599; Creditul Minier, 38,072; Phoenix Oil, 38,178; Sirius, 33,729; Concordia, 19,022; Colombia, 14,914; and I.R.D.P., 13,149.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Scientific Instruments, Etc.—The Director-General, Physical Department, Sharia El Insha, No. 1, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of scientific instruments and clocks. September 30.

Faroukia Canal Masonry Works.—The Director of Projects and Resident Engineer, Naga Hamadi Barrage, Naga Hamadi, invites tenders for the construction of Faroukia canal masonry works. September 15.

Construction of Lahaiwa Tunnel.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works of the Egyptian Government for the construction of the Lahaiwa Tunnel on the east side of the River Nile and at about 500 kilometres south of Cairo. November 16.

Electric Motors, Etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and installation of electric motors, pumps, mechanical filters, and the sinking of an artesian well of 80 metres depth. October 16. (D.O.T.)

Paper and Gum.—The Egyptian Ministry of Commerce invites tenders for the supply of paper and gum for the manufacture of envelopes. October 14. (D.O.T.)

Steel Water Tanks, Etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of two steel water tanks on steel framework tower, complete with necessary piping and fittings, as well as an electric water level indicator. October 5. (D.O.T.)

Wooden Platform Weighing Machines.—The Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of 113 wooden platform weighing machines as follows:—15 of 1,000 kgs. capacity, 16 of 500 kgs., 21 of 300 kgs., 38 of 250 kgs., 21 of 125 kgs.; also 2 of 500 kgs. capacity, zinc covered. August 31. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Birkenhead, August 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maimyo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 27); s.s. Makalla for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 5).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Shropshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 4).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 24); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay (London, August 31).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool August 31, Swansea September 3); s.s. Bantia for Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, Glasgow, and Swansea, August 31).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, August 30); s.s. Viceroy of India for Bombay (London, August 30).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, August 31).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Lesbian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 24, Swansea* August 24); s.s. City of Lancaster for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow August 26, Liverpool, August 26); s.s. Roumelian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool September 14, Swansea* September 14); s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool September 14, Swansea September 19). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

It is announced that in September there will be a passenger service by the Simphon Express from London to Baghdad. Trains from London will transfer their passengers for Baghdad at Haidar-Pacha. The second stage will be as far as Nissibin, whence transport will be provided by motor bus to Mosul. From Mosul to Baghdad the train will be without sleeping cars owing to the narrow line.

ANCHOR LINE

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KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*CASTALIA ...	Sept. 10	†BRITANNIA ...	Oct. 11
†ASSYRIA ...	Sept. 27	†CALIFORNIA ...	Oct. 22

*First class passengers only. †Specially low fares. ‡Calls Port Sudan.
‡ First and Third class passengers.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLE, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, August 20.

Several factors conspired to restore confidence in the Stock Markets during the past week, notably the publication of improved overseas trade figures for July, the favourable turn taken by the cotton trade dispute, the satisfactory technical position revealed at the Stock Exchange settlement and developments at The Hague Conference. In consequence, the ground lost at the end of the previous week as a result of the sudden rise in the New York Federal Reserve rediscount rate has been recovered. International stocks were again active under the lead of Wall Street, and industrials generally were firmer, though there was little expansion in the volume of business. Gilt-edged stocks were steadier in the absence of any immediate monetary disturbance, and were assisted by the report that the Bank of England had arranged a £50 millions credit in New York, a rumour which was later authoritatively denied. The Rhodesian section was the centre of some excitement on the receipt of favourable development cables.

International Nickel.

The International Nickel Company of Canada has this week published its first financial report covering the six months from January 1, when the company was formed to merge International Nickel Company of New Jersey and Mond Nickel. Earnings for the six months under review amounted to 14,683,522 Canadian dollars (£2,936,700) and other income brought the total to 15,688,777 dollars. After allowing for taxes, depreciation, interest, etc., the profit was 11,238,176 dollars (£2,247,635), equivalent to 74 cents per share on the common stock after deduction of the preferred dividend. The profit of the old Canadian company for the same period and prior to its merger with Mond Nickel was £1,017,300, about half the present figure. Dividends for the first two quarters of the year were at the rate of 20 cents, but for the third quarter they have been declared at 25 cents. The control of this company is in the hands of American interests, the majority of the directors being directors of the original Canadian company. The trading results now published show that the fusion was well justified, and no doubt the full benefits

of the unified control have still to be fully felt. The rationalising economies and the fact that the company now controls 80 per cent. of the world's nickel output, suggest that full benefit should be derived from the potentialities of its properties and the shares have considerable attraction as a speculative lock-up.

Textiles Recovery.

The settlement of the cotton dispute naturally induced a better tone in the market in textile shares. Nevertheless, it is generally realised that the part whatever wage reduction is agreed upon can play in putting the cotton textile industry on its feet again is limited. Trade has been very poor this year, even the Egyptian section, which has in previous years been fairly active, having to introduce short-time working. The industry's difficulties, especially in the coarser lines, lie largely in the growth of foreign competition, but it is generally considered that further progress towards consolidation into large scale units, and greater initiative in marketing are eminently desirable. It is significant that the companies working on a relatively large scale have had the best records in the past difficult years.

Coats' ordinary shares yield £5 19s. per cent., and those of English Sewing Cotton £6 6s. per cent., while a return of £6 8s. per cent. is obtained on Fine Cotton Spinners' ordinary. The first-named company's 6 per cent. cumulative "B" preference shares return £5 8s. per cent., while English Sewing Cotton 5 per cent. cumulative preference yield £5 14s. per cent. The same return is obtained on the similar shares of Fine Cotton Spinners.

Drapery Trust Accounts.

The Drapery Trust, Ltd., which was established at the end of 1925, published this week its third annual report. The revenue of the Trust from dividends and interest for the financial year ended May 31 amounted to £401,705, and although this is a decrease of £16,016 compared with last year, the total gross income is £535,125, or £39,414 more than for the previous twelve months. The investments of the company are shown at £4,743,231, against £4,341,631 last year, but cash appears very low at £1,474 compared with £188,575 in the previous balance-sheet. Preference dividends absorb £192,000 and were paid at the rate of 7 per cent. plus 1 per cent. participating dividend, the same as before, and the ordinary dividend, which has been raised from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent., absorbs £150,000. The trust is part of the Debenhams group, which controls a large number of London and provincial stores, including Debenhams and Freebody, Marshal and Snelgrove, Stagg and Russell, Swan and Edgar, Bobby and Co., and Plummer Roddis. While numerous improvements have been effected in the business acquired by the groups, these businesses are left free to develop under their own managements. Considerable sums have been spent on renovating and enlarging premises, but this work is now practically completed, and the results of the amalgamations should have an increasing influence on the accounts. Drapery Trust 7 per cent. cumulative participating preference yield £7 2s. per cent. and Debenhams preferred ordinary give the same return.

It is reported from Constantinople that vessels arriving in Turkey from Tunis will be required to undergo examination, a case of plague having been reported in that city.

The Department of Overseas Trade announces that the space applied for in the London section of the British Industries Fair, which is to be held at the new Olympia next year, from February 17 to 28, exceeds 145,000 square feet. The total area available for the Fair is 200,000 square feet. A limited amount of space is therefore available in a few sections.

The directors of the Commercial Bank of the Near East have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income tax, in respect of the half-year ended June 30 last. The transfer books of the company will be closed from August 22 to September 2 inclusive, and dividend warrants will be posted on September 2 to shareholders on the register.

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British Consular Reports

III.—ROUMANIA.

(Continued from page 192.)

The fruit harvest of 1928 was mediocre both as regards quantity and quality. In some districts where frosts occurred in the early spring the harvest was poor. The following are the approximate estimates of the 1928 harvest of various tree fruits:—

Metric Tons.			
Cherries	... 113,750	Walnuts	... 82,210
Apricots	... 14,690	Plums	... 812,600
Peaches	... 4,840	Apples	... 265,660
Quinces	... 18,180	Pears	... 87,490

In 1928 an area of 239,825 hectares was covered with vines, and, according to the preliminary estimates, an average yield of 26.3 hectolitres of wine per hectare was obtained, the total production amounting approximately to 6,315,400 hectolitres, as against 7,100,632 hectolitres in 1927.

Bessarabia has attempted to seek compensation for her poor cereal harvest by exporting fruit. Her apple crop was good and about 1,000 waggons of apples were exported to Germany on November 1 at 12,000 lei per 1,000 kgr. ex orchard, while 530 wagons of walnuts were exported to Germany and Denmark at 1,700 dollars per wagon (of 10 metric tons). There were 250 wagons of prunes available but the price could not compete with that of Serbian fruit. As regards grapes, although the harvest was comparatively poor, 50 wagons were exported to Germany and 50 to Poland at prices ranging from 10 to 20 lei per kilogramme according to quality. The prices for wine are still low and transactions rare, viz., 110 lei per "vedro" instead of 160 lei as it was last year.

Livestock.

Conditions of life for cattle in Roumania, both natural and artificial, are utterly different from those prevailing in Great Britain. It is stated that the Shorthorns received from Great Britain as a gift in 1912, have undergone gradual modifications in build and development, owing to the climate, even in cases where they are well fed and cared for. Crosses between the Shorthorn and the Roumanian native breeds have been found to be inferior to the pure local stock, both as regards the yield of milk and butcher meat. On the other hand all the pigs imported at that time have thriven well and do not suffer from the climatic conditions of Roumania. Consequently both the State farms and the larger land owners are becoming increasingly interested in breeding English pigs.

The present Government is very anxious to give every possible encouragement to the breeding of livestock and to increase exports and they therefore intend to cancel the export duties still in force and to reduce the railway charges and give any other possible facilities to breeders with a view to improving the unsatisfactory conditions now prevailing. The following table showing the number

of livestock of various kinds in 1928 as compared with 1927 has been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture:—

	1928.	1927.
Horses	... 1,944,700	... 1,939,438
Oxen	... 4,435,697	... 4,552,166
Buffalo	... 189,641	... 192,268
Sheep	... 12,800,576	... 12,941,051
Goats	... 386,045	... 418,616
Pigs	... 2,831,524	... 3,075,782

Industry.

According to the records published by the Institute of Statistics there were in existence at the end of 1927 in all Roumania, 1,168 industrial limited companies with aggregate capital of 27,892 million lei as compared with 1,171 companies with capital of 24,818 million lei in the preceding year.

The Roumanian petroleum industry has continued to progress both as regards production and capital investment, most of the new capital coming from abroad. Many of the Roumanian companies have sought foreign support. Now that the new Mining Law has done away with most of the restrictions which formerly handicapped the co-operation of foreign capital in the mining industry, considerable expansion and development in the Roumanian oil industry are expected in the near future with the assistance of foreign capital. The hope is also expressed locally that the present Government will construct new roads in the oil areas and repair those already in existence, that all export duties on petroleum products will be abolished and the communal taxation diminished and that steps will be taken to abolish many of the formalities at present required, and finally that new pipelines will be laid from the refineries to the ports of Constantza, Giurgiu and Braila.

The low world prices for petroleum products and American and Russian competition have to some extent affected the profits of the Roumanian oil companies, but the latter have devoted a good deal of attention to the re-organisation of their sales abroad. With a view to reducing the cost of production, many of the oil companies have concentrated on introducing improvements in their drilling and refining systems and administration. While some have purchased the improved machinery and plant, others have sent competent members of their staff abroad to study the methods and administration of foreign oil enterprises. In some of the older oilfields new oil strata have been reached by deeper drilling and improved methods.

The timber industry had a better year than in 1927. Timber in general, and building material in particular, were in good demand, partly owing to a brisk trade with Bulgaria in this commodity. The output of sawn and bent beech wood has constantly increased, fostered by demands from abroad. Oak parquet flooring was also in good demand especially in Bucharest, where a larger number of houses was erected in 1928 than in any year since the War. Firewood proved unprofitable until January, 1929, when the demand increased owing to the exceptionally cold winter, and large quantities were exported to Hungary. The prices then rose considerably, but went down again about the middle of March.

Before the War Roumania was not counted among the countries producing iron and steel, and the only iron works that existed were mechanical workshops for repairs. With the Transylvanian and Banat provinces she has acquired rich mineral deposits, including iron ores and important metallurgical works, whose activities have been greatly encouraged by protective tariffs. Her present capacity of production of iron and steel and the

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actual production in 1926 and 1927 are given as follows in the "Analele Economice si Statistice":—

	Annual Capacity.	Production.	
		1926.	1927.
		Metric Tons.	
Cast iron	260,000	62,976	63,203
Rough iron and steel ...	160,000	111,566	130,066
Rolled & semi-manu- factured products ...	300,000	140,306	173,089

In the list of the principal rolled iron products are included bars, angles, channels, rails, tyres, sheets, tool steel, etc. In 1926 the total home consumption of iron and steel, including machinery, amounted to 534,309 metric tons (no more recent figures are available), and of semi-manufactured products 385,996 metric tons, of which 145,690 tons were imported. In the same year the total imports of iron and steel products, weighing 371,156 metric tons, amounted in value to £12½ million. During the period under review the metallurgical industry suffered partly from depression in the oil industry and partly from lack of orders from the State owing to shortage of funds. The railways also confined their repairing work to their own workshops and gave very few private orders.

The Railways.

The State Railways closed their annual balance-sheet on December 31, 1928, with a deficit of 1,326 million lei (provisional figures) receipts having amounted to 11,066 million lei and expenditure to 12,492 million lei, while the estimated revenues were 13,600 million lei. It is officially stated that the deficit was mainly due to the great diminution of cereal transports.

A sum of about £15,000,000 has been allotted from the recent loan and other sources for carrying out the following programme of work on the railways: (1) Renewal of 1,400 km. of rails with new ones and of about 300 km. with used rails. (2) Doubling of lines over 344 kilometres. (3) Installation of signalling and safety apparatus. (4) Extension of stations, new shunting stations, etc. (5) Extension of telegraph and telephone systems. (6) Reconstruction and strengthening of bridges. (7) Water softening plant, etc. (8) Extension of workshops. (9) Repairs to rolling stock. (10) Increase of rolling stock.

For the construction of new railway lines a fresh loan will be required (according to the report drawn up by the Technical Committee of the Ministry of Communications) for a sum of 42,000 million lei to be used over 4 or 5 years. Over 10,000 million lei will be required to finish the 5 new lines already begun some years ago. A sum of 9 million dollars from the recent loan will be used to form a working fund for the Railway Administration after all outstanding accounts have been paid.

IV.—THE PERSIAN GULF.

A report on economic conditions in the Persian Gulf for the two years ended March 20 last by Lieut.-Commander Forester, Acting British Vice-Consul at Bushire, has just been issued. The report, which does not include the ports of Basrah and Mohammerah, contains the following:—

The total trade of the area under consideration actually showed a decrease in value in 1927-28, as compared with 1926-27, of £1,059,876, the total trade of the Persian side showing a decrease of £1,325,756, while the trade of the Arab side showed an increase of £264,889. Of the decrease on the Persian side the sum of £1,072,154 is due to a decrease in opium exports. This decrease appears to be in the nature of a shrinkage back to more normal proportions after a boom year in 1926-27. Apparently after the Opium Convention of 1925 all the countries in the Far East which legitimately import opium under licence proceeded to lay in big stocks, while the export of unlicensed opium from Persia for smuggling into the Far East also increased largely. In the opinion of the writer the above-mentioned figure of £1,072,154 decrease in opium exports

can reasonably be discounted as due to abnormal circumstances. If this figure is ignored the decrease in the value of the total trade on the Persian side will be reduced to £252,611, and the decrease in the total trade of the whole area will be turned into an increase of £12,278.

Sugar, tea, and piece-goods, the staple imports of the Persian ports, all showed a decline in value in 1927-28 over imports for 1926-27. The value of sugar imported decreased by approximately £95,000, but as the c.i.f. value decreased during the same period by as much as 25 per cent., due to a fall in world prices, the actual quantity legitimately imported was but little less than in the previous year. As more Russian sugar now finds its way down from the north of Ispahan and Shiraz, and as the quantity of smuggled sugar on the market undoubtedly increased during 1927-28, it may be considered that, despite the fall in the value of sugar imports, Persia is now absorbing more sugar than at any time in the last few years. Nevertheless, the consumption of sugar throughout the country is still only 54 per cent. of the consumption in 1913-14. Tea imports decreased by approximately £57,000 during the same period, and piece-goods by £68,000.

The general fall in the value of Persian imports may be attributed to the decreased purchasing power of the people and the tightness of money brought about by the Persian policy of high tariffs and high monopoly and road taxes levied on imports. The monies so collected were all accumulated in 1927-28 in the capital. They are now gradually being returned to circulation as the construction of the north to south railway progresses, and this fact should have a beneficial effect in the future on Persian trade as a whole.

Openings for British Trade.

Persia should, in the next few years, provided the country continues to enjoy the present degree of internal security and peace, provide a progressive market for woollens, knitted goods, artificial silks, haberdashery, ready-made clothing, boots and shoes, preserved food-stuffs, whisky and other alcoholic drinks, lemonade powders and essences and similar "soft" drinks, gramophones, rubber articles including tyres, motor cars, particularly commercial vehicles, motor cycles, pedal cycles, motor accessories, lubricating oils, machinery (including agricultural and irrigation machinery), electric plant and accessories, wireless sets, small tools, galvanised iron and tin plates, copper and nickel in bars or sheets, tin, aluminium and enamelled ware, crockery and glass, lamps, paper and stationery, soap, dyes for the carpet industry, particularly synthetic indigo, sporting guns and ammunition.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the Persian market is essentially a poor one and on the whole unresponsive to high quality and high-priced British goods. The heavy taxes imposed on practically all imports, and the immobilisation during the last few years of a large capital sum in the Treasury for railway construction, have considerably reduced the purchasing power of the inhabitants. A start has now been made on the construction of the railway, but the larger proportion of the money collected for this purpose will be required for payments outside Persia, while the small amount returned to circulation in payment of Persian labour will only find its way, at first, into those districts where railway construction is actually in progress.

(To be continued.)

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 10 amounted to £E7,980, making the total from April 1 £E79,304.

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 14:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—The week has been chiefly remarkable for the effect produced by the U.S. Bureau report. Traders generally had been prepared, by a series of private estimates, for figures of a slightly "bullish" character, rather than the reverse, and a fair amount of short covering had taken place in anticipation. The quotation for November just prior to the report was 16.41d., but after the figures were known selling pressure was renewed, not only that day, but during several succeeding sessions, and as a result the same month was forced, at one time, as low as 15.60d. During the last day or two, however, a recovery has been made partly on the harder tone apparent in American contracts and partly owing to the better strike news, and we close to-night with the same month 15.80d.

Trading throughout the week has really been of a most restricted character, and the lack of fresh business coming in from outside sources has been a general complaint round the market. The truth of the matter is, of course, that the possibilities of cotton do not at present offer sufficient inducement to the outside speculator, who finds the stock or wheat markets more attractive under existing conditions. Minor features have been few. There has been some buying of November and selling of January at around 17 points difference, and it is considered probable that, should normal conditions at the mills be resumed at an early date, the difference between the two months will narrow still further. Opinion with regard to the possibility of tenders on November are divided. November Liverpool and November Alexandria have closed in slightly during the week.

Upper Contract.—This has been the more active market, but the tone has remained heavy. There appears to be a general impression that a large crop is now assured, and merchants who have been unable to dispose of their stocks, owing to the stoppage at the mills, are faced with the unwelcome prospect of carrying over a large proportion of their holdings into the next crop. There is nothing in the situation calculated to foster "bullish" enthusiasm, and it is little wonder that some rather aggressive selling of the November position has lately been in evidence. We have again closed in with American contracts. Our premium over Alexandria has also narrowed considerably, and at one time this week stood at only 60 points.

Egyptian Spot.

An improved business has taken place this week, but the effect of last Thursday's American Bureau report was seen in a smart drop in values, which took place immediately following its publication. Although the wages deadlock has been improved by the masters agreeing yesterday to the principle of arbitration, it is yet too early to assume that an immediate return to normality is assured; and buyers are, as yet, in no hurry to commit themselves. Nevertheless, the general inquiry has shown some slight improvement, and in some quarters hopes are entertained that a number of mills will resume working during the coming week-end.

Sakel.—The small inquiry which has been met with has been almost identical with what we reported last week. That is to say, a very moderate business has taken place at from pass to 150 November contracts, and an even more moderate demand for low cotton at from 10d. to 12d. has been easily satisfied.

Uppers.—This cotton has furnished the bulk of the inquiry during the week and on one day a "line" of some 500 bales changed hands. The most popular range has been from "pass to 20 on" November contracts, and there would appear to be a plentiful supply of this cotton available on the spot here at the moment. The better, and the lower qualities, have again been neglected.

Pilion has been in moderate request up to 200 on. Actual results, however, have been almost negligible.

Nahda, Maarad, and White.—No business reported, but an odd inquiry for White cotton at round about pass price November Sakel appeared on one occasion.

Sudan Sakel.—The usual steady business has taken place, but quantities sold have not been of any great weight. The Continent has shown increasing interest, and altogether the demand for this cotton has been rather more lively.

Tokar Sakel.—Entirely neglected. C.i.f. business has shown no improvement. Forwarding to the trade last week amounted to 3,041 bales Egyptian and 308 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 1,200 bales Egyptian and 550 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel show a decline of 55 points, and those of Upper and Pilion 40 points on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 16.50d. F. G. F. Upper to-day, 11.10d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.20d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 8, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been quieter, but the tone has nevertheless remained firm. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 33.49 dollars, 0.26 dollars down; January, 33.83 dollars, 0.26 dollars down; March, 34.26 dollars, 0.23 dollars down. Ashmouni: August, 21.15 dollars, 0.08 dollars up; October, 21.49 dollars, 0.08 dollars down; December, 21.09 dollars, 0.09 dollars down; February, 22.43 dollars, 0.07 dollars down; April, 22.83 dollars, 0.09 dollars down; June, 23.15 dollars, 0.17 dollars down.

Sakel.—The week opened with a tendency for higher prices, but the publication on the 5th inst. of the Egyptian Government's estimate of the acreage planted in cotton this year changed the atmosphere, the figure given for Sakel being certainly larger than the market expected. There was in consequence some liquidation, and prices lost a fair amount of ground; the tone of the market, however, afterwards stiffened again on reports of floods in the Sudan, together with forecasts that the figures of the American Bureau Report, to be published this afternoon, would be of a nature to cause a further rise in New York. The reports of floods in the Sudan had no serious foundation. The sowing of the new crop in the Gezira is already well advanced and will, as usual, be completed during the present month.

There is nothing special to report on the demand from the trade, which continues to be on a very poor scale. There is as yet no sign of an early settlement of the lock-out in Manchester. As stated above, our market is expecting a somewhat bullish American Bureau Report, and if the figures to be published this evening are bearish, a serious decline in prices can be expected, as the principal cause of the strength of our market during the last few weeks has lain in its confidence in a gradual rise in New York.

We give below the statistical position of Sakel in Egypt as at the end of July:—Stock, Alexandria, 728,000 kantars, including the Government cotton. At the same date last year the stock of Sakel in Egypt was 745,000 kantars. We would add, for purposes of comparison, that exports of Sakel for the month of August last year amounted to about 176,000 kantars.

The Sakel Upper straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,200 points, against 1,218 points last week, and 1,233 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—This market has followed very closely the fluctuations of Sakel. The Government estimate of the acreage planted in Ashmouni and Zagora was about as expected. The trade demand has been rather limited. No interest whatever has been shown by spinners in cotton for new crop shipment. We give below the statistical position of Ashmouni and Zagora in Egypt as at the end of July:—Stock, Alexandria, 479,000 kantars. At the same date last year the stock of Ashmouni and Zagora in Egypt was 473,000 kantars. We would add, for purposes of comparison, that exports of Ashmouni and Zagora for the month of August last year amounted to about 219,000 kantars.

The Ashmouni/American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 258 points, against 243 points last week and 433 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 638 kantars, against exports 76,401 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,539,564 kantars.

Spot.—Again we have had a very quiet week, the total sales only amounting to 3,600 bales, of which we estimate 940 bales Sakellaridis, 2,400 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 240 bales Pilion and 20 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis.—During the past week the only demand in Sakel was for cotton grading Gully Good Fair and Fully Good Fair/Good. The better qualities were entirely neglected and premiums are as last week.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—There has been a fairly strong demand for cotton between Fully Good Fair and Good, and buyers have been taking up any offerings without regard to staple. There has been a small inquiry for Good Fair Uppers. Premiums are unchanged.

Pilion.—Here the demand remains the same, and for cotton other than Fully Good Fully Strict and Full Good Fair/Good there is no market. Premiums remain as last week.

Other Varieties.—Have been entirely neglected.

Crop, 1929.—The progress of the crop in the Delta is satisfactory. There has certainly been some damage as a result of pink boll worm attack and boll shedding due to humidity, but the damage, though increased compared to last week, is not, at least for the time being, causing any anxiety. The news from Upper Egypt continues to be, on the whole, favourable; in the advanced fields the opening of the bolls is going on normally and it is expected that the first picking will commence about the 15th inst. and become general towards the 25th.

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Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

British Roadstone.

It is rather curious to find that apparently there is some profit in shipping broken stone into this country, although one would think, especially after a tour in the Midlands and the West Country, that we had plenty of stone of our own. Naturally, and properly, an outcry is being raised about this by those interested in selling British stone, and I understand that as a result things are getting rather better in the roadstone trade. The production during last year of 13,262,000 tons of natural roadstone from British quarries, is gratifying, especially so as it shows a large increase over the total for the preceding year. The actual figures for the past three years are: 1926, 12,257,000 tons; 1927, 13,040,000 tons and 1928, 13,262,000 tons. Discussing the report of the Secretary for Mines, in which the figures are given, Mr. H. J. Grace, President of the National Federation of Granite and Roadstone Quarry Owners, said that the steady increase in the use of British roadstone might be attributed to the fact that more and more local highway authorities were adopting the Ministry of Transport's recommendation that all roads, no matter of what surfaces, should be treated with a liquid dressing in which should be incorporated the largest possible amount of hardstone chippings. In view of the large roadmaking schemes announced by the Government a further big increase in the use of British roadstone may be expected, especially as the Minister of Transport recently stated that it was the policy of his department to use roadmaking materials of British origin wherever and whenever possible.

It may not be known, generally, what the nature of the organisation is which was set up under the Ministry of Transport, and which practically exists to-day. Sir Henry Maybury is my authority for saying that the country is divided into seven divisions, the headquarters of each division being as nearly as possible in the centre, where a divisional engineer with a technical and administrative staff is installed, and to whom all road matters in the district are referred. Plans, specifications, estimates and full particulars are submitted to the divisional engineer by the highways authorities in the area covered, and when schemes have been approved, grants from the Road Fund monies are indicated to the local authorities, payment being made to these bodies as the work proceeds. Final payments are made to them upon the certificate of the divisional engineer that the work has been carried out in a proper manner. Ordinary routine matters are settled in the divisions, but exceptional schemes are dealt with at headquarters and no expenditure of any kind may be made out of the Road Fund without Treasury sanction. So far as road classification is concerned, it may be taken that all the main and "dis-turnpiked" roads for which the county Councils were previously responsible, have, in fact, been classified under the Ministry of Transport classification scheme, as first- or second-class roads; and in addition there are roads still maintained by the urban

and rural district councils which are not main roads, but which, nevertheless, are classified under the classification scheme.

Cheap Road Construction.

A cheap form of road construction has been suggested by Mr. Harold Bradley, who says that the greatest mileage of our roads, carrying fast and heavy traffic, have a good surface merely because of the quality of the surfacing, and that a good, travelling surface, by which expression, he means a surface that it is good to travel upon, too often disguises the real facts. Beneath the smooth, tarred surface destructive agencies are at work, in the form of internal attrition, which will eventually, and, probably suddenly, when assisted by other forces, such as frost or the passage of extra-heavy vehicles, cause the crust of broken metal to disintegrate and become incapable of carrying even the normal traffic imposed upon it.

He deals, rather severely, with some of the present methods of road construction, and says a form of construction which may be termed the intermediate type between waterbound and tar-macadam is that known as the semi-grout process. This method is comparatively inexpensive, and costs very little more than a mud or waterbound road, though its advantages are considerable. To begin with, it is a scientific method of road construction and although the initial cost of making the road is slightly greater than that of making a water-bound macadam road, ultimately it is more economical, and it is, of course, ultimate economy that counts.

A semi-grouted road requires careful grading of the aggregate, useful proportions being 60 per cent. of 2 in., 30 per cent. of 1½ in. and 10 per cent. of ¾ in. stone. The grading of the stone will, however, depend upon its hardness; a soft material will crush under the roller and so upset the balance. In any event it is economy to purchase a hardwearing stone at the outset, for it should not be forgotten that provided the construction method is good, the cost of maintenance depends largely on the quality of the stone used. A soft or brittle material is always liable, after the road is open, to fracture into smaller units which become flicked out of the bed by traffic, leaving an incipient pothole behind.

Cement-bound roads, either made by the slurry method or the sandwich system are quite as simple to construct as the method just described, and such types of construction are bound to become more popular as their advantages become better known. Cement-bound roads are particularly adapted to steep gradients subject to what is technically termed "scour." The aggregate stands up boldly as the road wears, and affords an excellent footing for all horsed traffic and is skid proof no matter what type of rubber tyres are used.

With cement roads a hard wearing stone repays any extra expenditure as, owing to the low rate of attrition, little wear takes place. It is quite unnecessary to seal the

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The number of vessels passing through the Suez Canal in July was 486, the receipts being 88,110,000 francs. The corresponding figures for July, 1928, were 511 vessels and 88,450,000 francs.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

It is reported that a temporary Treaty for the establishment of commerce and customs facilities has been signed at Baghdad between Russia and Iraq.

The party of English bakers which had been visiting Greece left for London on August 18. The Greek Government has decided to appoint an Englishman to give lessons in baking currant bread.

Messrs. Watson and Youell, Galatz, report that the quay dues charged at Danube ports have been doubled, and are now 2 lei per ton on bulk cargoes reckoned on thirds of the steamer's deadweight capacity, and 4 lei per ton in the case of loading and discharging general cargo and packages, charged on the actual weight.

It is reported that the plum crop in Yugoslavia is developing under good conditions, but the yield promises to be only light. At present it is estimated that the total crop will not exceed 1,700 tons. Crops of peaches, apricots, apples and pears are all light and will only be sufficient for home consumption.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) announce that they have received the following cable from their Cairo office:—
 “The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Finance announces that the total imports for Egypt for the month ending July 31 amount to £E4,285,444, against £E3,620,669 for the corresponding month last year, and exports £E3,225,159, against £E3,960,165 for July, 1928. Cotton exports were £E2,475,424, against £E3,373,794.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Aug. 19.		Railways.		Prices on Aug. 19.		INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on July 31.	
Government Stocks.								Government Loans.			
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	80½	Assam-Bengal ...	93½					3½ Government Paper ...			67/16
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	70½	Bengal Doonars ...	182½					Banks			
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	87½	Bengal Nagpur ...	91½					Imperial Bank of India ...	1,382½		
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	81½	Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	44					Bank of India ...	100½		
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	28½	Nizams Gtd. ...	235					Central Bank of India ...	19		
Do. 7 p.c. ...	82½	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ...	42½					Coal.			
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	70	Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	59					Baraboni ...	5 a.s.		
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	70	Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	58					Bengal ...	44½		
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	53½	Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	56½					Burrakur ...	14½		
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	70	Southern Punjab ...	193					East Indian ...	20½		
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	69½	South Indian ...	115½					Equitable ...	22 5/16		
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ...	57	Rubber.						Pench Valley ...	32½		
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	59	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	9 6					Raneengunge ...	38½		
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	76	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	19-					Standard ...	60½		
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	100	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	28-					Cotton.			
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	87½	Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	14 8½					Bengal Nagpur ...	33½		
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	100½	Keptigalla Rubber Estates ...	1 10½					Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	757		
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	84	Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	34 ½					Bowrah ...	564		
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	67½	Shipping.						Buckingham and Carnatic ...	173		
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	45½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Pref. ...	8½					Cawnpore Textiles ...	340		
Do. 7 p.c. ...	81½	Cunard ...	25 6					Century ...	478		
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	106	Furness Withy ...	40-					Central India ...	91		
India 3½ p.c. ...	66½	Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	57-					Elgin ...	70		
Do. 3 p.c. ...	57½	P. and O. Deferred ...	57-					Khatu Mankaji ...	342		
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	99½	Tea.						Muir ...	145		
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	87	Assam Co. ...	21/16					New Ring ...	507		
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	18½	Bengal United Tea Ord. ...	1½d					Phœnix ...	412		
Banks.		Bramapootra ...	33½d					Svadeshi ...			
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	77/16	British Indian Tea Ord. ...	3½					Jute.			
Bank of British West Africa ...	41/16	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	1½d					Alliance ...	550		
Bank of Roumania ...	80-	Carolina ...	4½d					Barnagore ...	285		
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl. ...	28 6	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	5½					Budge Budge ...	549		
Chartered Bank of India ...	20½	Consolidated Estates ...	33 16					Clive ...	30½		
Eastern ...	6 13/16	Darjeeling Co. ...	3					Dalhousie ...	532		
Hambros ...	10½	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	33 16					Delta ...	550		
Ionian Bank ...	625/32	Doonars Tea Ord. ...	2 31/32					Fort Gloster ...	854½		
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	11½	Dooloogram Tea ...	17-					Gourepore ...	452½		
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	16½	Doom Dooma ...	4 1/16					Howrah ...	57½		</



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1929.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	217	INDIAN NOTES	219	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		PERSONAL AND GENERAL	225	Notes and News	231
The Yugoslav-Bulgarian Frontier	220	SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Motors and Motoring	233
SPECIAL LETTERS—		The "Wailing Wall" Incidents...	228	Shipping Intelligence	234
Egypt	221	The Sixteenth Zionist Congress ..	226	The Week's Finance	211
Greece	222	CORRESPONDENCE	226	British Consular Reports—	
Bulgaria	223			IV.—The Persian Gulf... ..	237
Calcutta	223			Cotton and Cotton Goods	239
				Company Notes and Reports	240

Notes of the Week.

The Calamity in Palestine.

The calamity that in the last few days has befallen Palestine is peculiarly tragic. For the land that has suffered almost every ill, from earthquake to the strife of contending armies, is now in the throes of something little less than civil war. This violent clash between Arab and Jew cannot, however, be called either sudden or totally unexpected. As is pointed out elsewhere in this issue, ever since the Muslims began again last month to build at the southern end of the Wailing Wall, the Jewish community in Palestine has, so to speak, been lashing itself into fury. An outburst of temper, and the certain counter outbursts on the part of the Arabs, became increasingly possible, though it was still hoped, before the night of *Tisha be-Av* (date of the destruction of the Temple) that discreet counsels would prevail. But, as all the world now knows, the more violently-minded on either side gained the upper hand. Rioting began in the Holy City, spread to the suburbs, and blazed even to the remoter parts of Palestine. As is inevitable in such circumstances, innocent lives were lost, and priceless properties sacrificed. At the moment of going to Press it is impossible to estimate the number of killed and the damage done, but it is profoundly to be hoped that by the time of this issue the prompt measures taken to restore order will have resulted in a general halt to further outrage. A particularly sorry coincidence of this affray has been the absence on leave of so many of the senior officials of the Palestine Government; nor can one but lament the scant sources of reliable information upon the situation in Palestine. It is, indeed, an ironical fact that both highly placed officials and responsible journalists should be away from the Holy Land at this critical time. The High Commissioner, however, is due back in Jerusalem about the date of this issue, and since it is known that one of his first intentions on his return was to attempt to settle the whole problem of the Wailing Wall, it is comforting to presume that, as soon as order is re-established, a concentrated effort will be made to remove this now notorious obstacle between Arab and Jew.

The Right and Wrongs of It.

On examining this tragedy, one cannot avoid the question: Was it inevitable? Were the Jews wholly right, and the Arabs wholly wrong? Or *vice versa*? It is, perhaps, premature to endeavour to answer these questions, before peace, that has been the happy and deserved boast of the Mandatory Power during the last few years, reign again in the Holy Land. But a few general impressions may be indulged in. Unquestionably, in our view, it was the Jewish acts on the last Day of Atonement which set the Muslims a-thinking how best they could circumvent this new and preposterous claim of the Jews to the ownership of the Wailing Wall. As is well known, their main *riposte* consisted of building operations at the southern end of the Wall. Now the highest legal advice—advice which comprehended the whole position of Great Britain as Mandatory Power in Palestine—had been given upon what was and what was not legally permissible for the Muslims to build. At first sight, their particular buildings would seem to imply an infringement of the *status quo*. But evidently the Palestine Administration interpreted the general instructions of the legal advisers to the Crown as giving permission for this particular series of building operations at the southern end of the Wall. Whether it was correct in so doing, it is as yet impossible to say. Therein, however, lies the crux of the matter. If the Jerusalem Government was sound in its particular application of the general ruling, it is obvious that a settlement may have, willy-nilly, to be imposed upon the Jewish community; if such a series of acts as those in which the naturally indignant Muslims have indulged was not contemplated under the general ruling, obviously the way may soon be free to a possibly amicable settlement. That, however, is a detail, though a tremendously important detail. What is so distressing is to see the readiness with which Arab and Jew have flown at each other's throats. It is but a melancholy justification that one has in recalling the warning that the much talked-of co-operation between Arab and Jew was largely mythical, and that all was not so *couleur*

de rose as those who study only the reports of the Permanent Mandates Commission might be led to suppose.

Egypt and Great Britain.

Those who appreciate the difficulties of Mahmoud Pasha's position in Egypt will not have looked for any eulogies of Great Britain in the speech, delivered at Alexandria on Saturday, in which he commended to his fellow-countrymen the proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian Treaty that he had brought back with him from London. The project was described as "a glorious consummation of many years of struggling," and this it is from the Egyptian point of view. The keynote of Mahmoud Pasha's presentation of the subject was his appeal to every Egyptian to lay aside party views and to consider the project from an entirely unbiased point of view. For this reason his speech avoided criticism of his political opponents, and he was careful to take no personal credit for the recent negotiations in London, but to represent them as a normal, if unexpected, development of the policy pursued by Egypt during the last decade. But for this consideration for the Wafd the Egyptian Prime Minister must have contrasted the psychological effect of his own tenure of office with the misgivings that were evoked in Great Britain by the Wafd's policy. If the independence of Egypt proclaimed in 1922 appeared to Egyptians as "a mere mockery," it was because the Declaration was not intended to have its full effect until a treaty with Great Britain had been signed. The failure of the Wafd's leaders to grasp this aspect of the situation, which prompted the negotiations carried out in turn by Sarwat Pasha and Mahmoud Pasha, was largely responsible for Egypt's intervening troubles. This chapter, however, has been closed by the patriotic efforts of the present Egyptian Government, and it is for the Egyptian people to make sure, by means of the whole-hearted support now given to Mahmoud Pasha and his colleagues, that it will not be re-opened.

Egypt's Electoral Law.

No sentence in Mahmoud Pasha's speech is likely to give rise to more comment in Egypt than his statement that he had not yet had time to define the method by which the nation's opinion (of the proposed treaty) will be made known. Under the Constitution of 1923 Egypt inaugurated parliamentary government with male adult suffrage. It was a bold experiment in a country with one of the highest percentages of illiterates. Where the mass of the population is unable to read it has little opportunity to form its own judgment on public affairs, and can only accept the views of its informants. To this circumstance, in combination with a certain element in the Egyptian character, may be attributed the complete surrender of the electorate to the Wafd, who from the outset entered the political field with an organisation with which no other party showed any inclination to compete. In no country in which the adult population had a mind of its own or was capable of holding views of its own would the student class have been allowed to assert itself and exercise political domination as was the case in Egypt during the years of the Wafd régime. It needed, however, only the appearance of another power in the land to challenge the authority of the Wafd for the hold of the latter over the fellaheen to be at once relaxed. Yet it is unlikely that the old instinct of obedience and submission to terrorism has been wholly eradicated within a year, and the Wafd is probably still sufficiently well organised to be able to pick up the threads of its former domination as soon as the freedom of an electoral campaign is accorded to it. Under such conditions the proposed treaty

between Egypt and Great Britain would have little chance of being considered by the Egyptian electorate "from an entirely unbiased point of view." Mahmoud Pasha knows, however, that Egypt has an opportunity to-day of obtaining advantages that will not easily come her way again, if she rejects what is now offered her, and he has to decide whether he will run the risk of allowing the nation to spite itself at the bidding of the Wafd, for purely party ends, or whether he will modify the electoral law to bring it more into conformity with the intellectual development of the great bulk of the Egyptian people. If the Wafd's patriotism were entirely disinterested, there could be no doubt that it would be anxious to offer the Prime Minister its whole-hearted support of the proposed treaty, however much prestige he might stand to gain from the Anglo-Egyptian settlement, and so obviate the necessity of modifying the electoral law.

Russia and the Revolt in Persia.

It is a curious coincidence that just as the Persian Legation in London announces the definite ending of the revolt in Southern Persia, the *Pravda* should not only be praising the work of the "rebels," but also state that the movement among the Kashgais and Bakhtiariis is getting stronger. The attitude of this Moscow journal is highly instructive. At the beginning of the trouble in Southern Persia, it will be remembered, the rumour was spread that the British were behind the "rebels," and fierce denunciations of Great Britain were indulged. Now, however, it appears that it is the rebels who all the time were opposed by the British! Listen to the *Pravda*: "The peasants, workers, and shepherds of Persia have no faith in the existing Persian Government, which is a mere puppet in British hands. They have put up a strong fight against both the aggression of the Persian Government and the oppression of the British." Whether there has been any foreign complicity in this revolt, now happily ended, in Southern Persia, remains to be proved: certainly there has been no British complicity—a fact of which Teheran itself must by this time be fully aware. It has been the habit of the Russians, however, in many parts of the world, to accuse the British of stirring up disorders for which they themselves were primarily responsible. We do not suggest, indeed, that this last revolt in Fars needs any outside explanation. As far as the somewhat unreliable reports that have reached this country allow one to judge, the issues between the tribes and the Teheran Government were purely domestic. But the comment of this Russian newspaper is undeniably interesting. In the Shah, it would appear, the Russians think they have no friend, for the *Pravda* states that "the accession of Riza Khan has not in the least improved the conditions of the toiling class of Persia. The latter is beginning to express its dissatisfaction in the form of an open struggle." When the Bolsheviks talk like this, one is moved to wonder how it is that they have attained even the limited success of which they can boast. The Shah "a mere puppet in British hands!" It would be interesting to discover one Persian or one Englishman of this opinion. So rare a specimen would, we imagine, at once be enshrined in a home for mentally defective observers.

The Good Name of Persia.

The communication from the Persian Legation in London to which we have referred takes incidental care to point out that the accounts of the disturbances have been at times exaggerated. And it would seem, indeed, that the scope of this revolt was at first thought to be larger than it has since proved to be. As a matter of fact, Persian publicists have been severely put out by the descriptions of the revolt sent out by foreign newspaper correspondents. It is the serious aim of Persia at this moment to attract foreign capital for the development of her resources, and Persians rightly feel that if such reports of disorders in their country are spread in Europe and America, particularly if such a story as that which

The Index to Volume XXXV (January 3 - June 27, 1929) of "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA." is now ready, and copies will be forwarded to subscribers gratis on application to the Manager, The Near East and India, 170 Strand, London, W.C.2.

made out that a mere section of an Arab tribe in the south could hold at bay fully equipped regular troops gained currency, foreign financiers would feel diffident about investing their capital. Certain Teheran journals have expressed considerable indignation and anxiety over this affair. They have ridiculed the idea that the revolt was a serious one, and refer jocularly to the fact that an explanation was recently given in the House of Commons upon the attitude of Great Britain towards the so-called "movement in the South." Persia is certainly to be sympathised with in this matter of faulty information, but her publicists are in error in supposing it to be due to perfidious propaganda or malice. The intelligence services of the entire Middle East are notoriously ill-organised, and Persia is by no means the only country to suffer in this way. She herself, possibly, could do something to counteract false impressions: there was considerable substance in the demand recently made by Teheran journals for fuller official information upon the progress of events in the revolting South. No one, and least of all foreign newspaper correspondents, wishes to blacken the name of Persia, a land in which rumour is always abundant and reliable information hard to come by. One method which immediately suggests itself is for the Persian Government to keep its Legations abroad fully supplied with details. In view of the urgent desire of that Government that foreign capital should be attracted to Persia, such a proceeding as we have suggested would appear to be imperative. In any case, this revolt in the South is now over, and it is to be hoped that the Teheran Government will have derived from it most useful lessons in regard both to policy and publicity.

The Situation in Syria.

Nothing is more notable in the Syrian situation than the disparity of evidence upon the country's economic position. The French delegate to the League of Nations declares that it has recently undergone a considerable improvement, but many Syrian publicists stoutly deny this. It is, in fact, largely because of what they consider to be the thoroughly unsatisfactory nature of Syria's economic situation, that the Syrians still protest against the Mandatory Power. On August 11, for instance, the date of the suspension of the Constituent Assembly last year, the inhabitants of Damascus declared a general protest, and the Nationalist Party published a manifesto in which much was made of the commercial and financial plight of Syria, and other commentators have suggested that things are so bad that, unless something is soon done to alleviate matters, there is danger of further disorders. The truth is difficult to discover, but it is to be doubted whether affairs are so bad economically in Syria for there to be a real danger of another rising. The French High Commissioner must know perfectly well the risks incurred in keeping the political problem unsolved, and it is incredible that the French are not straining every nerve to counterbalance things by promoting the material welfare of the country. Whether such measures will have any radical effect on the political situation and on Nationalist ambitions in general is, however, another matter.

Turkey's Self-Confidence.

While admitting that Europe contains more than one country whose belief in its future is sometimes expressed in rhetorical and extravagant language, one may doubt whether any of the other countries in this Continent has ever surpassed in flamboyant expression the would-be latest addition to the European comity, namely Turkey. The self-confidence of the new Turks under Mustapha Kemal Pasha is amazing: it is surpassed only by the deference paid to the Ghazi himself. In many Turkish minds, indeed—one speaks, of course, mainly of the larger towns, not of the villages and their peasants—the Ghazi would appear to have taken the place of the Prophet. There is a discernible tendency to suggest that everything that is reactionary is represented by the Prophet Muhammad, and everything that is progressive is represented by Musta-

pha Kemal Pasha. About such a remarkable personality as the Ghazi rumours almost inevitably grow, as they grow round all prominent leaders of men. For some time past reports have been current concerning the Ghazi's ill-health. Wise men paid little attention to them, however. Yet they had, apparently, attained to such a vogue that the Ghazi himself saw fit to deny them. In an after-dinner speech recently at Buyukdere, which reads like an impromptu effort, Mustapha Kemal Pasha said: "The man who has concentrated his whole life to furthering your interests is in perfect health." And he went on to deliver a notable prophecy, which those Turks who hail him as a substitute for the Prophet will doubtless cherish: "Under the new régime this nation, this country, will be the most esteemed and highly honoured in the world. I shall not die before I have seen my words come true." To the outside world there is no little pathos attaching to the manner in which the whole Turkish nation hangs on the lips of its great President, for it is no longer a question merely of the love for and homage paid to a national hero, but apparently a general realisation that apart from Mustapha Kemal Pasha Turkey has no one to whom she can turn for guidance. For a one-man country the President's prophecy is a bold one, and he will have to devote special attention to Turkey's financial and economic policy if the prophecy is to be fulfilled in the lifetime of the present generation in the West.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Princes and the Nehru Report.

At the All-Parties Convention, which was held at Calcutta last Christmas, it was resolved to invite the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes to appoint representatives to confer with a Committee of the Convention, at a round table conference, on the constitutional position and status of the Indian States in a future commonwealth of India. It is now reported from Allahabad that this invitation has just been issued by Pandit Motilal Nehru, who has also sent a similar invitation to the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Maharaja of Mysore, and the Maharani Regent of Travancore. If the Princes accept the invitation—and on this point we have no information—it may be presumed that the subject for discussion will be the draft constitution which is outlined in the Nehru report. This report was framed by a Committee of the All-Parties Convention, and it outlines a constitution based on Dominion status. Paragraph 86 of the document says: "The Commonwealth shall exercise the

(Continued on page 226.)

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1929.

THE YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN FRONTIER.

The recrudescence of trouble on the frontier between Serbia and Bulgaria, after hopes of a satisfactory settlement of the main points at issue between the two countries had been raised by the agreement reached at Pirot last February, suggests that a more radical solution of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian problem is required than the mere waiting for good will on both sides. There is a tendency abroad to imagine that the Macedonian question is at the back of all trouble in the Balkans, and that, as this problem cannot be solved without raising others of wider significance, even if less intense, it must be left to time and chance to find the best way out of the difficulty. The more recent incidents that have troubled the relations between Serbs and Bulgarians, however, have had nothing to do with the Macedonian question, but they concern directly the demarcation of the frontier between the two countries as fixed by the Treaty of Neuilly. On general principles there is much to be said against the revision of the Peace Treaties; most certainly, there can be no general scrapping of treaties in the belief that an agreed settlement on all points would now be easily reached in an atmosphere of peace and friendliness in contradistinction to the "seething cauldron of human passions" that Versailles represented ten or eleven years ago. On the other hand there can be no valid reason why any one Peace Treaty should be regarded as so sacrosanct that it cannot be amended in detail where the necessity for so doing is proved and the alteration can be carried through to the advantage of all the parties concerned. A case in point would seem to be made out in connexion with the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier in the light of a remarkable document that has recently been published. As is known, the Treaty of Neuilly made certain rectifications of that frontier in favour of Yugoslavia on strategic grounds. The plea for the modifications was reasonable and legitimate; Bulgaria had been the aggressor in the Great War, and, if Yugoslavia could show that in similar circumstances a different frontier would offer her greater protection, the Allied Powers may well have been without any definite evidence on which to raise objection. The object in view was the maintenance of peace. In 1919-20 that object appeared to be best served by the rectification of the frontier. To-day, however, there is a strong reason for supposing that the rectification as carried out, instead of making for peace, is proving a potent factor for unrest, outrages and strained relations between the two countries. Common sense, therefore, prompts an examination of the matter in the light of the experience of the last ten years.

A report has recently been published by the Bulgarian Social-Democratic Party on the results of an investigation carried out by certain of its members into the state of affairs on the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier. This document is sufficiently striking to merit attention. It may quite well be open to the charge of partiality on the ground that its authors are Bulgarians first and Social-Democrats afterwards; but it describes a state of affairs along the

frontier which can easily be disproved, if it is inaccurate; but if the description is correct, the present condition of things can never have been intended by the framers of the Treaty of Neuilly, and it is clearly somebody's duty to bring it to an end with the least possible delay. The following are some of the statements made in the report on the strength, it is declared, of a personal investigation; they concern mainly the northern section of the frontier, which lies outside what may be called the Macedonian zone. In the district of Trn, "the line of demarcation passes through numerous villages, such as Bankia, Vrabcha, Strezimirovitz, etc., leaving one part of the villages in Yugoslav territory and the other in Bulgarian territory. The same applies to the district of Bossilegrad, in the county of Kustendil. There exist even cases where the line of demarcation separates the property from the land farmed and the house from its garden. Elsewhere, the village school remains in Bulgaria, while the church has passed to Yugoslavia; or again, the only fountain in the village, serving the whole population, has been allotted to Serbia in such a way that the population of the part of the village located in Bulgaria has been deprived of the possibility of drawing water at the fountain which it has used from time immemorial. . . . The number of Bulgarian families inhabiting the frontier zone in the district of Trn and possessing property in Serbian territory is about 900, representing a population of 6,500 people. According to the official registers of property, these families possess 875 acres of meadowland, 1,745 acres of fields and 2,500 acres of prairie land in Serbian territory. A population similarly situated exists, moreover, in the frontier zone in the districts of Koula, Tsaribrod, Bossilegrad, and throughout the length of the old Serbo-Bulgarian frontier, as well as at Petritch. . . . In all, this question concerns a population of 30,000 souls possessing in round figures 25,000 acres of land, the greater part of which belongs to Bulgarian subjects, but is situated in Yugoslav territory."

If the conditions are as described, it is not a matter for surprise that there has been "trouble" on the frontier. What is to be wondered at is that it should have been regarded as in the interest of either country to perpetuate this state of affairs and the consequent friction for ten years. To the onlooker it would appear as if the Government of General Zivkovitch, under the prompting of King Alexander, had been the first Government in Belgrade to decide that the state of affairs was intolerable. It invited the Bulgarian Government to a joint conference, and the Pirot agreement resulted. Then, it must be supposed, other influences were brought to bear in Belgrade, and the arrangement reached at Pirot, which promised to ameliorate the situation along the frontier, if it did not remove all causes of trouble, was shelved by Yugoslavia for three months and ultimately denounced. Further incidents have taken place on the frontier, and the position remains where it was, save for increased irritation on both sides. If the facts are as reported by the commission of investigation appointed by the Bulgarian Social-Democrats, it is evident that there is little hope that the two countries of themselves will be able to solve a problem which arises out of a radically unsatisfactory demarcation of the frontier line. Those responsible for the Treaty of Neuilly can never have intended to fix a frontier of the character of the one that now divides Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. It is not a question of favouring one country at the expense of the other. Twenty-five thousand acres mean little to a country, but they are everything to the few thousand people who possess them and who depend on them for a livelihood. The object to be aimed at is to do justice to a certain number of individuals who have been wronged under a treaty, contrary to the intention of the authors. Yugoslavia has suggested expropriation with compensation. If it could be accepted willingly, it would offer a solution; but no one with knowledge of the Balkans would expect the suggestion to be accepted. The alternative is a revision of the frontier line so that it can be redrawn in less crude fashion than at present; and the task should be carried out under the auspices of the League of Nations.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Alexandria, August 16.

The Political Situation.

The political situation here has developed in a rather extraordinary manner, for no party will commit itself in any way. There is a general feeling of expectancy, and everybody is waiting for someone else to make the first move. The terms of the Treaty are undoubtedly receiving a great deal of private discussion, but the results of such discussions are not made public. The only matter which is receiving any publicity is the electoral question. So many contradictory statements have been issued, both in Egypt and in England, with so much show of authority, that no one knows whether or not the electoral law will be modified. Mahmoud Pasha is due back next Friday, August 23, and is expected to make a statement on August 25. The general consensus of opinion at present is that he will declare that the modified draft of the electoral law will be put through, but there is a quiet confidence in high Wafdist circles that this will not be so. That idea is somewhat borne out by the speech made recently by Dr. Dalton.

Although the opinion of the British and European communities is on the whole against the proposals, by far the greater part of the influential members of such communities are away on leave, and nothing, therefore, has been done. Had some of the great financial magnates, people with really large interests at stake, been in Egypt, it is almost certain that the proposals would have been received by a storm of protest. As it is, those commercial people who are still here, are arranging a meeting to discuss the question, and a statement of some kind will shortly be made. Certain legal and commercial circles here are definitely of the opinion that the Treaty will not pass the Egyptian Parliament, and odds of fifty to three against were offered yesterday.

Egypt and Syria.

The fears expressed in some of the English newspapers that the Treaty will have a marked repercussion in India, greatly to Great Britain's detriment, may be far-fetched, but local repercussions have already been noticed which, local circles allege, show that the news has created a great stir in Syria. August 11 has been set aside by the Syrian Nationalists as a "Day of Protest" against the action of the French Authorities in disbanding the Syrian Parliament, and this year the day was accompanied by a very large demonstration, in the course of which repeated reference was made to the Anglo-Egyptian question, and a parallel was drawn.

Party Excitement.

For the last week things have been very quiet indeed, and life has resumed the usual summer stagnation. This state of affairs will undoubtedly continue until the end of next week, when King Fuad, Mahmoud Pasha, Dr.

Hafez Afifi, and many other Egyptian politicians are due to return. Exciting events are then expected, and once Mahmoud Pasha has declared his intentions, the whole political section of the country will very quickly be worked up to a fever of excitement. There are undoubtedly great preparations being made at the present moment for a desperate political fight between the Wafd and the Liberal Constitutionalists, and there is a grave danger that the interests of Egypt will be entirely lost sight of in the throes of party rivalry.

Attacks on the Treaty.

The attacks which are being made on the Treaty in certain sections of the British Press are having the effect of awakening in the Egyptian mind thoughts that the Treaty must really be worth having, for the surest way to make an Egyptian believe in the desirability of anything is to show reluctance to give it. Only the mildest disorders have been seen; the only one to reach the Press was a demonstration at Damanhour, always a bad town, which became slightly out of hand, and which resulted in five arrests. The prisoners were released on bail, and it is stated that Nahas Pasha will personally undertake their defence when the case is tried.

Drug Smuggling.

The Coastguard Administration has been handling the drug smuggling question in an extremely admirable manner, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the traffickers to land their noxious cargoes. Most of the well-known local narcotic, hashish, comes from Syria, and is usually shipped to Egypt, and then either landed disguised as some other less harmful commodity, or else thrown overboard near the coast in the hopes that the tide will carry it ashore, where other members of the band will collect it. As often as not these consignments fall into the hands of the very vigilant coastguards, and so fresh methods have to be adopted. The latest, and one would imagine, least profitable, method was discovered by the harbour police last week. A small object was seen to have been thrown overboard from a large ship which had just arrived from Syria. The police went in search of this object, which turned out to be a large and fat goose. So large and fat was the goose, however, that the police were suspicious of it and subjected it to a careful scrutiny, when it was found that the bird had been cut open and then sewn up. It was reopened and found to be full of hashish. The stomach and other internal organs had been removed, and their place filled with about three kilos. of hashish. This method is both cumbersome and obvious. It would require a large flock of geese to contain sufficient drugs to be worth smuggling, and even the most unintelligent policeman would surely become suspicious were he to observe a whole flock of fat, dead geese floating shorewards, and even were his suspicions not aroused it is not probable that such a gift from the sea would be ignored, and the policeman's family would very soon dine off "goose à la hashish."

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*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

The British Consulate in Alexandria.

The British Consulate-General in Alexandria has for long been housed in a totally inadequate building in the centre of the town. To-day spacious new premises were opened in a splendid position on the sea front, where an imposing white stone building, with a red roof and attractive green shuttered windows, has been built. The new Consulate is much larger than the old one, and as up-to-date as the other was antiquated. Its position is such that it stands out amongst the other fine buildings on Alexandria's new corniche road, and the Union Jack which flies above it can be seen from a great distance. An impressive little ceremony marked the formal opening, and a guard of honour from the Durham Light Infantry saluted the unfurling of the flag, which was hoisted by the Consular cavass, who has many years' honourable service, in the presence of Mr. Heathcote-Smith, British Consul-General, Mr. A. S. Calvert, Vice-Consul, Col. Matthews, commanding the Durham Light Infantry, and a small crowd of members of the British community.

GREECE.

The Liberals' Strength.

Athens, August 12.

It is scarcely to be wondered at that the extreme Loyalists persist in regarding the return of M. Merkouris as Mayor of Athens as an indication that popular sentiment is veering in their direction. Actually it is nothing of the kind. The Liberals would have had a majority of some 6,000 votes but for the unfortunate decision of M. Christomanos to leave the Ministry of Health—unfortunate because he was specially qualified for the post and had already begun to do useful work there—and offer himself as a candidate for the Mayoralty. At Salonika a split in the Liberal vote caused the Jewish candidate, M. Manos, to be elected, but, since he did not secure the necessary quota of votes, the elections will have to be held again. Owing to the solidarity of the Jewish vote more than half the Corporation will be Jewish. Similarly at Xanthe, Turks, it is reported, have secured all the seats of the City Council. This has caused much pain and surprise, but, as M. Michalokopoulos pointed out (in answer to a protest from the local deputy), the Greek electors have only themselves to blame.

In the provinces, the Municipal Elections have in many places been accompanied by rioting, and more than the usual number of episodes have occurred—which perhaps goes to show a revival of political feeling, but may only be the expression of personal and local animosities. Taken

all in all, the results indicate satisfaction with the present régime, or, at any rate, reluctance to exchange it for any other.

The Needs of Athens

As far as Athens is concerned, the crying needs are completion of the drainage scheme, regulation of the city's growth in accordance with a definite plan, and the enforcement of preventive measures against malaria, and other diseases. The new Mayor has stated that he intends to devote himself to the welfare of the inhabitants, irrespective of politics, and has sent a telegram to M. Venizelos (inviting the support of the Government), who has suitably replied. All this is as it should be, and Athenians will look forward to a period of office marked by no less accomplishment than that of his predecessor.

The Eastern Telegraph Company.

The negotiations between the Government and the Eastern Telegraph Company have been temporarily broken off. It may be remembered that the original concession came to an end in 1916, when it was renewed to the end of the War, and again for a further six months. It finally expired in 1923, and negotiations were begun for its renewal. The proposals of the company formulated early in 1925 included, among others (1) Renewal of the concession for another thirty years, the Company undertaking to add a wireless system; (2) the Company to hand over the cables to the State, which, however, would pay a fixed yearly sum for their upkeep. (3) The State to receive one-fifth of the profits from the cables and 50 per cent. from the wireless. (4) Both the State and the Company to have the right to claim a revision of the contract after the first ten years, and after every subsequent five years. (5) The State to have the right to buy the wireless station at a valuation; and (6) On the expiration of the contract the wireless station to become the property of the State without payment.

The negotiations on the basis of these proposals were still in progress when the dictatorship of General Pangalos intervened; during which the Company succeeded in obtaining the concession under still more favourable terms than those which had been proposed in 1925. By the terms of the new contract, the concession was to be renewed for fifty instead of thirty years, while the State surrendered its rights to a share of the profits, its right to buy out the wireless station, its right to the possession of the station on the expiration of the contract, and finally its right to claim a revision of the contract at the stated intervals.

After the fall of the Dictator, the contract was repudiated by the succeeding governments, on the grounds that it had not been ratified by Parliament. The negotiations were, therefore, re-opened, and recently a special representative of the Company has been sent from London. It seems that the Company is now prepared to admit the claim to a revision of the contract by the State after ten years, and also the claim to the possession of the wireless station after the expiration of the contract. The receipts from transit charges for through telegrams, granted by the Pangalist contract to the Company, are now under discussion, and it is at this point that the negotiations have been broken off.

Archæological Exports Forbidden.

A recent circular of the Ministry of Education defines the archæological objects which come within the meaning of the Act that forbids their export. As quoted by a leading newspaper, the circular defines as archæological objects, statues, reliefs, statuettes, inscriptions, stones from ancient buildings, ikons, vases, weapons and ornaments, more than 100 years old. As no specific mention is made of coins, it would be interesting to know whether these are included, since they are the principal objects which find their way out of the country, to the loss of Greek museums. Another class of objects which are frequently exported are engraved gems and rings, but



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these presumably come under the heading of ornaments. In any case, dealers are in future obliged to have a sale-permit for any of the above-mentioned objects, and to exhibit a notice in their shops to say that buyers must demand to see the permit for the particular object they wish to buy. For infringement of the Act, penalties up to two years' imprisonment may be imposed.



Sofia, August 13.

Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

Bulgaria and Yugoslavia have just exchanged two Notes which indicate better than anything else the profound mistrust of one towards the other.

Relations between the two States have been strained for some months past, as a result of a series of incidents, and above all of the energetic attitude of the Liapcheff Cabinet over the question of minorities. The Bulgarian Government means resolutely to defend the cause of Bulgarians in soil annexed to Yugoslavia. Recently an intolerable situation has arisen on the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier, where the Yugoslavs are firing upon Bulgarians on any kind of pretext.

The political amnesty which was voted a short time ago by the Sobranje has furnished the Yugoslav Government with an occasion for showing its ill will towards Bulgaria. It addressed to the Sofia Government, on July 24, an inopportune Note which caused general surprise and indignation against Yugoslavia. For public opinion here does not interpret Articles 118, 119, and 120 of the Treaty of Neuilly in the way in which Belgrade seeks to interpret them.

The Yugoslav Note rested entirely on a forced and arbitrary interpretation of the Bulgarian amnesty as a rehabilitation of the policy which led in 1915 to the intervention of Bulgaria against the Allies and particularly against Serbia, and consequently as a symptom of the preparation of new Serbo-Bulgarian hostilities. This Note was regarded by Bulgarians as a malicious attack by Yugoslavia.

On August 2 the Bulgarian reply was sent. It begins by first of all establishing that none of the crimes provided for in Articles 118, 119, and 120 of the Treaty of Neuilly is connected with the recent amnesty, that these crimes were wiped out by the Government in 1919 and 1920, and that consequently the amnesty in no way constitutes an infringement of the respective clauses of the Peace Treaty. It proceeds to explain that the sole aim of the amnesty is to ensure the final pacification of the country. Referring particularly to the accusation against General Jekoff, ex-Generalissimo, and the massacres perpetrated in Serbia during the War, the Note asserts that the order imputed to the Generalissimo was never officially given and that those responsible for the murders have long since received the punishment which they deserved. The conclusion is that the Yugoslav Note is objectless, because it relates to things quite foreign to the amnesty against which it wishes to protest. Passing from defence to attack, the Bulgarian reply expresses the bitterness caused among Bulgarians by the Yugoslav Note by this raking up of the unhappy past. In conclusion, the Bulgarian Government declares that the Note from Belgrade is not of such a nature as to contribute to the establishment of mutual confidence and tranquillity between the two neighbouring peoples.

The Second Note.

On July 29 came a second Note from Yugoslavia, to which the Bulgarian Government replied on August 9. It referred to Yugoslav-Bulgarian differences over the Pirot Conference. It was a strangely ill-written Note, full of striking contradictions. The Belgrade Government declared that it could not accept the putting into effect of the Pirot Agreement until the two subsidiary demands had been met, and in consequence it asked for the nomination of a Mixed Commission to liquidate the binational properties and to establish a "dead" zone. This amounted to a denunciation of the Pirot Agreement.

In reply, the Bulgarian Government explains its point of view that the Pirot Agreement should be applied before any new negotiations are set on foot. It added, however, that it did not refuse to open *pourparlers* on the two Yugoslav demands.

Discussions will be resumed in September, when the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of either country will meet at Geneva and will be able by direct explanation to prepare the way for fresh negotiations.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 8.

Phrases and Truth.

If one heard the headmaster of an English school saying to the sixth form: "My hope rests entirely on your strict sense of discipline," one would know that he believed that the boys had a sense of discipline. It might not be as strict a sense as the headmaster would like it to be, and the hope he would have in speaking would be that his words would make it stricter. A sense of discipline would be there. In India, where English words are used divorced from their meanings, and for a value they have for Oriental ears as mere phrases, a man may be heard speaking of a sense of discipline in people, when he knows that they have none. That must be terribly confusing to all those listeners outside India who have not learnt the queer fact. It is not the kind of fact that one could guess. One must learn it by observation, or be taught it. What has made me return to this subject is a letter from Pandit Motilal Nehru in this morning's newspaper. It is a letter of reproof to certain of the followers of the Congress in the Punjab; a letter of reproof about a matter not in itself interesting. Or not very interesting. The letter ends with these words: "We are living in critical times, and the youth of the country are our only hope, but that hope rests entirely on their strict sense of discipline." The Pandit knows much better than I do that in the youth that he had in his mind there does not exist any sense of discipline. It is not now a case of its not being strict enough for a given purpose: a sense of discipline in these young Indians is non-existent.

Discipline.

I remember that years ago I was walking up and down in the Eden Gardens, while the band played. The lawn was crowded with people. They were most of them Europeans, all walking up and down. As they all knew to "keep to the left," the files did not get mixed. I had

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a companion, a Muhammadan, a merchant from Bombay. Presently he remarked to me that the orderliness of the crowd was an amazement to him. "We Indians," he went on, "because there is no sense of discipline in us, could not do a thing like this. If we were all Indians here, we'd have to stand still to listen to the music." I was once invited to attend the annual meeting of a literary and social society in the north of Calcutta. There was to be acting afterwards; the galleries were crowded with women and children; the body of the hall was packed with young men. I was on the platform. A report was read; speeches were made—to the people a few yards off. As the rest of the young men and all the women and children were all talking about their private affairs, no report could be read to them. The pandemonium was not a bit disconcerting to any one on the platform but myself, the solitary non-Indian present. I once was invited to lecture to a Calcutta audience. Before I began I made a point of asking those who were likely to want to go out in the course of the lecture to go out before it began. Some few rose and went out. I began to lecture. One here would get up and go out; then one there. So I stopped and asked that those who were likely to want to leave within the next twenty minutes, should leave before I resumed the lecture. I said I did not care how small my audience was; but I refused to speak to a perpetually moving body. That is the only way to deal with such people.

Municipal Government.

Earlier in the week than the day of the Pandit's letter there had been thrown up, for those watching, another good example of this amazing divorce of words and their meaning. The Report of the Madras Provincial Committee had this: "Moreover the progress made in the last ten years under Indian direction in education, local self-government, and in general enterprise amply justifies further political advance." I think myself, and have admitted, that a further advance is justified, but it cannot be said to be justified by any progress made during the last ten years in education, self-government, or any enterprise under Indian direction, because there has been none throughout the greater part of India, if there has been any anywhere. When I read the quoted words, I nearly fell down; for only a day or two before I had met a high official of the Finance Department of the Government of India, deputed to inquire into municipal finance and other finance in one of the large provinces. He remarked presently: "If the muddle they have made of municipal finance throughout India had been plainly told to the Statutory Commission, instead of being slurred over, the Commission would have had to report that there was no case whatever for a political advance that could be based on the work done in the past." So I already knew, of course. One is perpetually opening one's newspaper, to read that a Municipality or a Local Board has had to be suspended for mismanagement or a worse thing. One day it is Gaya, the next it is Mandalay. That official I met a day or two before reading the quoted words. I met another a day or two after. What, I asked him, did he think of those words on the Madras Committee's Report about advances in local 'self-government and education? "There have been none whatever," he replied, "under Indians. The Government has done something, but they have done nothing."

"Indian National Demand."

My heading is the title of a pamphlet that was distributed, when the All-India Congress Committee met at Allahabad on July 26. I have been keeping what I had to say for the fitter moment. After a passage in which the emphasis is laid on the fact that all parties in India are united in demanding the same constitutional status for India as is enjoyed by the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, etc. (that is a little doubtful, perhaps) the document goes on with this outrageous travesty of fact: "Between themselves, the Representa-

tives of all Parties have broken the back of the communal problem by important and far-reaching agreements on fundamental rights of citizenship, universal adult suffrage and abolition of communal electorates. The matters that still remain unadjusted are more or less matters of detail and will adjust themselves in no time once the Government accepts unequivocally the right of India to the immediate establishment of the Dominion form of government."

The Analysis.

Take that bit by bit. Suppose you were to say to some Frenchman or German; one who had not been following the course of affairs in India: "We have broken the back of the communal problem by introducing universal adult suffrage and by the abolition of communal electorates." Then the following might be heard: "How is universal adult suffrage found to work in India?" "It has not yet been introduced." "Oh—has any harm followed the abolition of the communal electorates?" "They have not yet been abolished." "But, but—how exactly have you broken the back of the communal problem, if it isn't by the two things by which you said you had broken it?" "It isn't broken yet; we hope—that is, some of us do—that it would be by the establishment of universal adult suffrage and the abolition of communal electorates. Universal adult suffrage may not be established in India in the life-time of any of us, or indeed before the earth dies as the moon died. As for the communal electorates, those of us who never wanted them are all in favour of abolishing them, but those, or most of those, who originally demanded them still demand them. If people simply will not all agree to the same thing, what can the writer of a pamphlet do but say more emphatically that they have all agreed to it?" I meant to carry the analysis a little farther, but that is perhaps enough.

The Comedy.

The truth is that the minds of men in India, a very few excepted, are as the minds of little children, and the whole thing turns into comedy the moment you look straight at it. Let me go back to that lecture. A man called on me, saying that he was the secretary of the Calcutta Meccano Society, and the members of the society wanted me to come and lecture to them on any literary topic. I remarked that the connexion between meccano and literature was slight. Could he tell me what kind of an audience I should find. "I might prepare something," I explained, "and it all be above the heads of the audience." He considered that with knitted forehead. I sat looking at him. Then I remembered that I had an unpublished essay in a drawer. I got it out, and asked him to read a little of it, and tell me if it was the kind of thing they wanted. He read a few pages, and said it would do beautifully. When I got to the room in College Square, and saw the audience (youths, most of them), I saw that what I had prepared was just grotesquely unsuitable; that they would none of them have understood a word of it. But (do listen to this; even this is true) it is doubtful whether it mattered to them whether they understood a word or not a word. What they wanted was to watch my face, while I spoke, to hear the chairman return thanks to the lecturer, to pass a vote of thanks to the Chair, to have spent an hour in a room, and to publish in the newspapers that the Meccano Society of Calcutta had been lectured to by Mr. — on —.

The meeting of the executive committee of the Universal Religious Peace Conference, which was charged with the preparation of the proposed world congress, closed in Frankfurt on August 22. The congress will be held in Calcutta or Jerusalem, probably in 1932.

The death has occurred of Brigadier-General F. M. Edwards, who joined the Indian Staff Corps in 1863. He was in the fighting on the Indian Frontier in 1867-8, and played a distinguished part in Eastern theatres in subsequent years. In the Great War he commanded a brigade at Salonika, and in the B.E.F. He was present at the capture of Jerusalem, and in 1917 was appointed A.D.C. to the King.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 29, 1929 (New Style).

August 16, 1929 (Old Style).

Rabia 1, 23, 1348 A.H. of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab 23, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Dhunjibhoy and Lady Bomanji are among the recent arrivals at Harrogate.

Mrs. Alec-Tweedie is motoring in Czechoslovakia and will not return to Devonshire House till October.

Sir Muhammad Habibullah arrived last week in London, and is staying at the Berkeley Hotel.

The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, Dr. Rennie MacInnes, is shortly arriving in England for a holiday.

King Fuad of Egypt, accompanied by Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, arrived at Alexandria on August 23.

Sir Grimwood and Lady Mears arrived at the Hotel Belgravia, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1. last week from India.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby arrived last week at Stanley, Pearthshire, for a stay of several weeks.

Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel arrived in Prague at the end of last week, after a visit to President Masaryk at Topolcaný in Slovakia.

Sir Norman Bolton and Sir Henry Moncrieff-Smith left London on August 22 for Marseilles, embarking on the Rajputana for Bombay.

Lord Lloyd was received in audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on August 22, upon relinquishing his appointment as His Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan.

The Prince of Wales received Sir Percy Loraine, Bt., His Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, at St. James's Palace on August 23. Sir Percy left London on August 27 for Cairo.

The Amir Talal, son of the Amir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan, together with Hassan Pasha Khalid, his father's Prime Minister, arrived at Marseilles on August 24 in the Macedonia, on his way to England.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Rt. Hon. G. F. Stanley, the new Governor of Madras, was knighted by the King at Buckingham Palace on August 23 after he had kissed hands on his appointment. The King invested him with the insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire.

Rear-Admiral M. E. Dunbar-Nasmith, V.C., C.B., who is to succeed Rear-Admiral H. E. Grace on September 2 as Rear-Admiral Commanding submarines, Portsmouth, was awarded the V.C. for entering the Sea of Marmora with submarine E 11 and sinking eleven Turkish ships during the War.

At the dinner given by Sir Abe Bailey at 38, Bryanston Square on August 21, to meet Sir John Chancellor, the guests included Sir Francis Newton, Sir Howard D'Egville, the Hon. Denys Finch-Hatton, Commodore Ponsonby, Mr. E. L. Homan, the Marquis of Reading, Lord Passfield, Mr. Rudyard Kipling, Lord Rossmore, the Hon. Hugh Wyndham, Sir Clement Kinloch-Cooke, Sir Clive Wigram, the Hon. Oliver Stanley, Colonel Grogan, Colonel Fenwick, Lord Moynihan, Mr. Christopher Chancellor, Colonel Whitburn, Major Christie, and Lord Bethell.

We understand that Major Hubert Young, Secretary at Gibraltar, has been appointed Counsellor to the High Commissioner at Baghdad *vice* Mr. B. H. Bourdillon.

Shaikh Dujaily, who has been lecturing for the last five years in Arabic at the School of Oriental Studies, is returning this week to Baghdad.

Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy left London on August 22 for India, and will be at the opening of the Simla session of the Council of State. Lady Dadabhoy and other members of the family will leave Kingsnympton Hall, Kingston Hill, for India in October.

Air Chief-Marshal Sir John M. Salmond has been appointed to succeed Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Hugh Trenchard as Chief of the Air Staff, with effect from January 1, 1930. Sir John has commanded in many theatres, very notably in Iraq.

Dr. Percy Dearmer is giving a course of nine public lectures illustrated by lantern slides on Byzantine and Byzantinesque Art in the Great Hall, King's College, Strand, on Tuesdays, beginning on October 8, at 5.30. The lectures cover in painting the little known period which begins with the mosaics of the fifth century and continues till Eastern influence was merged into the beginning of the Renaissance in the time of Cimabue.

A luncheon was given on August 26, at Claridge's by Sesostri Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian Minister Plenipotentiary to Athens and Belgrade, to Sir Percy Loraine, High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, and Lady Loraine. The guests were: The Rt. Hon. Sir Ronald Lindsay, Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Mr. F. P. Watson, Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, Mr. John Murray, Mr. F. E. F. Adam, Miss Adam, Abdel Malek Hamza Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Radi, and the Egyptian Consul and Madame Assal Bey.

KING FAISAL THE FIRST.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the accession of the King of Iraq, General Jaafar Pasha al Askari, Iraq Minister in London, held a reception on August 23, at the Hyde Park Hotel, at which some 200 persons were present, including members of the Diplomatic Corps and many officials and others connected with the Middle East. Prominent among the distinguished assembly were several young Iraqi officers, now studying in England the various branches of the art of warfare. A telegram of congratulation was dispatched to the King of Iraq in Baghdad.

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INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 219)

same rights in relation to, and discharge the same obligations towards, the Indian States arising out of treaties or otherwise as the Government of India has hitherto exercised and discharged." It can hardly be expected that this will commend itself to the Princes, seeing that they have just published an expression of their gratification at the opinion recorded by the Butler Committee on the point. The States asked, it will be remembered, that without their own agreement the rights and obligations of the Paramount Power should not be assigned to persons who are not under its control, for instance an Indian Government in British India responsible to an Indian legislature. And the Butler Committee recorded their "strong opinion that, in view of the historical nature of the relationship between the Paramount Power and the Princes, the latter should not be transferred without their own agreement to a relationship with a new government in British India responsible to an Indian legislature." As the Princes pointed out in one of the resolutions which they submitted to the Viceroy at the end of June, this recommendation leaves the door open for negotiations between the States and British India with a view to an equitable and satisfactory arrangement on fair and honourable terms. In the same resolution the Princes said that they would welcome the admission of British India to its due place among the British Dominions. But they certainly did not express their willingness to accept the Dominion Government as the Paramount Power. On the contrary they hold strongly to the view, which has been endorsed by the Butler Committee, that their treaties and engagements are with the British Crown acting through an agency responsible to the British Parliament. They cannot be expected, therefore, to agree to paragraph 85 of the Nehru Report; and if that clause is to be the basis of the proposed negotiations it would seem to be unlikely that these will serve any useful purpose.

The Troubles of Sind.

The Province of Sind is having its full share of the vagaries of nature in the present year. Drought in the neighbouring districts of Mekran brought in many migrants, and may have been the chief cause of the high mortality that prevailed in Lower Sind. Then the river Indus came down in unusual flood, accompanied by heavy local rainfall. This had its usual effect of bringing down many of the mud houses of which the towns and villages in Sind are still mainly composed. A certain number of lives are always lost in such cases; but there was the compensating advantage of the high lying cultivation getting a full supply of water, and the Government of Bombay was able to assure the Legislative Council that the damage was greatly exaggerated. At the end of July, however, there was further excessive rain. Many places in Sind, including Karachi, received in one night a quantity exceeding the average rainfall of the year. Cables have announced the fall of yet further rain, while the bursting of the Shyok dam in Kashmir must lead to renewed greater floods in the river. Fortunately the previous floods had subsided before the further accession of water, and no great damage need be feared if the breaches in the great Begari Bund do not prove to be serious. As

usual the cables paint an unnecessarily lurid picture. Such floods, though they inevitably entail the loss of a number of cattle, do not lead to any considerable loss of human life. Nor is there any reason to fear the cholera epidemic which is announced to be likely. What is more likely is an increase of malaria as the floods subside. The most interesting point perhaps is the continuing importance of the floods on the river, which is at once the life-giver and the destroyer of Sind cultivation. The existence of the Sukkur Barrage will make little difference in years like the present of unusually large water supply. Its usefulness will come in the moderate or deficient years. Fortunately there is no report of any damage to the Barrage works, now well on their way towards completion.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Iraq Cabinet resigned on August 25.

The new Turkish penal code, which is modelled on the German code, came into force on August 20.

M. Herriot, the French ex-Premier, who has been on a visit to Salonika, left at the end of last week for Delos.

The Persian Minister in Rome has been authorised to conclude permanent treaties with Hungary and Austria.

The Salonika police prohibited a meeting of Communists which was to have taken place on August 25. Two Communists were arrested for distributing leaflets of a subversive character.

The Treaty of Friendship between Persia and the Hijaz was signed at Teheran on August 24. The Hijaz Mission was afterwards received in audience by the Shah, who bestowed gifts upon each of the members.

The Persian Legation announces that it has been officially informed that order and tranquillity have now been restored in Southern Persia, the accounts of the disorder in which were at the time much exaggerated.

M. Madgearu, the Roumanian Acting Minister of Finance, has issued instructions that every effort should be made to collect taxes and fines due to the State, in view of the Budget deficit.

An agreement is reported to have been reached between the Persian and Iraq postal administrations and the Junkers firm, whereby the latter will transport the mail from Iraq to Persia, as well as that from Europe delivered at Baghdad by Imperial Airways, Ltd.

Negotiations are proceeding between the Persian Government and the Junkers Company for the purchase of some aeroplanes, costing 15,000 tomans each, for the purpose of fighting locusts by means of poisonous spray.

At the coming meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations the Albanian Government will be represented by M. Raouf Fitso, Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Mehdi Frasherri, Prime Minister, and M. Demetri Poppa, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. M. Fitso arrived in Rome on August 23.

Great flood damage was last week reported from Tabriz. The losses list comprises some 100 persons killed, 5,000 houses destroyed, 3,200 bales of merchandise and the Customs House damaged. Many streets and roads were washed away in places to a depth of three yards. The Government has authorised an expenditure of £8,000 for building dams.

The death is announced of General Liman von Sanders, at the age of 74. General von Sanders was appointed head of the German Military Mission to Turkey in 1913. On Turkey's entry into the Great War, he was given command in the Caucasus, but in 1915 he took up the defence of the Dardanelles. In March, 1918, he was appointed to command the Turkish forces in Palestine, but, though he fought gallantly, could not stem the tide of the British advance. After the War he wrote a notable book entitled "Five Years in Turkey."

A Vickers Victoria troop-carrying aeroplane crashed at Heliopolis aerodrome, Cairo, on August 24, three members of the crew being killed and three injured. The Air Ministry states that the three men killed were:—Sergeant John Melville, No. 86011 (first pilot); Pilot Officer John Wilson (second pilot); Leading Aircraftman Charles Ernest Langan, No. 335056 (a member of the crew). The names of the other three members of the crew, who were injured, are:—Leading Aircraftman Mervyn Henry Creed, No. 354179, dangerously injured, fractured base of skull and occiput; First-class Aircraftman Frank Wilfred Mabbett, No. 363187, dangerously injured, fractured femur, multiple head injuries; and Sergeant Sydney Deacon, No. 335284, slightly injured, concussion, shock, abrasion to lower limbs. The injured men were admitted to the bomber station sick quarters at Heliopolis.

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THE SIXTEENTH ZIONIST CONGRESS.

Extending the Jewish Agency.

BY ASHER LEVITSKY.

It has been rightly said that a moment becomes historic only through the retrospective estimation of a later age. Yet all those who ventured a prognostication of such future estimation were unanimous in acclaiming the Sixteenth Zionist Congress, which opened in Zurich on July 28, as an occasion of undoubted historical significance. This Congress had gained this early distinction for the boldness of spirit and courage of mind with which it accomplished the task of setting up a more powerful and far-reaching institutional machinery for tackling on behalf of the Jewish people the task of rebuilding Palestine as a Jewish National Home. In a spirit of great generosity, exceeded only by its political sagacity, it superimposed on itself a body more authoritative in fields of activity where hitherto it had itself exercised an unchallenged prerogative.

The general character of the interest evoked by this Congress should not surprise anybody. The Zionist Congress has lately attained the ideal which Herzl, its founder and the father of Zionism, had for many years tried to embody in it. It has become the nearest approach to a Parliament of the Jewish nation, since its decisions began profoundly to affect the status and well-being of a nation, estimated to number some sixteen million souls, and gradually to link up its fate once more with its historic homeland. The ubiquity of the Jewish nation removes all territorial limitations from the exercise of "sovereign" authority by this Parliament in all Zionist matters. These Zionist matters go far beyond Palestinian affairs. Zionism, although primarily Palestinocentric, takes also cognizance of many problems, mainly cultural in their character, appertaining to the Diaspora Jew.

The Zionist Congress meets in the ordinary course of events once in two years and lasts for about ten days. During this short period it reviews the work of the Zionist Council and Executive for the past two years by means of a searching process known as the "General Debate." After this there follow sessions of constructive work, consisting of sifting out and adopting sets of resolutions prepared by various commissions of the Congress. These commissions are constituted by the representatives of the various parties and entrusted with the task of investigating and reporting on some specific branches of Zionist activity, political, economic, financial, colonisatory, organisational and cultural. The Congress then reaches its culmination with the election of the Leader and an Executive entrusted with the conduct of affairs for the ensuing biennial period. The discussions on the various resolutions tend sometimes to become most animated, since they represent the inter-play of distinct political parties with profound ideological differences, whose visions of a future Palestine vary from a theocratic State to a socialistic Utopia.

All these questions, of course, came under review at this Sixteenth Congress as in previous Congresses. Important schemes of industrial and commercial development were suggested. A number of interesting financial proposals was made, including the question of a public loan for the development of Palestine. Provisions for urban and rural colonisation were made with a view to the expected increase in Jewish immigration. The questions of Hebrew education and health were keenly debated, that of education revolving mainly on the problem of the ideal involved in the system gradually developing in Palestine. The various items of the budget were carefully scrutinised from the point of view of both ways and means and appropriation. The sum of £750,000 was decided upon to be raised through the *Keren Hayesod*—the Palestine Foundation Fund of the Zionist Organisation—to meet the minimum estimates of the various Zionist services

raised for the purchase of land in Palestine as the inalienable property of the Jewish people through the medium of the *Keren Kayemeth*. The Jewish National Fund—which is the Zionist institution for national land acquisition in Palestine, while a rider has been added, in the form of a reasoned statement, calling upon the Government of Palestine to fulfil its elementary duty in making larger grants to Jewish medical and educational services, thus relieving Zionist funds for a more intensive concentration upon colonisation activity. A series of political resolutions was passed, dealing with certain unsatisfactory aspects of the political situation in Palestine, with special reference to the serious state of affairs in connexion with the Wailing Wall, and the problem of the State Lands; these resolutions embodied also a strong protest against the relentless persecution of Zionism in Soviet Russia.

But the question of questions, was of course, the Jewish Agency. All eyes were focussed upon it, for herein lay the great innovation concealing in itself the promise of a great hope. It fell to this Congress to bring to a conclusion this important issue, introduced six years ago by the President and leader of the Zionist movement since the Great War—Dr. Chaim Weizmann. During six long and difficult years the Zionist leader has been conducting negotiations in the United States and in every important country of Europe with a view to extend the movement of active interest in the upbuilding of Palestine as a Jewish National Home, thereby increasing the financial resources essential for such an undertaking as well as creating a body which could represent the entire Jewish people united for this purpose. In this way he has gained an enhanced political prestige and influence. Such an Agency was in fact foreshadowed by Article 4 of the Palestine Mandate, which says:—

An appropriate Jewish Agency shall be recognised as a public body for the purpose of advising and co-operating with the Administration of Palestine in such economic, social and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish National Home and the interests of the Jewish people in Palestine, and subject always to the control of the Administration to assist and take part in the development of the country. The Zionist Organisation so long as its organisation and institutions are in the opinion of the Mandatory appropriate, shall be recognised as such Agency. It shall take steps in consultation with His Britannic Majesty's Government to secure the co-operation of all Jews who are willing to assist in the establishment of the Jewish National Home.

Had the Jewish people as a whole rallied to the ranks of the Zionist Organisation immediately after the occurrence of such great events as the promulgation of the Balfour Declaration, the recognition by the greatest Powers of the world of the historic rights of the Jewish people in Palestine, and the entrusting by the League of Nations of the Palestine Mandate to the British Government with the idea that the Mandatory Power should be responsible for the carrying out of the Balfour Declaration—the great campaign for the creation of the Jewish Agency in its present form would have been unnecessary. But this, unfortunately, did not happen, and the immense burden and responsibility connected with the upbuilding of Palestine remained the sole concern of the Zionist Organisation. The latter has, indeed, proceeded with a great measure of success to carry out its huge task, continuing the pioneering work begun about 50 years ago by a group of enthusiasts known as *Chovevei Zion* ("Lovers of Zion") and Baron Edmund de Rothschild

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of Paris. The Zionist movement had, especially since the War, achieved many a thing which in the time of Herzl could be regarded only as a dream, or at best an ideal achievable only in a future generation.

Politically, the Great Powers of the world have recognised the Jewish historic claims to Palestine; the Jewish National Home is internationally assured by the Palestine Mandate. Economically, the Jewish population of Palestine has been more than doubled during the last ten years through Jewish immigration into the country which proceeded in spite of economic and administrative difficulties; large tracts of land have been acquired by Jews, either nationally or individually; new Jewish settlements, rural and urban, have sprung up through the determined efforts and sacrifice of Jewish pioneers; large and valuable concessions have been acquired, while the Jewish industrial and commercial undertakings continued promisingly to develop. Culturally, there was established in Palestine a Hebrew school system, beginning with a most up-to-date Kindergarten and culminating with the Hebrew University; the spirit of liberty is duly safeguarded in these schools, thus giving full opportunities of self-expression and development to distinct tendencies in Jewish life and tradition; the whole system is based upon a revived Hebrew language, recognised as one of the three official languages of the country and adapted to meet practical necessities in all the branches of a modern life. These achievements have had a considerable effect upon the well-being of the Arabs, whose standard of living and general development have notably progressed in consequence.

Here at least is a strong foundation of a rising Jewish National Home, painfully laid down by the pioneers who went to Palestine, driven, in the words of Dr. Weizmann, "by age-long hopes and dreams, which through thousands of years have slumbered in the Jewish soul and to which the faithful have adhered with the unshakable belief in the old sacred prophecies." "The ideal of these pioneers," to quote further Dr. Weizmann's speech delivered at the opening of the Jewish Agency on August 11, "was a vision of a new people, freed of the narrowness of the Ghetto and the eternal plea of misunderstanding, living its own life on its own soil. We believe that this was no artificial thought, but the necessary result of the peculiar meeting of the original Jewish world with the European spirit of the past century, an elementary movement of self-affirmation whose most evident symptom was the development of a modern Jewish literature, especially in the Hebrew language." The successes attained by the pioneers have been further inspired by an ideal of creating a Jewish Home which has a spiritual value also to those Jewish people who live in other countries.

Thus stated the task is obviously too immense for the powers and resources of a mere section of the Jewish people, however strong and enthusiastic. But the problem of the Agency was not presented solely as a method whereby to increase the financial resources available for the rebuilding of Palestine, through a big financial corporation, foreshadowed as the Agency's colonising instrument. It was intended as a natural development, uniting the entire Jewish people for the fulfilment of its central task of rebuilding Palestine as a Jewish National Home. The concatenation of circumstances has been such as to suggest this task as a central and primary aim of the creative endeavours and inspiration of all the sections of the Jewish people, whether they accept the entire gospel of Zionism with all its implications or not. This is the real basis underlying the whole scheme for the extended Jewish Agency; the rest is a question of constitutional details. No question has ever been so keenly debated and so thoroughly and exhaustively considered. For six years a vigorous discussion proceeded, and all possible arguments on either side were laboriously marshalled, culminating in this Congress, which cautiously but magnanimously took the historic decision. The small but strong opposition was sincerely and elo-

quently conducted, but the compelling developments and circumstances of Jewish life overruled all the doubts, misgivings and mistrusts of a small section of fanatical puritans. The Jewish Agency has at last been created and immediately convened, not to supersede the Zionist Organisation, but to take over those of its functions as are defined by the Palestine Mandate. The constitution which gives the Zionist Organisation 50 per cent. of the seats in the Council of the Agency, while reserving the other 50 per cent. to the representatives of all the Jewish communities all over the world, coupled with the provision that the President of the Jewish Agency is to be the President of the Zionist Organisation for the time being, is a sufficient guarantee that Zionist ideals will never be compromised. In fact the inauguration of the Jewish Agency immediately after the closing of the Sixteenth Zionist Congress only strengthened the convictions of the protagonists of the Agency. The triumph of Zionism evinced by the acceptance of its central idea of rebuilding Palestine as a Jewish National Home by the entire Jewry of the world, was complete. This Jewry was represented by its greatest leaders, men of international repute. Einstein, Louis Marshall, Felix Warburg, K. L. Frankel, Lord Melchett, Sir Herbert Samuel, Oscar Wasserman, Leon Blum were all there, eloquently proclaiming their faith in the Zionist ideal of a Jewish Palestine in the up-building of which they have come to share. Thus the Rubicon was crossed, symbolising perhaps the greatest crossing in the long history of the Jewish people; for it meant a crossing by a freshly united Jewry, over a gulf of two thousand of years of dispersion, disruption and decadence, back to the land of hope and promise.

THE "WAILING WALL" INCIDENTS.

The tension in Jerusalem between Arabs and Jews which led to the serious riots on August 23, is a direct outcome of last September's episode of the screen at the Wailing Wall on the Day of Atonement. The blame for that is variously attributed; but whether the cause was the Jewish beadle's ill-timed zeal for orthodoxy and decency in keeping the sexes apart, or the callous brutality of a British police inspector in carrying out orders, or the unwary or ill-advised action of the Deputy District Commissioner in giving such orders—whatever the cause, the immediate result was a perfectly justified burst of indignation from the Jewish community. And in this expression of indignation there was nothing to upset Muslim feelings. But, unfortunately for the peace of Jerusalem, that indignation was too assiduously fostered and organised: the hail of protests from every Jewish centre the world over, however spontaneous they may actually have been, ceased in time to be impressive and (in Arab eyes) had the appearance of wire-pulling and manœuvring to force the hands of the Central Government and drive them to an early decision upon Jewish rights at the Wailing Wall.

The local Arab leaders perhaps exaggerated Jewish influence in high places, but rightly or wrongly they felt themselves faced by an act of aggression—a Jewish bid to secure some definite and assured control of the Wall and adjoining property. The responsible local Jewish leaders quickly realised that their protests were being misunderstood or misinterpreted in Muslim quarters, and they issued statements emphasising that Jewish claims went no farther than a plea for undisturbed worship at "the Wailing Wall," such as had been granted to the Jews for centuries past: they put forward no claims to ownership.

But the popular Hebrew Press was less cautious and spoke much of "Our Wall," and that it was quite easy for the Government to apply its "Expropriation Ordinance" and to transfer the property to the Jews (who also regarded the Wall as a sacred site), to remove the Muslims who happened to live near the Wailing Wall, and to compensate them (even at the expense of the Jews) with property elsewhere.

At all events the Muslim Supreme Council, as trustee

for the property (the Abu Madyan Wakf) adjoining the Wailing Wall, considered it its duty to organise counter-measures. These measures were (a) to stir up Muslim religious feelings, and (b) to demonstrate by any means the absolute nature of Muslim proprietorship of the property concerned.

Therefore certain local Muslim leaders gave the Muslim world the impression that the Jews were striving to oust the Muslims from the Sacred Area itself—from the Tomb of the Rock and the Mosque Al-Aksa; and they revived the tradition that it was at this very part of the Wall which the Jews were claiming that the Prophet hitched his miraculous steed, Al-Burak, when he paid his night visit to Al-Aksa: the Wall was, therefore, a holy site for the Muslims, sanctified by the Prophet himself, and to allow it to fall into Jewish hands was sacrilege.

At the same time the Muslim Supreme Council set about a series of repairs and adaptations of the immediately adjoining structures. These acts served to irritate Jewish feelings, to assert absolute Muslim proprietorship, and to challenge futile Jewish protests against alleged Muslim breaches of the *status quo* at the Wailing Wall. Thus the house to the north of the Wailing Wall area was adapted for use as a club or hostelry for indigent Muslims; some upper courses of masonry and a balcony were built above the north end of the Wall; the boundary wall at the north end of the area was pulled down and rebuilt and a privy constructed behind it—all to a loud chorus of Jewish protest and ineffective formal complaints. Worse still, a Muezzin began to take his stand overlooking the area in order to sing out at the set hours the Muslim call to prayer.

Last March work was begun on the southern side—the blank end of the blind alley which constitutes the Wailing Wall area. The rumour promptly spread that the intention was to build a mosque there and to open up this south end so as to turn the Area into a public road leading to the Sacred Area, instead of, as in the past, a cul-de-sac which gave access only to two or three hovels inhabited by Mograbi Arabs. The usual protest followed. The work was stopped, not, however, because it was a breach of the Wailing Wall's *status quo*, but because no permit had been secured for such building.

Nothing more was heard for the next three months. Then, towards the end of July, when most of the responsible Government officials had gone on leave (including the High Commissioner, the Deputy District Commissioner—loosely styled Governor—of Jerusalem, and the Attorney-General), and when virtually every Jewish leader of importance or responsibility had set off for the Zionist Congress at Zurich—then the building was begun afresh and pushed on rapidly.

There was immediately a great outcry among the Jews. This time it took on a quite different tone from previous protests. Several things served to raise the cry to hysterical pitch. There was not a responsible Jewish leader left in the country; inquiry showed that the officials of the Zionist Executive had been formally notified weeks before that such building was to be permitted; it became apparent that the building operations had as their object to repair the southern wall (bordering a road leading to a gate of the Sacred Area), to make a door in this wall and to make steps leading down into an area (immediately south of the actual Wailing Wall area) from which there was immediate access to the Wailing Wall. Thus the Wailing Wall area could be used by anyone passing between the city and the Mosque Al-Aksa. Furthermore the rumours that a "mosque" was to be made of the southern area were confirmed.

The worst was still to come. The Rabbis and the acting Zionist Executive made the usual representations to the acting Chief Secretary and to the acting Deputy District Commissioner. To their horrified surprise they were told that the Muslim Supreme Council was acting with the full knowledge and consent of the Central Government—that the legal advisers to the Crown had duly studied the problems arising out of the *status quo* of the Wailing Wall and that they had come to the conclusion that any sanctity which pertained to the Wailing Wall was confined to that

part only which was frequented by Jewish worshippers—the actual courses of Herodian masonry venerated by the Jews—and that no breach of the *status quo* could be effected by any repairs or alterations which the Muslims chose to carry out in adjoining property belonging to them.

The acting British officials tried to placate the Jews by assuring them that every possible protection would be given to them in their religious practices at the Wall, and that "at the fixed Jewish times of prayer" means would be taken to see that they suffered no interference or distraction from unsympathetic passers-by. This did not in the least appease Jewish fears. "Fixed times of prayer" was something unheard of at the Wailing Wall (but it transpires that this was not really included as part of the new rulings issued from London); also no regard was shown to the Jewish insistence that the change of a *cul-de-sac* into a (possibly) populous thoroughfare was quite the most radical change possible in existing conditions at the Wailing Wall.

Since then the temperature of local Jewish feeling rose rapidly and there were several minor cases of assault at the Wall between Jews and Muslims. The gravest danger point seemed to be the Fast of the Ninth of Ab (Thursday, August 15), when it is the annual custom of the Jews to assemble during the day at the Wall in their thousands. Diligent police precautions were taken, and no "incident" occurred (too much importance ought not to be attached to the point made in the official statement about the "non-religious" demonstration by Jewish youth on that day; for a long time the Wall has provided Jews with an object of pilgrimage from Jewish Nationalist as well Jewish religious motives.).

With the rising tide of Jewish indignation there inevitably grew increased alarm and nervousness on the side of the Muslims, culminating in the outbursts on the two Fridays, August 16 and 23. On every Friday the Sacred Area is thronged by Muslims from outlying villages—and these provide inflammable material liable to ignite on slight provocation in moments of serious tension, and, what is more dangerous still, to spread the fire to districts outside Jerusalem and to isolated Jewish settlements (the riots of 1920 and 1921 gave ample illustration of this).

There would certainly seem to be something wrong in the (alleged) ruling from London that the *status quo* at the Wailing Wall is unaffected by turning the Area into a thoroughfare and by equipping nearby a place for Muslim "religious exercises" side by side with the site that for centuries has been *par excellence* the centre of Jewish religious devotion. Sanctity and religious and national sentiment cannot be packed neatly into limits defined by the letter of legal rights in property.

In conclusion, the following may be quoted (from *Ha-Aretz*, August 6). It is from an alleged interview with Jemal Effendi El-Husseini, formerly Secretary of the Palestine Arab Executive, and now Secretary to the Muslim Supreme Council:

"As for the Muezzin giving out the call to prayer, and the singing and music which have recently begun [by the neighbouring Mograbi Arabs] beside the Wailing Wall"—Mr. Jemal explained that these Mograbis "were accustomed long ago to practise their religious exercises in this Zawiyah [the Area adjoining the Wailing Wall area], but they later took to using the Mosque in the Haram esh-Sherif. But after the Jewish doings at the Wailing Wall [referring to the episode of the Screen on the Day of Atonement] the Mograbis resolved to return to their former place of prayer and to make their prayer and petitions to Allah again in the Zawiyah after their traditional manner, wherein they accompany their prayers with drumming and singing. I reiterate it: the Mograbis have begun again to perform their devotions here as a result of the Jewish infringement of the *status quo*."

Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, arrived in Salonika last week to examine the proposed site of the air port for the Indian air service.

Sir Howard Kennard, British Minister to Yugoslavia, returned to Belgrade last week from leave. He is leaving on September 14 to take up his new appointment as British Minister in Stockholm.

A rare example of the work of Al Bakri, the Islamic geographer (early 16th century), which was discovered on a native bookstall at Marrakesh, has been sent to the Sharif Al Kittani Library at Fez.

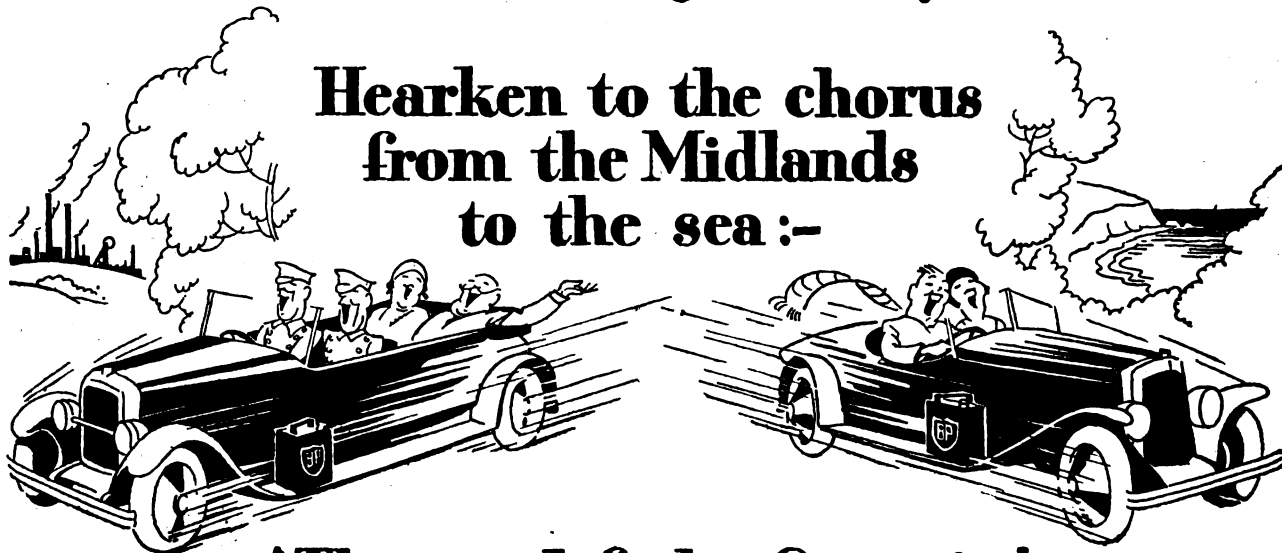


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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Turkish Tariff.

Details which are now available with regard to the new Turkish Customs Tariff, which is due to come into operation on October 1, show that the Angora authorities have certainly not erred on the side of moderation in drawing up the new scales of duties. The Tariff in fact represents protection of the most full-blooded description. Broadly speaking, there has been an all-round increase of the duties by 100 per cent., but in the case of the few commodities which Turkey at present produces the duties are framed on a prohibitive scale. If Turkey were in the position of a country such as America with the land literally studded with great industries and with almost limitless natural resources to help forward further expansion the step taken by Angora would be understandable. As it is it appears to be the strangest expression so far of the ideal of Turkey for the Turks. The most obvious consequences of the Tariff will be a marked decrease in imports and a general rise in the cost of living in the country. The commodities produced by Turkey such as clothing are sufficient to meet only a small part of the country's consumption; therefore, despite the prohibitive duties, the Turks will be obliged to buy a certain amount of foreign goods, though it may be taken for granted that their purchases will be restricted to the minimum. So far as they continue to buy foreign goods the new Tariff will operate in effect as a tax on consumption, and when its full effects are appreciated it is not likely to redound to the popularity of the present Administration.

Egyptian Cotton Varieties.

Some interesting changes are to be noted in the areas devoted to the various types of cotton in Egypt this year. For Sakellarides the total was 847,950 feddans as against 799,523 for 1928 and 795,740 for 1927; for Ashmouni and Zagora 804,069 as against 768,411 and 599,149 for the two previous years; for Pilion 87,537 as against 97,218 and 74,451; for Nahda 44,331 as against 25,883 and 4,261, and for Other Varieties 57,591 as against 47,437 and 42,198. The total area under cotton this year was 1,841,478 feddans as against 1,738,472 feddans for 1928 and 1,516,199 feddans for 1927. From the figures I have quoted it will be seen that Sakellarides still maintain its predominance, but Ashmouni and Zagora now closely rival it in importance, the advance in the area under these types being one of the most significant features of recent years. Pilion has not quite held its own, but Nahda continues to advance rapidly, and if its rate of progress is maintained will soon be taking an important place among Egyptian cottons. The search for new cottons is always going on, and before long one or more new types will emerge from the comprehensive title of "Other Varieties," to take a place alone. In the possible staple types of the future one of the most promising seems to be Maarad, which is the subject of a recent article in the "International Cotton Bulletin." A high yield per acre is one of the outstanding qualities of this cotton. Tests made over a period of four years with commercial cotton varieties showed that Maarad was first with a yield of 5.53 kantars per acre, which is, of course, an exceptionally high yield for Egypt. A test last year gave 5 kantars per acre for Maarad as against 4 for Sakellarides. Another advantage of this new type is that it gives a longer lint length than Sakellarides. It

is a curious fact that tests have shown that the superiority of the yield of Maarad over Sakellarides varies from north to south, becoming greater in the south.

Athens Buses and Trams.

The matters in dispute between the Greek subsidiary of the Power and Traction Finance Company and the Greek Government have not yet been all adjusted, though it is satisfactory to know that they have now been reduced to such comparatively trivial things as the size of the seats in tramcars and motor omnibuses and the stopping places of these vehicles. These questions are to be dealt with by two arbitrators, one appointed by the Ministry of Communications and the other by the company, and in the event of disagreement the matter will be referred to a third arbitrator whose decision will be final. It must be admitted that the difference with regard to the seats has its humorous side. It is not clear whether Greeks require more seating accommodation than English people or whether the company has decided that the Greeks ought to require less. As the trams and buses are in operation the settlement of the problem may prove a nice question for the arbitrators.

The Travel Exhibition.

I am informed that already there has been a very good demand for space at the International Travel Exhibition which is to be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall in London next June, under the title "Ideal Holidays." When I first referred to the exhibition I suggested that the Near East and the Mediterranean regions generally were likely to figure prominently, and I understand that Greece and Palestine are among the Near East countries which will be represented. An exhibition of this nature naturally should be of special interest, and it promises to be one of the features of the next London season.

Motorship v Steamship.

The statistics for the transits of the Suez Canal in 1928 throw an illuminating light on the growth of the number of motorships. The transits of motorships in that year was 826, the tonnage being 4,739,000, as against 640 transits and 3,591,000 tons for 1927. Of the total traffic through the Canal in 1928 motorships represented 14.8

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per cent. In the transits of motorships Great Britain was easily first with a total of 363 of a tonnage of 2,112,000 as against 270 transits of 1,504,000 tons for 1927. Germany came second with 127 transits of 258,000 tons as against 95 transits of 570,000 tons, while Norway occupied the third place in both years. The transits of 1928 were made by 231 vessels, the number of transits being on the average $3\frac{1}{2}$ for each vessel, which compares with an average of 3 for the previous year. Of the 231 vessels 98 were British, 37 Norwegian, and 29 German, the respective figures for the previous year being 88, 39 and 22. There has been a steady tendency for an increase in the size of motorships using the Canal, and the measurement of the new vessels transiting it in 1928 gave an average of 5,269 tons as against one of 4,884 tons for the previous year.

Sudan Trade Expansion.

The trade of the Sudan continues on the up grade, the figures for the first five months of this year being £E8,238,766, which represents an increase of £E1,676,198 on the total for the corresponding period of 1928. An increase was recorded under every heading, the principal one, of course, being in exports which at £E5,289,246 are up by £E1,409,479. Compared with this improvement, which is mainly due to cotton, the rise in imports which at £E1,866,623 are £E183,818 up is unimpressive, though it is as a matter of fact very important, indicating as it does that economic conditions in the Sudan are now on the up grade. Naturally much depends on the prospects of this year's crop, and if as present indications suggest, the harvest generally is good and the yield of dura is satisfactory the effect on the purchasing power of the country will be appreciable, with the result that a marked impetus will be given to the import trade.

COMMENTATOR.

A USEFUL DIRECTORY.

The problem which is common to all overseas buyers, is that of the best means of getting into touch with British traders. Sell's National Directory, the thirteenth (1929) edition of which has just been issued, aims at meeting this difficulty by showing the leading makers of, and dealers in, every kind of commodity produced in the United Kingdom. The scope of the work can be gathered from the fact that its contents includes a list of 130,000 traders, manufacturers, exporters, etc., classified by trades. The Directory, which is published in eight languages, is issued at 12s. 6d., and is post free to any address in the world.

The National Bank of Egypt announces an interim dividend for year 1929, payable September 2, at 8s. per share.

SUDAN GUM ARABIC MARKET.

Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, report as follows for the month ended July 31:—

Arrivals in Kordofan Stations (El Obeid and Nahud, no other stations bringing in gum since some time) amounted during the month of July to 172 tons, about half of which was rain-damaged, as against 495 tons last year—a shortage of 323 tons or 65 per cent. Arrivals during the month have been gradually falling off, and during the last week of July they have amounted to only 17 tons as compared with 54 tons for the first week. The shortage in Kordofan and Tendeili this season to date as against last season totals about 4,900 tons; with the shortage of inferior Hashab estimated at about 2,000 tons the total shortage in Hashab gums as against last season would amount to date to about 6,900 tons.

El Obeid prices for gum free from rain damage have closed at the end of the month at about 10s. per cwt. more than the closing price of June 30. But if one bears in mind that the daily average is no more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons for the whole month, and still less for the latter half of the month taken separately, and moreover that only half that quantity is gum free from rain damage, it will be easily realised that even the El Obeid price is very little more than a nominal price nowadays. Notwithstanding the smallness of demand, those local dealers who have any gum in hand (the total of any such gum cannot amount to much) are able to obtain for it much higher prices than those paid at El Obeid for the few kantars still coming in.

Demand has been very small. Talha prices have gone up 1s. per cwt.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) EGYPT.

Electric Power Station.—The Ministry of the Interior, Municipalities and Commissions Section, invites tenders for the supply and erection of an electrical power station for Dessouk Town. October 2. (D.O.T.)

Electric Power Station.—The Ministry of the Interior, Municipalities and Local Commissions Section, invites tenders for the supply and erection of an electrical power station for the town of Samannoud. September 28. (D.O.T.)

Venturi Meters.—The Public Works Ministry, Tanzim Department, invites tenders for the supply of two Venturi meters to register discharge continually in cubic metres. September 14. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Pipes, Etc.—The Indian Stores Department, Simla, invites tenders for the supply of 80,000 ft. of rising main, specials, sluice valves, air valves, etc., for the Jaipur Water Supply Scheme. September 16. (D.O.T.)

ALBANIA.

Quinine.—The Ministry of Finance of the Albanian Government invites tenders for the supply and delivery at Tirana of the following annual requirements of quinine:

Kgs.

1,250 compressed sulphate of quinine.

250 compressed bi-sulphate of quinine.

500 sugar-coated bi-sulphate of quinine.

500 sugar-coated sulphate of quinine.

500 chlorhydrate of quinine, sugar-coated.

500 chocolate with quinine.

300,000 ampules of 1.00 grams, bichlorhydrate of quinine.

300,000 ampules of 1.50 grams, bichlorhydrate of quinine.

150,000 ampules of 0.25 grams, bichlorhydrate of quinine. September 16. (D.O.T.)

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The Only Winter Natural Springs and Modern Sulphur Baths Establishment in the World

Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

The Engine as Brake.

From an engineering point of view there is no objection whatever to the use of the engine as a brake, although some drivers are averse to the custom. The matter has been raised, so it may as well be discussed, and in the first place it will be generally admitted, I think, that it is sound practice to apply the braking action over all available media so as not to bring too severe a strain on any one of them.

The question has been raised as to whether, when running down hill with the engine acting as a brake, there is any benefit from keeping the switch on, so that the engine is firing. The query may be put, concisely, in this way: With the throttle closed down to a slow running position, is the braking effect of the engine greater with the ignition switch on or off?

In each case gas is taken into the cylinders on the proper stroke and compressed. That compression is one of the chief factors in the braking action. In one case the mixture escapes unfired, and in the other it is ignited. The firing must give an impetus to the pistons, but with spark retarded and throttle almost closed, that impetus is slight. At the same time, exhaust gas has to be cleared out of the cylinders, and is driven out against its own pressure. That causes further braking action, which if the switch is off and the mixture is not fired, is not brought into existence.

The compression braking effect, when the switch is off, may be written as "x." When the switch is on, the same compression braking effect x is obtained, but its amount is reduced by the amount of force brought to bear against it by the engine firing a force which can be written as "y." In the one case then, the braking effect is x and in the other, x-y.

But in the latter case an added braking effect in clearing out the exhaust gases is obtained, which may be called z, so that the compression braking effect is increased by the scavenging effort. With switch off the total braking effect is x, with the switch on, the total braking effect is x plus z-y. Now, with the switch on and the ignition advanced, the value of y is considerable, but x and z are constants. Were it not for y, obviously, x plus z would be greater than x. That is to say that were it not for the driving impulse, the braking effects of compression, plus the scouring out of the exhaust gases under pressure would be greater than those of compression alone. The problem, therefore, is how to reduce the value of y to the lowest possible figure.

It is apparent that the only way this can be done is to retard the ignition as much as possible, to cause late firing of the mixture, so that the exploding and expanding gas follows rather than drives the piston. This late firing adds considerably to the braking effect of the scavenging stroke which follows as the piston, for a part of the stroke, has to be driven up against the expanding gas.

The problem therefore resolves itself to this: Using the engine as a brake with the switch off, utilises compression alone. Using it with the switch on, and the ignition fully retarded, brings a further braking effect into action by checking the expanded gases at the beginning of the scouring stroke, but minimises it by the amount of driving effect given by the explosion. Is the driving effect less than the braking effect created by the scouring of the exhaust gases? If the ignition can be greatly retarded, that probably will be the case. If, on the other hand the timing is so advanced in its normal position that the point of greatest retardation is not such as to cause the exploding gas to push rather than drive the piston, then braking value is lost by having the switch in an "on" position. As it is not possible for the motorist to measure

the value of all these forces without the use of laboratory instruments, his best plan will be to take the car to the top of a hill and time it during descent, once with the engine in gear and the switch off, and again with the switch in the "on" position and the ignition lever fully retarded.

Preventing Accidents.

In regard to the Royal Commission on Transport, it seems evident to the disinterested that the most urgent matters from a public standpoint should take precedence of those which are more particularly of a trade character. There is no branch of the committee's work which can be of greater importance than that relating to the finding of means whereby accidents on the road can be minimised if not altogether avoided. As the *Commercial Motor* says, there are many structural and maintenance problems of almost equal importance and they, we think, must prove the Commissioners' connecting link to the second phase of their conclusions. It may be forecasted that this will be the one treating of licensing reform, of which the essentials will have to be based on some plan of zoning the country, with area commissioners or the like, superior to purely local licensing bodies but responsible to the Ministry of Transport. All this is rendered virtually inevitable, so long as the Commissioners decide to accept the general trend of the evidence which they have taken.

Whilst on the subject, the paper quoted can certainly take to itself considerable credit in connexion with the success which British six-wheeled vehicles have been achieving in various parts of the world. In the face of strong opposition that journal did a great deal to encourage the development and use of the six-wheeler, and the result is that large numbers of six-wheeled commercial vehicles are now in regular use successfully carrying passengers or goods in various parts of the world. British makers have displayed commendable vision in exploring many overseas markets which offer chances for six-wheelers, because whatever its merits for use in countries with highly developed road communication facilities, it is in undeveloped and uncharted areas that this type of vehicle shows up to unusual advantage. In Australia, South Africa, India, New Zealand, Canada and other parts of the Empire, beneficial demonstrations of the capabilities of the six-wheeler have been given, and, in their enthusiasm to penetrate new markets, some British makers are even turning their attention to foreign countries. We can assure them that a market for this type of vehicle certainly exists already in parts of Roumania, Bulgaria and Turkey and the merits of the type only need to be better known for many other prospective users to come forward.

Problem of Second-hand Cars.

An interesting point has just been raised in the columns of the *Light Car*, where someone wanted to know when, exactly, a car becomes second hand. Referring to certain legal aspects of motoring it is pointed out that there seems to be no end to the problems which crop up in connexion with motors and motoring and this is by no

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means one of the easiest of solution. The question now is: Can a car be honestly and legally described as being "second hand" when, as a matter of fact, it has had more than one previous owner? Certainly it is inaccurate to say that a car is second hand when it has been through three or four hands. It is actually third hand or fourth hand, as the case may be, and the only point that seems to matter is whether a Court would take that view. It seems to me that by this time the custom of describing any used article, no matter by how many people it may have been used, as second hand has become so established that no Court would regard the description of "second hand" to an article which had previously been in the possession of three or four other people, as "attempting to obtain money by applying a false trade description." After all, the best English dictionary I can obtain, defines second hand thus: Something not new; something taken or bought from another, as a second-hand car; of, pertaining to or dealing with goods which are not new; something that is worn and not new. That seems to me to cover the ground fairly well, especially as the dictionary specifically mentions second-hand cars.

Incidentally, if a car is advertised as second hand, what exactly is meant by the description? Merely that it is not new and in that connexion it is obviously immaterial to the prospective buyer whether it has been driven, say, ten times by one owner or once each by ten owners. The whole point is that the car is not new and that it is not in new condition.

ROUMANIAN SHIPPING AND PORTS IN 1928.

The report of Mr. R. J. E. Humphreys on Roumania for the year ended April last contains a detailed survey of shipping and ports in 1928 from which we take the following:—

Roumania, holding as she does the mouths of the Danube, is an important shipping centre and considerable quantities of goods pass in transit through her ports for Bulgaria, Hungary, the north of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Austria, and the south-east of Germany. The Roumanian shipping trade has suffered a marked reduction during the last two years owing to the partial failure of the maize harvests and its revival will depend mainly on the results of the harvest of 1929, which will not be known until autumn. Maize exports generally take place in the spring to allow of the grain being thoroughly dried during the winter. The proposal to use the rivers Dambovitz and Arges to form a navigable channel connecting Bucharest directly with the Danube has recently been revived and a scheme placed before the Government for consideration; it is stated that foreign capital will be solicited for this work.

H.M. Consul-General at Galatz reports that the tonnage cleared from the Danube ports through Sulina in 1928, compared with previous years, was as follows:—

Danube register tons.			
(Approximately the same as Suez Canal register.)			
1925	1926	1927	1928
1,493,317	1,662,932	1,491,741	825,524

The figures for 1928 are the lowest since 1919.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Braila states that 33 British ships aggregating 56,064 net tonnage arrived and cleared at the port of Braila during 1928, as against 51 ships aggregating 84,504 in 1927 and 79 ships aggregating 127,576 net tons in 1926. The total quantity of

exports during 1928 being 62 per cent. less than in 1927, the number of steamers calling at Braila was proportionately reduced. Thus only 204 steamers of other flags aggregating 498,974 net tons called during 1928 as compared with 449 steamers aggregating 866,726 net tons in 1927 and 586 aggregating 1,071,201 net tons in 1926.

The following information regarding the shipping and developments at the port of Constantza is reported by H.M. Vice-Consul there:—The tonnage of shipping entered during the year shows an increase on 1927, the respective figures being:—

	Vessels entered.		Net registered tonnage.
1927	...	...	1,149
1928	...	...	1,113
			2,334,233
			2,482,767

By a regulation issued during 1928 all tankers are compelled to discharge fresh water ballast outside the harbour, unless the ballast has been previously examined by a port employee and declared free of oil products. The object of this regulation is to prevent the occurrence of fires in the port through the ignition of floating petrol products, one such fire in September, 1928, having caused damage to a Dutch vessel. In rough weather, however, it is argued that it is dangerous for tankers to face heavy seas with emptied ballast tanks, and almost impossible for them subsequently to negotiate the narrow and difficult entrance to the petrol-basin. Delays and minor accidents not infrequently occur. A project for the taking over by the Port Authority of the handling of all cargo—a service at present performed by shipping agents—is being considered.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Birkenhead, September 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Makalla for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 5); s.s. Stockwell for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 12).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Shropshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 4).

British India Line.—S.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 7); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay (London, September 7).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, September 13); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, September 13).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, and Cyprus (London, September 11).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Ceuta, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Corfu, Bari, Gruz, Venice, Trieste, Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina and Catania if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, August 31, Swansea, September 3); s.s. Bantia for Gibraltar, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, August 31); s.s. Bothnia for Gibraltar, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement offers (Liverpool, Glasgow and Swansea, October 5).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Maronian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (Liverpool, September 12); s.s. Roumelian for Gibraltar, Algiers, Oran, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 14); s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, September 14, Swansea, September 19); s.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Algiers, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 28, Swansea, September 28). Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

The Yugoslav customs tariff is to undergo a general revision.

The Zagreb Autumn Fair will be held from September 7 to 18.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal Company from August 10 to 16 amounted to 20,500,000 francs.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended July 27 amounted to Rs.12,10,984, making the total from April 1 Rs.2,10,93,020.

For the first six months of the current year Roumania had an adverse trade balance of £5,346,250 as against £4,125,000 for the same period last year.

Foreign exhibits at the Samples Fair at Liubliana, which is to be held from August 31 to September 9 inclusive, will include automobiles, machinery and iron and steel products.

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MODERATE FARES.

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Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*CASTALIA	...	Sept. 10	†BRITANNIA	...	Oct. 11
†ASSYRIA	...	Sept. 27	†CALIFORNIA	...	Oct. 22

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.
‡First and Third class passengers.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLES, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, August 27.

Business on the London Stock Markets this week has again been of the small dimensions associated with holiday times, to which the approach of the fortnightly settlement has contributed. In addition, monetary anxieties and discouraging reports from The Hague are responsible for a less confident tone than a week ago. It is, therefore, to be regarded as satisfactory that the gilt-edged sections show little change on the week, while, with the exception of Southern, Home Rails show a firmer tendency due rather to a realisation of their prospects than to the unsensational traffics. In the quiet industrial markets, international stocks have attracted chief attention, but margarine issues have been prominent on rumours of an agreement with Lever Brothers. Coal, iron and steel shares, whose prospects are discussed below, have also been in request. Rhodesians lapsed into inactivity again, until the end of the week, in the absence of public support.

Foreign Bonds.

For some years now foreign bonds have been much neglected on the Stock Markets, including the so-called "Reconstruction" issues. When the League of Nations directly or indirectly through one or the other of the member nations concerned itself with loans to assist the restoration of several European States, these loans enjoyed a deserved popularity, and at their issue prices they offered generous yields of $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The League of Nations undertook to control the expenditure of the proceeds for productive purposes, and the service of the loans is a charge on definite sources of revenue. In the case of these protégé countries of the League, as of many other countries, the financial outlook has much improved, and their respective loans, while still containing an element of speculation inherent in foreign investments, are sounder now than when many of them were issued, and this is true of the several loans issued subsequently which did not have such a good reception. Although this section of the market is neglected nearly all the foreign bonds have kept firm,

despite the general decline in security values, indicating their intrinsic strength. Many of them, however, are at attractive prices, including Belgian 7 per cent. yielding £6 10s. per cent., and German 7 per cent. yielding £6 13s. per cent. The Austrian 6 per cent. is exceptional in being actually guaranteed by various Governments, including Great Britain, France and Italy, and yields £5 15s. per cent.

Coal, Iron and Steel Companies.

It is recognised that the bad state of trade in the basic industries, including the heavy industries, is chiefly responsible for the present industrial depression in England. The recent signs of improvement in the heavy industries are therefore particularly gratifying. The value of exports of coal, iron and steel, and machinery, up to July of this year was higher than for the same period in each of the last two years, as was also the number of motor cars and chassis exported. Iron and steel production for the first seven months of 1929 was greater than for the corresponding period of 1928. In the coal trade, while there has been some summer slackness in home demand, exports have been well maintained. Other favourable signs are the pooling schemes among coal owners tentatively coming into existence, and the progress reported in the negotiations to find a basis of co-ordinating the district marketing schemes. In the iron and steel trades many firms have passed their dividends for several years, but the majority have now turned the corner, and the recent amalgamations into various groups should prove a right step on the road to renewed prosperity, so that the outlook for those who have invested in this industry is now less black. Three firms which have done well, even in bad times, are Guest-Keen and Nettlefold, whose ordinary shares yield £5 8s. per cent., Swan Hunter, with ordinary shares yielding £7 1s. per cent., and the coal merchants, Wm. Cory and Son, whose ordinary shares give a return of £5 13s. per cent.

Singers Satisfy.

The net profits of Singer and Co., the well-known motor manufacturers, for the year to July 31, 1929, show a slight increase over those for the preceding twelve months at £173,922 against £171,223. The dividend and bonus on the ordinary shares is $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. last year, but since the nine months' dividend payable on the 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares issued as a bonus last year requires £21,181, this distribution must be regarded as satisfactory. As usual £10,000 is carried to reserve and the carry forward is increased by £19,800. In their report the directors refer to difficulties facing the motor industry, but expressly state that they have not negotiated to combine with other motor car producers in any way. Other remarks suggest that they look instead to an expansion of their own business, though naturally this must depend to some extent on the effects of the repeal of the import duties. The difficulties referred to, however, are mainly due to the intense internal competition in the industry, in which three firms are responsible for 75 per cent. of the total production and 45 share the remaining 25 per cent. For the smaller companies, at any rate, some measure of combination seems essential. Meanwhile those considering investment in motor car companies would be well advised to give most attention to the well-established concerns with a good dividend record. In this connection we may refer to Rolls Royce ordinary yielding £4 6s. per cent. Only the $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cumulative preference shares in Morris Motors are available to the public and these yield £7 10s. per cent., which in view of the security is very satisfactory.

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Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

RANGOON, CALCUTTA, and COLOMBO
To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
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Passenger and Freight Service from

HONG KONG, BANGKOK, SINGAPORE & MAURITIUS
To SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
Wireless Telegraphy.

Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained from the following:—

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CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.8

A temporary shortage of postage stamps of one, five, and 15 qind, occurring recently in the Kingdom of Albania, has been met, according to *The Times*, by the re-issue of certain values of the obsolete series of 1927, showing the head of King Ahmed Zogu encircled by a laurel wreath, additionally overprinted "Mbr. Shqiptare" (Albanian Kingdom) and surcharged with the requisite values as follows:—1 on 50q. blue-green, 5 on 25q. blue, and 15 on 10q. red.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
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Barfush Dasdab
Birjand Hamadan
Bander Abbas Isfahan
Burajird Kasvin
Chief Office in Persia—TEHERAN.
Kerman
Kermanshah
Masjed-Suleiman
Meshed
Mohammerah
Nasratabad (Seistan)
Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):— Bagdad, Basra, Kirkuk.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

Head Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN.

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £1,000,000
Capital Paid up - - - £600,000
Reserve Fund - - - £250,000
Total Assets - - - £6,028,832

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(FOUNDED 1866).

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LONDON, E.C.4.

Branch — 11, CALEA VICTORIEI BUCAREST.

Directors:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.

C. De CERJAT, Esq.

SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.

General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.

Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO.

A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£4,000,000	Paid-up Capital	£2,000,000
Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£3,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden	Calcutta	Colombe	Lahore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe	Uganda
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

Head Office — **SOFIA** — Founded in 1865

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, 522,000,000 leva

97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

British Consular Reports

IV.—THE PERSIAN GULF.

(Continued from page 231.)

Credits.

The purchasing power of the great bulk of the population is extremely low and purchases are of a hand-to-mouth character. Consequently price and not quality remains the determining factor, although in some lines the people are just beginning to realise that they are actually too poor to buy the cheap and shoddy. In towns the rapid extension of the instalment system allows for the sale of better quality goods to a certain class of consumer, but this tendency itself is a result of the general financial stringency and the determination of the retailer to turn over his capital at all costs. It follows that the retailer demands longer credit from the middleman, the middleman from the importer, and the importer from the foreign manufacturer who, in the last resort, is asked to finance the market. The British exporter, when he does not insist on an irrevocable credit being opened in London by the Persian buyer against total payment for the goods on shipment, will ask for 20 to 25 per cent. cash with order, balance against documents at the Persian Gulf Port or Baghdad. In exceptional cases he may grant a 91 days' credit which, in summer, allows ample time for a consignment to reach its destination, but not in winter. On the other hand, a German firm will usually take 20 per cent. in advance, 20 per cent. when the goods reach a Persian Gulf port, and the balance on delivery at their destination. Italian manufacturers of woollen goods take 15 per cent. advance, 20 per cent. at the Gulf ports, and the balance when the goods are sold. In artificial silks conditions are stiffer: 25 per cent. advance, 25 per cent. at the Gulf port, and the balance at destination. But in cotton goods the Italian manufacturer, besides granting the same credits as in the case of woollens, will send goods on consignment to his Persian client without draft or bill. The mistake certain Continental firms doing business in Persia have made has been in accepting 5 to 10 per cent. advances from all and sundry. British shippers who took 20 per cent. with the order and 25 per cent. plus costs when the consignment reached Bushire could afford to allow the Persian purchaser time to dispose of the goods.

Developments in 1928-29.

Statistical information for the year 1928-29 is not available at the time of writing, but the following is a summary of events during the above year which have affected or are likely to affect the commercial situation.

In May, 1928, Persia signed treaties with the principal Powers and countries and acquired tariff autonomy. Thereupon a new customs tariff was put into force which raised the import duties on all luxury articles. This has already resulted in some diminution of imports into the country.

On August 1, 1928, temporary regulations for the enforcement of a Government opium monopoly were issued with instructions that the regulations were to be put into force throughout the provinces as soon as received. The Monopoly Service was ordered to report on the results of the law and the experience gained at the end of six months. The present situation is that the Monopoly Service confines its activities, as regards the preparation of the drug, to opium intended for consumption within Persia. It does not export opium, but sells it in the raw state to exporters who prepare the drug under the supervision of the officials of the Monopoly Service. Exporters had to pay during 1927-28 a tax of 200 tomans, nominally £40, per case of approximately 160 pounds weight, which tax superseded all former export duties, etc. The tax was raised on March 21, 1929, to 250 tomans per case, nominally £50.

The Monopoly Service has fixed the price for buying

opium from the cultivators at the average price of the last three years preceding the enforcement of the monopoly laws plus 10 per cent. The Monopoly Service must, by law, pay cash to the sellers of the opium for any amount up to 6½ lb., and the balance must be paid within two months. As, formerly, cultivators could usually obtain credit for their opium crop for about three months before it was gathered, the new regulations will oblige them to wait much longer to benefit from their crops and so will probably lead to a diminution in the amount of opium grown.

The Opium Monopoly hopes to be able to enter direct into the export business, but as the service lacks the necessary experts for preparing opium for export and is consequently unable to guarantee the morphine content, it is unlikely that it will be able to do this for at least a year. Meanwhile it is interesting to note that certain British firms who import piece-goods into Persia, and whose business has been hard hit for the last few years, have commenced to act as exporters of opium for legitimate consumption to British Possessions which formerly obtained all their supplies from India and have in some cases managed to barter Manchester piece-goods against a proportion of the opium purchased by them for export.

At the end of the year plans were being elaborated at Teheran for a Government monopoly on matches and tobacco, and it had been suggested that the duty on imported cigarettes should be raised from 60 per cent. to 140 per cent. *ad valorem*. These two monopolies will undoubtedly affect adversely the import trade of the Persian ports in the south, and will certainly lead to a further increase in smuggling.

Russian Competition.

The threatened Russian economic invasion of the Gulf materialised during 1928 and three Russian ships called at the Persian Gulf ports during 1928, bringing sugar and cotton piece-goods and some sundries. Although the effects on the market were not so serious as was feared at one time, the introduction of Russian goods through the southern ports undoubtedly had an unsettling effect on the market, which was further aggravated by the continued penetration of Russian goods overland from north to south.

Transport.

The Persian railway from Khor Musa (now to be known as Bandar-i-Shahpur) to Teheran via Ahwaz, Dizful, and Hamadan, has been commenced, and it is said that it will be completed as far as Dizful by the spring of 1930. Should this railway prove to be a practical proposition it must seriously damage the position of Bushire as a port of import for Teheran, but should benefit the trade of the Gulf as a whole.

The Persian Government voted money early in 1929 for the construction of a new and easier motor road from Bushire to Shiraz via Firuzabad.

The Pearl Industry in Bahrein.

For centuries the Persian Gulf has been famous for its pearls and at present the centre of the industry and the chief market in the Gulf is at Bahrein, where over 500 diving boats are registered. About 15,000 of the inhabitants of Bahrein gain a living by diving for pearls, and

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during the season large numbers of divers migrate annually from Persia and the Arab coast. About another 15,000 divers are engaged in the industry off the coasts of Qatar and the Trucial Oman, while Kuwait employs another 5,000 men approximately, but exact figures are difficult to obtain.

The diving season lasts from about the middle of May until the middle of October and is sub-divided into three periods, the first, known as Khanchieyah, lasting about 25 days; the main season, known as Ghaus, lasting about 4 months and 10 days; and the second short season, known as Raddah, lasting about 20 to 25 days. Every year the Shaikh fixes the beginning and end of the Ghaus by a proclamation and orders all divers to report to the captains of their diving boats a week or so beforehand so that the boats may be prepared for sea. The short seasons are not fixed by proclamation and the time of commencement depends on the weather.

When a boat has reached a likely position on the pearl banks, which are free to all comers, it is anchored and the oars are fixed horizontally above the water. Two ropes are made fast to each oar; one of these has a weight attached to it to help the diver to reach the bottom while the other is used to pull him up if he is diving in deep water. The average depth is about 20 feet. Each diver is provided with a clip, like a clothes peg, which he fixes on his nose, and a pair of hard leather finger guards to enable him to dislodge the shells without cutting his hands. Round his neck is slung a string bag in which he puts the shells as he plucks them. On rising to the surface he hands the shells over to the oarsmen who heap them on the deck. The shells are opened every morning before diving begins, and are then thrown back into the sea owing to a superstition that this ensures a good crop the next year. The captain of the boat superintends the opening of the shells, taking any pearls found and locking them up in a sea chest. Diving is, of course, an unhealthy and very arduous profession. Pearling boats are very overcrowded and sometimes remain at sea for two months at a time.

In the majority of cases diving is financed by merchants ashore who make advances to the captains of boats. The latter are expected in turn not only to equip and provision the boats but to make advances to their divers. The rates of interest on all advances made in the pearl diving industry have now been fixed by order of the Shaikh at 20 per cent. for the two short season and 10 per cent. for the Ghaus. The captain of a boat is not bound to sell his pearls to the merchant who finances him unless he makes an agreement to that effect, when no interest is charged, and the merchants buys the pearls at 20 per cent. below the market value. No regular wages are paid to divers but they are entitled to a share of the profits. When a boat's accounts are made up the captain takes one-fifth of the profits after deduction of all expenses and the crew divides the remainder in proportionate shares. The biggest buyers are the Continental pearl merchants, together with one two Indian and Persian merchants. These buyers now come to Bahrein in person instead of dealing through agents as they used to. After the close of the diving season they take the pearls down to Bombay to be graded and polished, and thence to London and Paris to be placed on the world market. Buyers seldom pay cash down, and often payments are not completed till the following season. A number of brokers act as middlemen between the boat captains, the smaller merchants and the Continental buyers.

The increasing number of cultured pearls which have appeared on the world market has adversely affected the pearl trade in general. A cultured pearl, usually worth about one-third the value of a natural pearl, cannot be detected, even by an expert, without an expensive electrical apparatus. Last season, when several pearls bought from Bahrein were found to be cultured pearls, a testing apparatus was used which is considered infallible in the case of bored pearls but in the case of unbored ones there remains a slight margin of doubt. The apparatus consist of a hollow needle containing two minute mirrors. This is introduced into the pearl, the interior of which is then illuminated by means of a powerful ray of electric light, enabling the operator to see whether the heart of the pearl is natural or not.

The Bahrein Government has forbidden the import of artificial and cultured pearls, but the latter cannot be detected by customs officers. It has been suggested that the Government should buy a testing machine and charge a fee for the use of it. As there is no export duty on pearls it is not possible to form any accurate idea of the average value of the pearls exported each year. In 1927 it was estimated that the pearls in Bahrein at the end of the season were worth about £2,000,000; £600,000 worth were taken to London by the biggest buyer in Bahrein in that year.

After Bahrein the next most important market is Dabia, on the Trucial coast of Oman. This port is rapidly rising in importance as a pearl centre, but it will be some years before it seriously menaces Bahrein's predominant position. The famous "rose pink" pearls nearly all come from Dabai. Kuwait is another important pearl centre.

The Greek Government has decided to establish a sugar monopoly.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended July 31 amounted to £E8,783, making the total from April 1 £E96,004.

Egyptian Trading has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £20,000 in £1 shares, to carry on the business of shippers, exporters, importers and merchants of, and brokers, factors and dealers in, cotton, flax, wool, jute, silk or other fibrous substances, etc. The subscribers are: M. Nessim, 14, Rue El Falaki, Alexandria, Egypt, company director; W. A. Rowntree, Westlands, 7, Chorley New-road, Bolton, cotton salesman. H. E. Emini Yehia Pasha, of Alexandria, is to be chairman of the directors.

A telegram from Viceroy, Education, Health and Lands Département, to the Secretary of State for India, dated August 14, states:—Rainfall, week ending August 14. Excess: Chota Nagpur, Bihar and United Provinces (East). Normal: Burma, Assam, Orissa and Malabar. Fair: Bay Islands, Bengal, United Provinces (West), Central Provinces (East), Konkan, Madras (South-East), and Madras Coast (North). Scanty elsewhere. Monsoon strengthening central parts of country.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotation.
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam	Florins to £	12.107	12.00½
Athens	Drachms to £	375	375 3/16
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	21.43	20.86
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.20½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32—29/32
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.86½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	817
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.80
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32—29/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1.016
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2/3	4.84½—25/32
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123.87
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	163½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.70½
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	670
Teheran	Krans to £	48	55½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.42½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 3/16—7/16

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Contractors to the British, American, French and Italian Admiralty and War Office.

ATTWATER & SONS, PRESTON, England

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 21 :—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Interest in this contract has shown few, if any, signs of expansion, and a series of small narrow markets has resulted. This has been somewhat surprising in view of the past history of the Sakel contract with its ultra-sensitiveness to outside features because, during the week, we have witnessed a rather sharp upturn in American values due to adverse crop reports. Formerly, this would have been sufficient to inaugurate at least a temporary "bull" campaign in Alexandria, bringing in its train fluctuations of a more or less alarming character. On this occasion, our American market opened one morning 30 points higher, and the Sakel contract responded with 15 points only. Alexandria has been a particularly heavy market (probably due to the reception of hedge selling), and the difference with Liverpool has again narrowed, November/November now standing at 15 points, as against 23 points a week ago. This narrowing of the two markets has induced profit-taking by straddlers who, earlier in the year, had bought Liverpool and sold Alexandria at around 50 points. A little speculative buying and short covering by local operators supplied the necessary contracts here.

A certain amount of "bidding up" of the November position has been noticeable on several occasions, and this month continues slowly to tighten up with respect to January, the difference between the two months now being 11 points, after being at one time rather less. Since the mills restarted there has been, of course, an improved offtake for actual cotton, and with a comparatively small stock of tenderable Sakel available we may quite likely see a progressive hardening of the near positions before the weight of cotton begins to make itself felt. The crop appears to be progressing in a highly satisfactory manner and the immediate course of values will depend almost entirely on what happens to the American crop during the ensuing very critical weeks. November Sakel and October American (Liverpool) are now 593 points apart, as against 605 points a week ago.

Upper Contract.—There has been little activity shown in this market and the tone has been on the heavy side in spite of the more "bullish" appearance of American cotton and a rather better offtake for our raw material. The crop is expected to be a large one and is progressing favourably, whilst hedge selling, by now, must also be exercising a restraining influence on values. We have again closed in with American contracts. Opinion generally appears to be against this market.

Egyptian Spot.

The past week has witnessed a general resumption of work at the mills, and interest in actual cotton has at last shown signs of revival. There has been no real rush for cotton, as many mills had already bought a little in anticipation (with the exception of a strike clause), and the first move of course was the ordering forward of this cotton rather than the immediate purchase of more. Nevertheless, a steadily improving demand has manifested itself from day to day and this has infused fresh life into a weary market. Nothing spectacular has occurred in the way of price fluctuations, and on balance there are only minor changes to report in spot quotations. The basis for Sakel has shown signs of stiffening, but in the case of Uppers the reverse has been noticeable.

Sakels.—An improved business has taken place, and more cotton has appeared to meet the inquiry than might have been expected. Practically all qualities have been in request from time to time, but what used to be called the "bread-and-butter" cotton of the Egyptian trade, i.e., Good Fair and Fully Good Fair, at from 50 to 200 on, has attracted most attention.

Uppers.—A brisk inquiry has been met with and a good business has resulted in cotton at from 15 to 30 on November contracts. The lower cottons at from 25 off to "pass" have also received more attention, and a few inquiries have been received for the "inferior" cotton at about 10d.; generally speaking, the top qualities have been neglected.

Pilion has been in limited request only, and few sales have been reported.

Nahda and White.—Both these growth have figured occasionally in the demand, but it is only the lower qualities which appear to attract buyers at the moment.

Maarad.—Neglected.

Sudan Sakel.—A fair business has been done at firm rates and the inquiry continues to broaden.

Tokar Sakel.—Neglected.

C.i.f. business has been slow and interest in new crops continues to be absent. Forwardings to the trade last week amounted to 5,110 bales Egyptian and 206 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 2,300 bales Egyptian and 1,050 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel are 15 points down to 10 point higher. Uppers has eased 12 points, and Pilion 15 points on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 16.60d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.98d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.05d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 15, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather active, but the tone has been weak and closing prices to-day showed heavy declines for all deliveries. The week's summary of price movements is as follows :—Sakellaridis : November, 32.05 dollars, 1.44 dollars down; January, 32.45 dollars, 1.38 dollars down; March, 32.93 dollars, 1.33 dollars down. Ashmouni : October, 20.46 dollars, 1.03 dollars down; December, 20.92 dollars, 1.07 dollars down; February, 21.36 dollars, 1.07 dollars down; April, 21.75 dollars, 1.08 dollars down; June, 22.19 dollars, 0.96 dollars down.

Sakel.—The publication of the American Bureau Report on the 8th inst. estimating the production at 15,543,000 bales caused a heavy drop in New York, which naturally was reflected in our market the following day. In one session November declined about 14 dollars as a result of liquidation of "long" positions and some short speculative sales, the figure given by the Bureau being about 250,000 bales above that anticipated locally. The exceptional activity of the first session of the week was succeeded by a series of rather weak markets, business transacted being for professional account and of moderate volume.

Export houses continue to take but an insignificant interest in the market, which is only natural in view of the continued lack of interest shown by spinners in new crop business. Taken as a whole, the position appears to be weakish, and a further decline in prices may easily occur. The Government offered for sale on Wednesday last, the 14th inst., 1,271 bales Sakel, of which 131 bales found buyers. The Sakel/Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,159 points, against 1,200 points last week and 1,238 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—After a very weak opening, the market showed a relatively steadier tone, due to some straddle purchases of October against sales of November. The demand from the trade has been only moderate, in spite of the further shrinkage of the premium of Ashmouni over American. All reports received from Upper Egypt are satisfactory, and the market will shortly have to face the weight of the new crop arrivals; it is to be feared that unless a substantial revival in the demand from spinners occurs, these arrivals will bring Ashmouni prices still nearer to those of American. The Government offered for sale on Friday last 729 bales Ashmouni, of which 503 bales found buyers.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE FOR "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.

Alexandria : M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
Cairo : M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.
Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said : John Horne.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan : The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa : Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.
Jerusalem : B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.
Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.
Tel Aviv : Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

SYRIA.

Beyrout : Sarrafian Bros.
Librairie Steimatzky, Avenue Francais.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Baghdad : The Book Shop, New Street.
Basrah : Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.
Bahrein : Kamalieh Bookshop.

BULGARIA.

Sofia : Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia : Dick Soutanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens : Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest : Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople : The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade : Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana : Librairie Lumo Skendo.

AMERICA.

New York : Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass) : Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

The Ashmouni/American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 233 points, against 258 points last week and 410 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 60 kantars, against exports 99,805 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,439,819 kantars.

Spot.—The past week has been one of the quietest this season. Sales only amount to about 2,920 bales, of which we estimate Sakellaridis 775 bales, Ashmouni and Zagora 1,990 bales, Pilon 140 bales, and other varieties 15 bales.

Sakellaridis.—The demand has been for Fully Good Fair and Fully Good Fair/Good without any appreciable change in premiums. The quality of cotton on offer is very poor indeed. Staple cotton below Fully Good Fair is practically non-existent.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—In spite of the strong demand very little business has been put through owing to the poor quality of cotton on offer. The market has been denuded of all decent staple cotton and there is a very great shortage of medium grade cotton.

Pilon.—The demand has dropped on to slightly lower grades and a small business has been put through at last week's premiums.

Other Varieties.—Have been very neglected.

Crop, 1929.—Lower Egypt.—There is nothing particular to report this week concerning the crop, which is progressing normally; however, a delay of about 10 days still exists. The pink boll worm attack varies according to district, but the proportion of attacked bolls is at present rather small. Picking is expected to commence in the advanced fields between September 5 and 10.

Upper Egypt.—Weather conditions have been good and the success of the crop seems assured. In certain districts of the South, picking has commenced, but this is exceptional. The crop is slightly backward and arrivals of any important volume are not expected at the ginning factories before the end of the present month.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

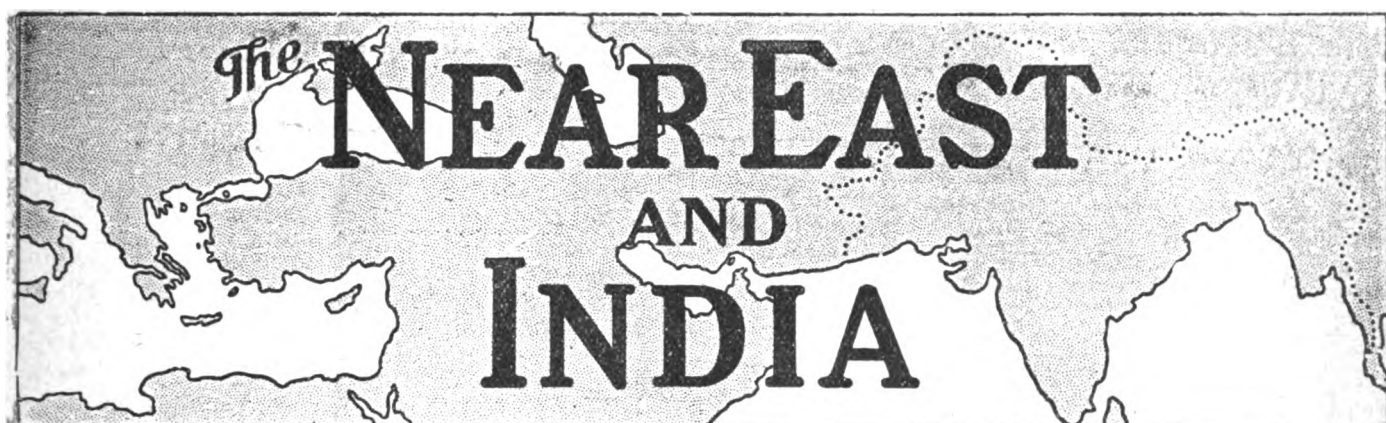
NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at June 30, 1929, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital, (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000; Reserve fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E1,340,625; current, deposit and other accounts, £E14,096,805; Egyptian Government, £E16,756,099; Sudan Government, £E251,429; mixed tribunals, £E2,111,777; bankers' accounts, £E428,978; cheques and bills payable, £E254,976; sundry other accounts, £E1,817,877—£E41,446,066. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E22,981,809; sundry securities, £E916,272; advances on merchandise, £E2,181,159; advances on securities, £E3,993,919; advances otherwise secured, £E1,345,591; sundry other advances, £E1,252,840; bills of exchange, £E3,627,023; local bills discounted, £E680,291; buildings and furniture, £E220,521; money at call and at short notice, £E906,750; bankers' accounts, £E285,343; sundry other accounts, £E1,128,179; cash: notes, £E1,336,302; gold, £E301,342; silver, nickel, etc., £E288,635—£E1,926,279—£E41,446,066. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E24,600,000—£E24,600,000. Gold, £E3,339,570; British Treasury bills, £E8,960,430—£E12,300,000; securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury bills, and British War Loan, £E10,800,000—£E12,300,000—£E24,600,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices as	Railways.		Prices as	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices as
Government Stocks.		Aug. 26.			Aug. 26.	Government Loans.		Aug. 7.
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ..	80		Assam-Bengal ..	984		3½% Government Paper ..	1389½	08 1/16
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ..	70		Bengal Doors ..	1824		Banks		
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ..	87½		Bengal Nagpur ..	914		Imperial Bank of India ..	1004	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ..	81½		Egypt Delta Light Rly. ..	43 1/16		Bank of India ..	19	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ..	28½		Nizams Gtd. ..	42 1/8		Central Bank of India ..		
Do. 7 p.c. ..	82		Ottoman (Smy L Aid) ..	59		Coal.		
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ..	69		Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ..	58		Baraboni ..	5 88	
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ..	69		Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ..	56½		Bengal ..	446½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ..	53		Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ..	193		Burrakur ..	20 3d	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ..	69		Southern Punjab ..	116½		East Indian ..	23	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ..	69½		South Indian ..			Equitable ..	38½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ..	57					Pench Valley ..	384	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ..	59		Rubber.			Raneengunge ..	61½	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (1.0n. issue) ..	75		Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	9 6		Standard ..		
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ..	100		Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	19		Cotton.		
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	88½		Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	111 3/82		Bengal Nagpur ..	54½	
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	100½		Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	17½		Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	768½	
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ..	84		Kepkigalla Rubber Estates ...	110½		Bowrah ..	7½	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	67½		Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	34 4/4		Buckingham and Carnatic ..	1 3	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ..	44½					Cawnpore Textiles ..	14	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	81½		Shipping.			Century ..	466½	
Sudan 3½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	106		Anchor 5½ p.c. Pri. ...	84		Central India ..	91	
India 3½ p.c. ...	56 1/16		Cunard ..	26½		Elgin ..	77½	
Do. 3 p.c. ...	99½		Furness Withy ..	39½		Khatau Makanji ..	542	
Do. 3½ p.c. ...	99½		Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	57 3/4		Muir ..	161	
Do. 4 p.c. ...	86½		P. and O. Deferred ..			New Ring ..	422½	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ..	18½					Phoenix ..	420	
Banks.			Tea.			Svadeshi ..		
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	77 1/16		Assam Co. ...	21 3/82		Alliance ..	158	
Bank of British West Africa ..	44		Bengal United Tea Ord ..	17 1/16		Barnagore ..	285	
Bank of Roumania ..	80½		Bramapootra ..	33		Budge Budge ..	561	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ..	28 6		British Indian Tea Ord. ...	34		Clive ..	589 1/16	
Chartered Bank of India ..	20½		Cachar and Doors Tea Ord. ...	113 1/16		Dalhousie ..	556	
Eastern ..	6 13/16		Carolina ..	315 1/16		Delta ..	595	
Hambros ..	104		Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	54		Fort Gloster ..	457½	
Ionian Bank ..	6 25/32		Consolidated Estates ...	34		Gourepore ..	579 1/16	
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	11½		Darjeeling Co. ...	3		Howrah ..	69½	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	16½		Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	84		Kamarhatti ..	577	
Lloyds ..	63½		Doors Tea Ord. ...	231 3/82		Kankavarrah ..	603 3/4	
Mercantile Bank of India A ..	32½		Dooloomram Tea ..	17½		Khaddah ..	1,0 3	
Do. B ..	33½		Doom Dooma ..	4		Kinnison ..	30½	
National Bank of Egypt ..	33½		East Assam ..	49 1/8		National ..	457½	
National Bank of India ..	50½		Empire of Ind. ...	24		Standard ..	723	
Ottoman Bank ..	11½ c		Halem Tea ..	14		Miscellaneous		
P. and O. Bank Corporation ..	84		Imperial Ind. ...	21 1/16		British India Corporation ..	23	
Westminster ..	76 3/4		Jhazie Tea Association ..	24		Bengal Paper Mills ..	40	
Land.			Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	38		Bental Timber Trading ..	226	
Kassala Cotton ..	8 9		Jorehaut ..	31 1/16		Burn and Co. ...	383	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ..	5 9		Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	2		Cawnpore Sugar ..	104	
Sadan Plantations ..	3 3/16		Lungia (Syphet) Tea Ord. ...	17½ x d		Champaran Sugar ..	12	
Mines.			New Dimbula ..	7		Howrah Oil Mills ..	98	
Salaghat Gold Mining ..	5½		Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	54		ALEXANDRIA		
Burma Corp. ...	17 10½		Nedem ..	26 1/16		Prices on Aug. 16, supplied by G.L.		
Champion Reef Gold ..	8½		Ouvah ..	37 1/16		Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Myers ..	12½		Pabbojan ..	511 1/16		Agricultural Bank of Egypt ..	£7½	
Nesadyroos ..	16 6		Standard ..	6		.. Feed.	£750	
Oreogum Gold Mining Ord. ...	8½		Scottish Assam ..	24		Alexandria Water Co. ...	£147 1/16	
Oil.			Scottish Tea and Lands ..	315 3/82		Assoc. Cotton Ginners ..	£204	
Anglo-Egyptian B ..	24		Upper Assam ..	219 3/82		Behera Ord. ...	Fr. 115	
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	47 1/2 x d		Insurance.			Ciments d'Egypte ..	Fr. 182 x c	
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	26 4 1/2 x d		General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ..	154		Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ..	Fr. 885	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	28 9 x d		London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ..	294		Credit Foncier Egyptien ..	Fr. 254	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	98½		Royal Exchange (£11) ..	7		Fondation ..	Fr. 404	
Brit. Burmah ..	6 9		Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ..	39½		Crown Brewery Priv. ...	Fr. 24	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	44		Miscellaneous.			Filature Nationale d'Egypte ..	Fr. 154	
Do. 8½ Cum Pref ..	26 9		Alexandria Water Co. ...	14		Frigorifique d'Egypte ..	£154	
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ..	3		Associated Cotton Ginners ..	15 6		Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	£164	
Pamam Oil and Transport (s.p.) ..	11 1/4		Dunlop Rubber ..	18 7/8		Land Bank of Egypt Actions ..	£230	
Do. (l./c) ..	7½		Egyptian Hotels ..	7		Parts de Fond ..	Pt. 180	
Shell Transport ..	42 1/2 x d		Do. Markets Ord. ...	25½				
Steam Navigation ..	10 9		Do. Salt and Soda ..	36½				
			Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	60				
			Oriental Telephone ..	17 3				
			Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord. ...	25½				
			Waring & Gillow ..					



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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	241	INDIAN NOTES ...	243	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLES—		Notes and News ...	255
Britain's Duty in Palestine ...	244	The Indian Legislative Assembly ...	249	Developments at Constanza ...	258
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Education in Persia	252	Shipping Intelligence ...	258
Egypt	245	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	251	The Week's Finance ...	259
Turkey	245	BOOK REVIEW	253	The Yugoslav Market for Tractors ...	260
Bulgaria	247			Engineering Topics ...	261
Calcutta	248			Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	263

Notes of the Week.

Egypt and the Proposed Treaty.

The attitude of the Wafd in connexion with the proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian treaty will leave the outside world—or that section which interests itself in Egyptian affairs—either dumbfounded or exultant. Public opinion in regard to Egypt may be divided roughly into two camps; on the one side are those who, having satisfied themselves that the Egyptians will never be capable of governing themselves in conformity with the contemporary standard of good government, are particularly anxious that no risks should be taken by their being given complete independence, and on the other side are those who believe that Egypt has qualified for self-government and that no justification exists for the withholding of it. The misgivings of the former, in regard to their effect on world opinion, have been considerably undermined by the existence in Egypt for over a year of an efficient Government, which has undoubtedly enhanced the prestige of Egypt among the nations. The continual challenging of this Administration by the Wafd was regarded as a more or less natural move in party politics, and was not interpreted as definite evidence on the part of any substantial section of the Egyptian people of inability to appreciate good government. Now comes the proposal for implementing the complete independence of Egypt, and the reply of the Wafd, instead of the subjecting of the terms to intelligent criticism, is to inaugurate disorder in the country. For there can be no other interpretation of the great Wafdist meeting held in Cairo last Saturday. Nahas Pasha, President of the Wafd, refused to discuss the proposed treaty, and apparently confined his remarks to a denunciation of the present Government, with whose achievements his own tenure of office cannot be compared. If the Wafd has ever wished to convince the world of Egypt's ability to govern herself, it had its opportunity last Saturday. Nahas Pasha's quarrel with Mahmoud Pasha is of no interest outside Egypt. What every enlightened observer of Egyptian affairs wanted to learn was whether the great mass of the Egyptian people can prove itself equal to the new responsibilities that it is proposed to confer upon it. The Wafd's answer is an

emphatic negative. It claims to represent nine-tenths of Egypt, and says in effect : "We have no interest in good government or statesmanship; but, if you do not give us what we want, we will riot." If that reply were to stand as the voice of the country, a fatal blow would have been administered to the prestige of Egypt. It is evident, however, that the last word on the subject has not yet been spoken. Even in the Wafd meeting there were many signs of discontent with Nahas Pasha's attitude, and his almost incredible stupidity makes it difficult for all but the most prejudiced to believe that Egypt as a whole will follow his lead.

Perplexity in Palestine.

The time is not yet ripe to examine who was primarily or immediately or ultimately responsible for the disorders in Palestine, but whether the Muslims, the Jews, or the British Government be contained in the answer to that question, there is little doubt that each of them was surprised by the magnitude of the outbreak. Apprehension and warning of impending trouble appear to have existed in abundance, but neither the authorities nor the assailants and the victims could have believed so vast a conflict possible. It is easy, but of little use, to be wise after the event, to say that the police force should never have been reduced as it was reduced during Lord Plumer's régime, or that the Jews should never have been allowed to create even the impression that they were aiming at ownership of the Wailing Wall, or that the campaign of the Grand Mufti against all Jewish claims at the Wall ought to have been checked at the outset. All these things can in a sense be reduced to a common denominator; that the degree to which Arab natives and Jewish immigrants were coming together had been absurdly exaggerated. It is impossible, on any other assumption, to explain at once the extreme methods of the Arabs in this outbreak and the apparent complaisance of the authorities previously to it. From one angle, therefore, it may be said that this disorder has rudely broken down the walls of make-believe, has laid bare once more the fundamentals of the situation in Palestine. We may

remark, incidentally, that the endeavour made in certain circles to explain these disorders by reference to actual events or to external agents is quite superfluous: Palestine, whatever its imports and exports may be, is self-contained in regard to the manufacture of trouble. But though one may understand these things, it is fairly certain that for some time to come most people in Palestine will be in a state of perplexity upon the future. One thing only may be taken for granted: that the Mandatory Power will continue to govern according to the Mandate.

The Balfour Declaration.

There will, quite obviously, be no withdrawal of the Balfour Declaration; it needed no words from Lord Balfour himself for the world to be reassured on that point. The facilities for establishing a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine will exist so long as there are Jews to take advantage of them. Lord Balfour, indeed, in his published letter to Dr. Weizmann, states that his confidence in the "general wisdom" of the policy of attempting to establish a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine remains unshaken, but even without this confidence no wise Briton could think of going back upon his pledged word. That is a fact of which the Arabs of Palestine must soon become, if they are not already, fully aware. At the same time, it would be the height of unwisdom to ignore the significance of these disorders, and that is, that it is only under the tightest and firmest supervision that Arab and Jew can be forced to live peacefully side by side. Such a process does not necessarily imply co-operation between old inhabitant and new settler—a hope that has, presumably, been indefinitely postponed; it does imply compulsory toleration as between Arab and Jew. It probably implies also certain changes of detail in the implementing of the Balfour Declaration, for no fair-minded observer could blame Great Britain if, in face of what is now seen to be the basic fact of the Palestinian situation, namely, mutual distrust between Arab and Jew, she proceeded more cautiously than ever. The punishment of massacres cannot annihilate natural facts. What Great Britain is now engaged on in Palestine is, after all, an experiment, one of the greatest experiments known to history. There is no known precedent for her work there, and if mistakes have been made in the past, it is her duty boldly to confess them and to adopt another line. That such a course will involve the resentment or at least the displeasure of both Arab and Jew is probably to be expected, but unless a country, like an individual, lives up to its best lights, and in accordance with its own ideas of justice, it will surely fail. All such changes of detail, however, must await the definitive re-establishment of law and order in Palestine.

A Commission of Inquiry.

It is generally expected that when the situation in the Holy Land is once more fully under control, a Commission of Inquiry into the disorders will be appointed, and the advice, which we hope was superfluous, that such a Commission should contain no one known to have prejudices in favour either of Muslim or of Jew, has been freely offered. What benefits such a Commission could confer is, perhaps, a debatable matter, for the problem of Palestine, of all problems in the world, is not one that can be investigated within a short time. Such a Commission would probably have small knowledge of the local conditions in Palestine, yet local conditions are in effect the problem of Palestine. Even to a single question like the Wailing Wall there is not, though many English journals have suggested that there must be, a solution which absolutely inhibits the possibility of a further clash between Arab and Jewish claims. You may get clear the outlines of the peculiar problem of the Holy Land, you may discover the fundamentals in the situation, and yet—trip up over one detail, which is almost certain to be a religious or pseudo-religious detail (the difference is much more subtle than it sounds), and the whole fabric of your

solution may be endangered. One of the main difficulties is that the civilised, or rather, urbanised, mind of the West has hitherto shown little disposition to attempt to probe the mind of the Arab. Untutored, primitive, sensual—call that mind what you will; it is, nevertheless, a fact, and, what is more, a permanent and irremovable factor in the Palestinian situation. On the whole, we should like to see this Commission of Inquiry, if it is to be appointed, composed of men to whom a wide acquaintance with Religion, with History, and with the Land is public knowledge. Beside these three fundamentals, skill in political or legal matters would be of little account.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

The belief that in the matter of Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations Belgrade speaks with two voices according as one or other of two opposed schools of policy gains the upper hand, finds confirmation in the conciliatory Note that was dispatched to Sofia, closing the amnesty incident. The Yugoslav Government had found an occasion for protest in the amnesty accorded to Dr. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister who had been responsible for Bulgaria's entry into the War, and who, since the Armistice, had been in exile in Germany, and had pointed out that the amnesty violated certain provisions of the Treaty of Neuilly. In its reply the Bulgarian Government challenged the Yugoslav interpretation of the Treaty and stated that the amnesty was a domestic affair of Bulgaria. In its new Note the Yugoslav Government accepts the Bulgarian statement, and adds that, if this explanation had been given at the outset, it would have refrained from intervention in the matter. The ground is thus prepared for a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries in the friendly atmosphere of Geneva, and it is to be hoped that a personal exchange of views will lead to what the dispatch of Notes across a vexed frontier has so signally failed to produce—a satisfactory settlement of a thoroughly bad demarcation of the boundary line between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

Political Suspense in Iraq.

The resignation of the Prime Minister of Iraq, Taufiq Beg Suwaidi, carries the story of Iraq's political development little further. For as he succeeded to office because of the prevailing conditions of suspense—Sir Abdul Muhsin having carried on during the latter part of his tenure only because otherwise Iraq would have been without a Cabinet—so his fall involves, or can be seen at the moment to involve, no solution of the dispute between Iraq and Great Britain. Sir Abdul Muhsin is reported, indeed, to have consented to form another Cabinet, but only on condition that the unyielding attitude with which Great Britain confronted him during his last term of office be softened—that is, that a more conciliatory mood be adopted in reference to such matters as Iraq's defence, her railways, and the Port of Basrah. In the unsatisfactory meantime, Taufiq Beg Suwaidi has consented to carry on. It is undeniably unfortunate that this suspense should be allowed to drag on in this indefinite way. Iraq, if she does not go back during such a time, cannot easily go forward. It was no secret that during the earlier negotiations Sir Abdul Muhsin frankly hoped for more moderate terms from the British Government, though rumour had it that domestic reasons were not entirely unconnected with his resignation. Possibly, then, Sir Abdul Muhsin, having made his stand for Iraqi independence, may find, after his holiday in Turkey and Syria, that his tactics may meet with delayed success. The Labour Government is credited with the desire to clear up obscure situations in its commitments abroad, and it is scarcely possible than an intelligent and decently conducted explanation of their wishes by Iraqis will not deeply impress the British Government. The present unsettled and inconclusive nature of Iraq's relations with Great Britain can be satisfactory to neither country.

Education in Persia.

The communication (published elsewhere in this issue) made last week by the Director of Public Education in Persia deserves to be carefully studied and pondered over. For the enthusiasm with which modern Persia is tackling the problem of education is impressive. The statistics which Mirza Issa Khan Sadig adduces, alone prove the keenness of Persia to take to herself that part of Western civilisation which is useful to her. And in this connexion it may be well to emphasise an important fact. Persia, which, as is generally admitted, contains some of the finest intellects and the readiest brains in the world, does not aspire to be completely Westernised: she realises, and is proud of, her past greatness, of the time when she was as an intellectual beacon to the comparatively darkened world around. She presents herein a great contrast with, say, Turkey. But she is resolved so to adapt herself to present-day conditions as in time to be independent of Western advice and help: in other words, having acquired the technique of Western civilisation, she will make her own interpretation of it. Few things can be more useful in this process than the sojourning of her young men in the cultural West, and of cultured Westerners in Persia. On the score of higher education, indeed, Persia may point with pride to her achievements, especially when the limits of time and of money are considered. What impresses foreign observers, however, is the huge gap existing between the cultured upper classes in Persia and the lowly illiterates: there is no middle section of educated, or even of semi-educated, opinion—the leavening that has served many other countries so well at all times. But of this lamentable fact the authorities in Teheran are fully aware, and they have deliberately chosen the method of working from the top downwards. There is no question that they are thoroughly in earnest in this problem of educational reform. And, though fundamental changes come slowly in Persia, there is good reason to hope that, with the accumulation of larger funds for education, there will be witnessed with the passage of years in Persia such a manifestation of her eager intellectual spirit as may astonish the world.

Afghanistan.

News from Afghanistan suffers from the double disability of being generally contradictory and invariably undated. Thus, although a report of celebrations held in Kabul in honour of the Amir Habibullah's successes reaches the outside world a few days after the announcement of the fall of Gardez, it may be assumed that this latter event had neither taken place nor even been anticipated at the time of the premature rejoicings in the capital. In normal circumstances Gardez would constitute a key position, and its capture in the interests of General Nadir Khan would augur ill for the Amir of Kabul. The forces on both sides, however, are so exiguous and Nadir Khan's treasury is so low, that it remains doubtful for the present whether either of the protagonists is in a position to terminate the state of virtual stalemate. It would seem as if there would have to be a more general declaration on the part of the tribes in favour of one or the other before any notable development can be recorded in Afghanistan. In the meantime ex-King Amanullah has had the satisfaction of receiving from his successor on the throne of Kabul a telegram of congratulation on the eleventh anniversary of Afghan independence. The first anniversary of the beginning of the challenge to King Amanullah's reforms falls in November.

INDIAN NOTES.**The Whitley Commission.**

No part of the Viceroy's address at the opening session of the Indian Legislative Assembly in January occasioned more widespread satisfaction than his reference to the impending appointment of a Royal Commission to explore all aspects of the labour problem. The decision was not

entirely unexpected, but the announcement that the Government had been fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. J. H. Whitley as chairman was a surprise. The composition of the remainder of the Commission and its terms of reference, when they were subsequently announced, also commanded general approval, for it is recognised that as a body the Commission is singularly well equipped for the task in hand. Some idea of the magnitude of that work is afforded by the comprehensive list of subjects which appear likely to engage the Commissioners' attention in the course of their inquiry. In their official *communiqué*, issued for the guidance of witnesses, a summary of which is given on another page, it is, moreover, pointed out that the schedule is not intended to be exhaustive. Although those Indian politicians who are most fervent in their denunciations of the conditions of Indian labour have already indicated their intention of boycotting the inquiry, the Commission is assured of a substantial measure of fruitful co-operation in its responsible task. No doubt, it will co-opt provincial assessors to assist it in the study of local conditions, while expert advisers, we understand, will be appointed in connexion with the examination of particular aspects of the problem, such as the employment of women labour and public health. A comprehensive survey of the whole field of industrial relationship in India—and the personnel of the Commission is an assurance that the ground will be covered thoroughly—must take a considerable time. It is therefore satisfactory to learn that there is no reason to suppose that the Commission will refrain from recommending immediate action if and when the opportunity presents itself. In view of the present situation in Bombay and Calcutta we imagine that any advice so proffered will be eagerly welcomed by the sorely-tried authorities and as readily acted upon.

Burma and Separation from India.

The question of separating Burma from India is not new, but of late the demand for separation has become much more insistent than it was in the past. The Burmese complain that their interests are subordinated to the interests of India. They say that India is hampering the development of the province by taking a larger share of its revenue than is justified by the services which she renders. And they believe that Burma will always be poverty-stricken so long as she is connected with India; and that nothing but separation will enable her to make progress. A few months ago a resolution in favour of separation was adopted by the Burma Legislative Council

(Continued on page 250.)

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1929.

BRITAIN'S DUTY IN PALESTINE.

It would be idle to attempt to minimize the significance of the recent unfortunate events in Palestine. The hopes based on the period of quiescence during the High Commissionership of Lord Plumer, that both Jew and Arab had had many of their raw edges rubbed off, have been belied, and the peaceful development of the country has received a rude setback. The task of the Mandatory Power, however, is clear. It is to restore law and order, and to start afresh, in the light of the experience now gained, the work of promoting harmony, and, ultimately, co-operation, between the two discordant elements. The problem is not to prove as easy of accomplishment as had been anticipated, or, at least, hoped. The Muslim section of the Arabs has shown that it has not yet appreciated certain fundamental elements that are essential to membership in a civilised State. However serious differences of opinion, whether religious or political, may be, a settlement must not be sought by recourse to rioting and massacre. Whatever provocation may be alleged, there can be no palliation of the orgies of murder and pillage in which Muslims throughout Palestine have indulged. One or more collisions between fanatical elements of the two parties might have been explained away; but what has happened is a very different affair. The initial clash in Jerusalem has been followed by something in the nature of a rising, as it were in response to a word of command, of a considerable proportion of the Muslim population of the country against the Jews. From Hebron to Haifa Jews have been the victims of unprovoked attacks by Arabs, and, but for the hurried dispatch of British troops and bluejackets to the country, the indiscriminate slaughter of peaceful inhabitants would have been general. Not the least humiliating aspect of the whole episode from the Muslim point of view has been that no one has appeared among the Muslims to stay the slaughter or to denounce the perpetrators.

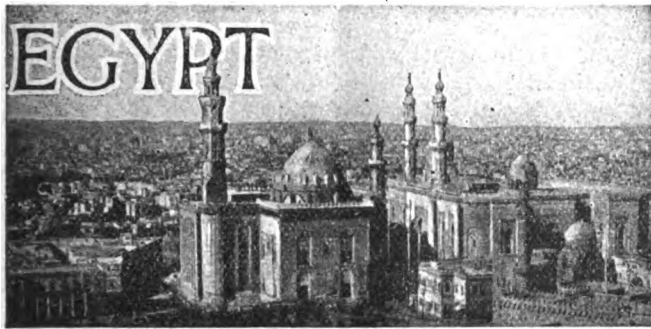
As the immediate cause of the outbreak is known, it becomes the duty of the Mandatory Power to see to it that the Wailing Wall in future ceases to be a source of friction between Muslim and Jew. Hitherto this bone of contention has been regarded from the point of view of an academic controversy, calling for a nice adjustment of claims, rights and privileges, with all the trappings of legal rulings and appeals to history and tradition. As the Mandatory Power has taken refuge behind the shibboleth of the *status quo*, each party to the dispute has conceived it to be its duty to do all in its power to introduce modifications in that *status quo* for its own advantage. So long as the controversy entailed nothing more serious than moves and counter-moves, accusations and counter-accusations, the Palestine Government could strive with patience and tolerance to keep the balance even, while

calling down a plague on both the contestants. To-day the quarrel has exceeded these bounds. One party to the dispute has shown that it is prepared to find in the Wailing Wall an occasion for the wholesale massacre of the Jews of Palestine. The challenge cannot be ignored by the Mandatory Power. A decision must be reached in the controversy, and it must be enforced in such a way that it will be difficult, if not impossible, in future for the spark to be lighted at the Wall which is to be the signal for a conflagration throughout Palestine. If the overgrowth of pretensions is cleared away, a few facts emerge. The Wailing Wall is a hallowed spot for the Jewish race, and for many centuries the Jews of Palestine have been allowed to use it and the pavement in front of it for devotional purposes. The Wall is part of property which is sacred to the Muslims, and the pavement in front of it, as well as the adjacent walls and buildings, are Wakf property. At this point it becomes essential to differentiate between property that is sacred, and as such is associated with religious exercises, and property that has been assigned from pious or other motives to Wakf trusteeship. The sanctity of the latter is that which attaches to all trusteeships, but often in the case of Wakf property is unconnected with religious exercises. The pavement in front of the Wailing Wall is Wakf property, but so little sanctified is it in the eyes of the Muslims that they will allow their animals to defile it, if by so doing they can cause Jewish worshippers annoyance. The adjacent walls are also Wakf property, but so little of holiness have they in the eyes of those who make use of them that they are put to the meanest uses. Until the recent events in Palestine, there may well have been no occasion for the Government to cut this Gordian knot, but to-day there is the peremptory call for a punishment of Muslim excesses. Even if every man guilty of the murder of one or more Jews could be found, tried and hanged, justice might be satisfied, but the seed of future trouble would remain. It is evident that few, if any, of the culprits will ever be traced, and punishment by the imposition of collective fines would by itself be equally ineffective. The problem is to see to it that the Wailing Wall should not give rise to constant friction between Jew and Muslim, and that the Muslims should be for ever reminded that, although their tradition may be to avenge an insult by murder, this desert practice cannot be indulged any longer in a civilised State.

A decision calculated to put an end to the Wailing Wall controversy would be the following: To confirm the Muslims in their proprietorship of the Wall; to confirm the Jews in their unrestricted right to use the Wall area and the enclosure for devotional purposes, subject to the condition that no structure of any kind is to be affixed to the Wall or to the pavement or to remain there overnight; to make the area a *cul-de-sac* by closing all approaches to it at the south end and along the western side, providing the tenements on the west side with necessary exits and entrances in other directions. Under such a ruling the Jews would have no occasion to attempt to steal a march on the Muslims, in order to modify the *status quo* to their own advantage; and the Muslims, in turn, would not have to be on their guard against such manœuvres or be constrained to act in anticipation of them. The Wall area will cease to be a thoroughfare, and opportunities of Muslim provocation will be eliminated, or, if deliberately sought, can be dealt with by police measures. An outcry for a short period from the Muslim authorities of Palestine may be expected; but it may be doubted whether they will prefer as an alternative penalty to surrender for judgment all those who were guilty of the murders of Jews or who can be held morally responsible for them either by provocative words or through refraining from exercising their authority over less enlightened coreligionists. Only by some drastic measure as that proposed above can the Mandatory Power hope to put an end to the unedifying conflict that has raged round the Wailing Wall and to make good its own omission to provide adequate protection for the population of Palestine.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Alexandria, August 23.

Alexandria "En Fete."

King Fuad, and Mahmoud Pasha arrived together in Egypt this afternoon, and were received with enormous enthusiasm. The whole of Alexandria is *en fête*, and the town is gay with flags and coloured electric lights. This evening King Fuad will attend a reception, to be given in his honour, in a huge marquee which has been erected on the sea front, and to-morrow Mahmoud Pasha will deliver his long-awaited speech. There are over twelve thousand notables from the provinces in town for the occasion, and the whole country is in a fever of excitement. The Arabic Press, which has been remarkably reticent on the subject of the new proposals, will, no doubt, now be able to give full rein to its impressions.

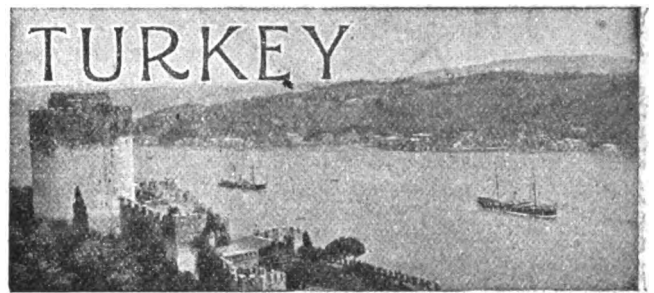
Prince Omar Toussoun's Views.

The only important pronouncement of the week on the subject was a long interview given to *Al Ahram* by Prince Omar Toussoun. Prince Toussoun really belongs to no party, but his opinions carry a certain amount of weight, and anything he has to say is listened to with respect. He gave very frank views on the Treaty, and according to his ideas, Egypt is not receiving nearly enough, especially in regard to the Sudan. He says that by the present proposals the status of the Sudan will be that resulting from the Convention of 1889, which he considers as null and void, as it is prejudicial to Egypt's legitimate rights there. If England is sincere, he continues, she should return the Sudan to the status held before the Mahdi mutiny, and also give back the territory which was detached from the old territory of the Equator, i.e., the district in which the Albert Nyanza lake dam will be erected. England detached this territory from the Sudan, ceded it to Uganda, and considers it as belonging to the Crown. The second thing England should do for the Sudan is to appoint a Deputy-Governor, who should be an Egyptian, and in future the Governorship and the Deputy-Governorship should be held by an Egyptian and an Englishman, i.e., when the Governor is English the Deputy should be Egyptian and *vice versa*. Government posts in the Sudan should be divided equally between Englishmen and Egyptians, and the British and Egyptian troops in the Sudan should be equal in number. That, he says, is the minimum which Egypt should accept in regard to the Sudan.

Barracks for British Troops.

In an article in *Al Mokattam*, the question of barracks for British troops, which the Egyptian Government is to erect on the banks of the Suez Canal, is discussed. It is estimated that each barracks, to hold 800 men, will cost the Government between £55,000 and £60,000. As the number of British troops to be left in Egypt after the

ratification of the Treaty is stated to be 4,000, five barracks will be needed, at a cost of, say, £300,000. Besides this the Government will have to erect living quarters, construct gardens, roads, and make arrangements for a decent water supply; the cost of these extras is estimated at £2,100,000. Therefore the total cost to the Egyptian Government will be roughly two and a half million pounds. In compensation for this outlay, Egypt will, as far as its chief cities are concerned, be free of British troops, and also she will take over the barracks at present in the hands of the Army of Occupation. These barracks alone, comprising the whole of the citadel, the Kasr-el-Nil Barracks in the centre of Cairo, barracks at Abbassia, Heliopolis and Alexandria, must be worth at least double the cost of the proposed new buildings. One will, therefore, agree with *Al Mokattam*, which considers that the money will be well spent.



Constantinople, August 21.

The Arrival of the "Yellow Bird."

At one o'clock on the afternoon of August 19, there alighted at San Stefano Aerodrome, the French machine "l'Oiseau Jaune" or "Yellow Canary," as the Turkish papers put it—from which there stepped forth Assolant, Lefèvre, Lotti and M. de Saint-Pierre, the representatives of the "Cidna" (Compagnie Internationale de Navigation Aérienne). The visitors were officially welcomed by the Sub-Governor of Stamboul, the head of the Turkish Air Service, the President of the Turkish Air League, the French Military Attaché and representatives of the French colony in Constantinople. Leaving Le Bourguet on July 10 last, the airmen flew to Madrid, Lisbon, Rome, and Athens, already a respectable *randonnée*, before coming to Constantinople to show the *Tricolore*. The route they propose to take on their homeward journey will carry them to Bucharest, Belgrade, Prague, Warsaw, Riga, Berlin, Copenhagen, London and Brussels.

At the conclusion of the official ceremony, the French aviators proceeded in motor cars to Dolma-Baghtche Palace, where they inscribed their names in the Ghazi's visiting book.

New Lamps for Old.

Once again have the judicial authorities of Turkey swapped horses whilst crossing a stream. As from yesterday, the Old Turkish Penal Code, patterned on the Code

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Napoléon, has become a thing of the past, its place having been taken by a brand-new Code, modelled on German lines.* The new Ordinance confers on both judicial and police authorities a much broader latitude than they enjoyed in the past, many decisions being now left to the discretion of the police which were at one time reserved exclusively for the consideration of the Bench.

It is further provided that the Turkish Solicitor-General may of his own volition institute proceedings against the police whenever he may think this course desirable. It is not made clear to what cause this departure is to be attributed, unless it be that there have been numerous complaints of late in the Press with respect to "third degree" methods exercised against persons under detention in Turkish police cells.

Cat's Meat as an Article of Diet.

At a time when the Turkish newspapers are daily lamenting the steady rise in the price of butcher's meat, it is at the least disconcerting to hear Constantinople's leading Veterinary Surgeon—and a "Professeur" to boot—proclaiming in the local Press that the population of the old Turkish capital does not consume sufficient cat's meat. From the careful manner with which the learned professor marshals his facts as to respective calories and the determined manner in which he drives home his arguments, one is inevitably led to the conclusion that he must have carefully digested the proceedings of the Pickwick Club and that, like Mr. Sam Weller, he must at some-time have scraped up an acquaintance with the hot-pie-man, who, when fruit was out of season and cats were in, was able to attribute his success among his "consommateurs" to the gentle art of seasoning.

The Turkish papers, at all events, have not taken up the suggestion with any degree of enthusiasm, classifying cats with such other undesirable articles of the daily "menu" as hares and pigeons which should be *tabu* to all good Muslims.

Cypriot Immigrants in Turkey.

An interesting parallel may be drawn between the clamour for "Enosis" or "union with Mother Greece," which constitutes the battle-cry of an appreciable section of the Cypriot townsmen and a "Petition of Right" which Muslim Cypriot immigrants in Turkey have lately submitted to the Minister of the Interior. The principal complaint of the immigrants—by no means a novel one in this country—is that the settlers have not yet received from the Land Registry officials the farmlands to which they consider themselves entitled, the cultivation of which would allow them to raise their crops. A more serious source of trouble, however—and one, also, by no means new in the annals of migratory movements into this country—is that the climate of Anamour, where many of these immigrants have been dumped, has proved deleterious to the health of the Cypriot husbandmen and their families. The localities of Kyllindria and Anamour, which lie opposite Cyprus on the Southern Anatolian coast and which abound in olive groves, have by no means an enviable climatic reputation, but one is led to suspect that the decision to install a considerable body of these immigrants in those regions may have been dictated to some extent by the desire to settle them under conditions approximating as nearly as possible to those to which they had been accustomed in their own homesteads in Cyprus.

Greco-Turkish Negotiations.

It is much to be regretted that the breakdown in the negotiations between Greece and Turkey should have led with so little loss of time to the adoption of retaliatory fiscal measures which are scarcely likely to benefit either party. The Turkish Cabinet have decreed the immediate application of the maximum tariff against all goods of Greek origin entering Turkey, until October next, when the new Turkish Customs tariff, which the Greek Press decries as "protectionist in the extreme," enters into force. The Greek Government have retaliated by ordering the application to all Turkish produce of their maxi-

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mum tariff, which practically comes to the same thing. "But," adds the *Messenger d' Athènes*, a Greek paper which circulates in Turkish official quarters, "when it is recalled that Greek exports to Turkey total 19 million drachmæ, whereas Turkish exports to Greece do not fall far short in value of 260 million drachmæ, it is not difficult to foretell who eventually will be the loser by these tactics." "There is nothing for it," retort the Turkish papers, "but to place an embargo on Greek shipping and render the Turkish tariff prohibitive by increasing it twentyfold, if need be."



Sofia, August 25.

Disastrous Floods.

The almost tropical heat which has prevailed during the greater part of the month of August was followed on the 23rd and the 24th by a series of torrential rain-storms which swept the whole of central and western Bulgaria, resulting in disastrous floods as well as a momentary interruption in railway, telegraphic and telephonic communications between the capital and the principal provincial towns. The floods were particularly destructive in the towns of Trn, on the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier and especially in the plain of Radomir to the south-west of Sofia, where the two villages, Dolna-Dikania and Gorna-Dikania, were almost wiped out. A hundred houses in these two localities were destroyed, 30 peasants (women and children) were drowned, and all the cattle belonging to the population, its crops and cereals were carried away by the rush of water.

The Serbo-Bulgarian Dispute.

As was anticipated, the Yugoslav Government has not replied to the Note of August 9, by which the Bulgarian Government notified Yugoslavia of its assent to the resumption of direct negotiations between the two countries for the discussion of the two Yugoslav demands regarding the establishment of a prohibited zone along the whole of the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier and the liquidation of the bi-lateral property on that same frontier, on condition that the arrangements elaborated by the famous Pirot conference were ratified by Yugoslavia in the same way as Bulgaria has done.

This deliberate delay has convinced Bulgaria that the direct negotiations which she was advised by the Great Powers to make would give no results, and that she can expect nothing from the Serbs, who definitely do not wish to ratify the Pirot agreements, seeking to gain time by avoiding an immediate conflict which would compromise the candidature of Yugoslavia for the Presidency of the League of Nations at its next session, and in obviating, at the same time, an international discussion at Geneva on the causes and consequences of the Serbo-Bulgarian dispute. M. Bouroff has also informed Belgrade that he hopes to receive a reply to this Note before his departure for Geneva. The reply from Belgrade not being forthcoming, the Bulgarian Government has begun seriously to consider the bringing of the whole dispute before the League of Nations, which would then have to inquire into the intolerable situation existing on the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier.

However, in the presence of the threatening attitude of the Yugoslav dictatorship, which declares *urbi et orbi*

that it would consider recourse to the League of Nations as an unfriendly act on the part of Bulgaria, it is very probable that the Bulgarian Government will not take direct action with the League of Nations and that it will be represented there by some friendly Power, such as Italy or Great Britain. Belgium is also mentioned, that country showing a keen interest in the Serbo-Bulgarian dispute.

In view of the intimate relations existing between Yugoslavia and France, efforts will possibly be made to induce France to intervene at the same time as Great Britain and Italy, in order to obtain the collective initiative of the three Great Powers for the international settlement, after inquiry, of this dispute.

As the affair presents certain very delicate aspects on which the general international situation depends, M. Liapcheff, President of the Council, has gone to Varna, where the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Bouroff, is spending the summer season, in order to examine with him the different possibilities to which the procedure at Geneva lends itself. King Boris, who is spending the summer in his château at Euxinograd, near Varna, has joined the two Ministers. The discussion thus assumes the nature of an exceptional consultation in which M. Molloff, Minister of Finance, and co-delegate with M. Bouroff to the League of Nations, is also participating. They have laid down the course to be followed by the Bulgarian delegation to Geneva in regard to both deliberations within the League of Nations and those which concern future negotiations with the representatives of Bulgaria's neighbours.

Pourparlers with Roumania and Greece.

These neighbours are, in particular, Greece and Roumania. The prospect of soliciting the intervention of the League of Nations in the Serbo-Bulgarian dispute imposes on the Bulgarian Government the necessity of bringing to an end the negotiations which she entered into with the two countries for the settlement of pending questions.

To this end M. Bouroff has just summoned to Varna the Bulgarian Minister at Bucharest, M. Pomenoff, who has furnished him with a detailed account of the conversations which he has recently had with the General Secretary of the Roumanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, M. Gafenco, on the subject of the terms of the ceasing of sequestration of Bulgarian property in Roumania and in general on the subject of the improvement of Roumanian-Bulgarian relations, which have again of late been threatened by the anti-Bulgarian excesses of the Koutzo-Wallachian colonists in the Dobruja, excesses which have evoked protests throughout Bulgaria.

It is known that the Roumanian Government is at last in favour of raising the sequestration without insisting on the payment of any particular indemnity by the Bulgarian Government. It would, however, like to obtain economic compensations by the establishment of a régime in favour of the entry of the principal articles imported by Roumania into Bulgaria, to wit, wood, petroleum and salt, which would necessitate the conclusion at an early date of a Roumanian-Bulgarian commercial treaty.

On the other hand, M. Bouroff received some days ago at Varna a visit from the Greek Minister, M. Dendramis, who discussed at length the unsatisfactory state of the Greco-Bulgarian negotiations which were begun more than eight months ago and which had made no progress. M. Dendramis submitted a project for the distribution of the questions under discussion, some of which can be settled immediately by direct conversations, while others call for a more prolonged examination. A third group, he was of opinion, would need to be brought to arbitration, these latter questions being regarded from different angles by Bulgaria and Greece. It would seem that the *démarche* of M. Dendramis has met with complete success, as M. Bouroff has promised to study his proposition and to submit it immediately to the Cabinet, in order to clear up the situation before his imminent departure for Geneva.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 15.

Indian Finance.

Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member, has been to Calcutta, and has been addressed, one might almost say lectured, by Mr. Faizulla Gangjee, the President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce. The report appeared in my newspaper under the heading, "India Cannot Bear New Taxation." I was reminded by that, now a year and a half ago, I remarked that the present political movement in India might split on two rocks, the relation of the Indian States to British India and the question of finance. If several new provinces are to be carved out of the old, Sind one of them, the political government of India will cost so much more. If the Provinces are to be left with a larger share than under the Meston Settlement of the revenues collected in the Provinces, there will be so much less for the Government of India. If Sir A. K. Ghuznavi's proposal that ten crores of rupees should be set aside for the education of the Muslims is given effect to, there will be ten crores to find for other things.

Mr. Gangjee's Points.

There would be point in entering in some detail into the points of Mr. Faizulla Gangjee's address to the Finance Member. He began with a reference to the cumbersome Banking Enquiry; he is more hopeful of it than some are. He passed to the "deep morass of insolvency" into which he sees Bombay as sinking, and deprecated the Government's making further investigations, when, in his view, what is needed is "adequate and immediate relief," without, however, very clearly indicating along what lines it should be sought. He passed to the foreshadowing, in the Finance Member's Budget speech, of new taxation next year, saying it just must not be thought of. "The taxable capacity of the country," he said, "has reached a limit beyond which it is impossible to go." The alternative to new taxation is retrenchment. Let there be retrenchment, said Mr. Gangjee. But what is a Finance Member to do? There is a Royal Commission on Agriculture: it recommends large expenditure on research: the official world as a whole inclines a favourable ear. There is a Fletcher Committee to consider and report on the impoverishing of the country by disease. It recommends large expenditure on medical research: the official world as a whole inclines a ready ear. And so on. Where is there money for new Provinces? What is a greater share of the Provincial revenue, if left in the Provinces, to be replaced by? The new expenditure on research is alone more than could be covered by retrenchment under other heads. The only hope for India that one can dream of is that it be found possible to do with half the present army.

Constitutional Questions.

There was some word in my last letter of universal adult suffrage. Recently the Governor of Burma was speaking of India as a democracy. He meant a political democracy. To my mind, one has only to be drawn up in a railway station alongside a pilgrim train, or to watch a Holi or Muharram crowd, to realise that it is insensate to think that India could ever be a safe political democracy. She has always been in a large measure a social democracy; her people of all classes—one cannot say of all creeds—have ever been ready to mix socially. If you are visiting an Indian nobleman, and are sitting conversing with him on any open terrace, the probability is that half a dozen ragged villagers will be within sight. I was taken the other day by three Indian friends to call on two others. While we were having tea a little girl, with an attractive face, watched us from another room, or from only just inside the room in which we were. She stood there, holding back the curtain. "Who is she?" I asked my hostess, being interested. "Oh, the

daughter of one of the servants," was the reply. None of them would have spoken to her, but none of them had any objection to her having her share of what was to be seen and heard. India is to that extent socially democratic already; but India as a political democracy is to me a thing unthinkable. The mass of the people are as children, and one cannot think of them ever ceasing to be so.

Land Revenue Policy.

A sign of the times, a welcome one, is that a body has been formed, called the Bombay Presidency Land League, with the object of safeguarding the rights and interests of the agriculturists, and in particular of securing that all the revision settlements since 1920 are overhauled. A later report says that considerable progress has been made with the preliminary work. At question time recently, in the Bombay Council, the Revenue Secretary stated that at the recent conference of the Revenue Members of the Provincial Governments, held in Simla under the presidency of Lord Irwin, it was decided that the Government of India should issue a Resolution on the land revenue policy, after consulting the local Governments. The Bombay Government had already been consulted, but the Government of India had called for the local Government's views on further points. What sounds anomalous, is that the Bombay Government—so the Secretary said—had no authority to place before the Legislative Council the report furnished by it to the Government of India, even if it might think it expedient to do so.

Mr. Gandhi Confers.

Not a little interest was aroused by the report on Monday that the day before Mr. Gandhi had had interviews in Bombay with Mr. Jinnah in the morning, and with the Ali brothers in the afternoon. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who had returned to India from America and England to be distressed by the unhappy divisions in her native land, had had some share in bringing Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah together. What these two leaders and Mr. Gandhi and the Ali brothers said to one another has not been disclosed. Mr. Gandhi afterwards was in a good humour, at all events. A pressman tried to get out of him "whose fate had been decided." Said Mr. Gandhi thereupon: "We decided the fate of nobody, not even of ourselves. All I am going to decide is the fate of a few mangoes, as you will see if you stay." Nothing but good can come of the leaders doing everything possible to agree to a policy.

The Punjab Government's Memorandum.

Some indication that one's doubts of India's ever being a safe political democracy are shared in high quarters is afforded by a passage in the Punjab Government's memorandum on the constitutional question. It reads: "Our feeling is that whatever form of government may eventually be found to be most suitable to Indian conditions, it is unlikely to be evolved until she has passed through the stage of government by representative institutions. It is only after an experience of the working of those institutions, and of the light thrown by them on the nature of the social conditions which eventually determine the form of government best suited to any national unit, that final development can be achieved." Men think and write such things. Somewhere, on the anvil of Time, may be forging that instrument of government known as an Autocrat, another Akbar. Who knows?

Intimidation.

I may conclude this week's letter, written in conditions of extreme physical discomfort, caused by the damp heat, with the bare word that the Bombay Legislative Council is debating a Bill to make intimidation a cognisable offence in times of emergency. It has been found, says the statement of objects and reasons, that intimidation has been very commonly practised in times of excitement in Bombay City and its neighbourhood.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR IN INDIA.

In lieu of the customary questionnaire a comprehensive schedule of some 146 subjects, "which appear likely to engage the Commissioners' attention in the course of this inquiry" was issued last week by the Royal Commission on Labour in India. The Chairman, Mr. J. H. Whitley, late Speaker of the House of Commons, and six of the twelve members who are now in Europe (Sir Alexander Murray, Sir Victor Sassoon, Mr. Joshi, Miss Beryl M. Le Poer Power, Mr. John Cliff, and Mr. A. G. Clow), are sailing for India by the Narkunda, leaving Marseilles in September. During the course of its first winter tour, the Commission, which will assemble at Karachi on October 13, expects to visit all the principal capitals, returning to this country about the middle of April.

The terms of reference, published some months ago, are : "To inquire into and report on the existing conditions of labour in industrial undertakings and plantations in British India, on the health, efficiency and standard of living of the workers, and on the relations between employers and employed and to make recommendations." A note is now added explaining that : "'Industrial undertaking' for the purpose of the Commission is interpreted as in Article 1 of the Washington Hours Convention."

The schedule, which, it is stated, is not intended to be exhaustive, is divided under eighteen headings—namely, recruitment, with particular reference to Assam; staff organisation, including relations between management and workers; housing; health; welfare work, other than health and housing, but including education; education; safety; workmen's compensation, with regard especially to the working of the present Act; hours of labour in factories, mines, railways and other establishments respectively; special questions relating to (a) women, young adults and children; (b) seamen and workers in inland navigation under the same sub-divisions; wages, including indebtedness and leave; industrial efficiency of industrial workers; trade unions and combinations; industrial disputes; law of master and servant; administrative questions; and intelligence.

Twelve of the headings relate to the employment of women, young adults, and children. In this connexion it is expected that the Commission will co-opt Indian women for local inquiries. The only woman on the Commission, which consists of 12 members, is Miss Beryl M. le Poer Power, of the Ministry of Labour. Another special branch of inquiry relates to seamen and workers in inland navigation. It may be expected that for special inquiries the assistance of assessors will be sought, representing, when possible, both employing and employed interests. Such a plan will be facilitated by the fact that some of the most important industries are mainly concentrated in one province or at least in one part of India.

Under the general head of wages 16 subjects are scheduled, including the changes in recent years; amounts sent to villages; extent and effect of payments through contractors, or headmen; the advisability and possibility of the statutory establishment of minimum wages; the extent of standardisation; indebtedness; bonus and profit-sharing

schemes; and desirability of a fair wages clause in public contracts. The Commission will inquire into trade combinations, the nature of trade union activities and the working of the Act for the registration of trade unions passed in 1926. It will consider the Trade Disputes Act; the extent of strikes and lock-outs; conciliation and arbitration machinery; and the attitude of the Government towards trade combinations and in connexion with industrial disputes.

The industrial efficiency of workers is a main head covering a wide field. It includes comparative changes in the efficiency of Indian workers in recent years, and their efficiency as compared with that of foreign workers. The extent to which comparisons are affected by such factors as efficiency of plant and management, physique, education, standards of living, and climate will be considered; also the effect on production of changes in working conditions, expenditure on health and sanitation, dietary, and alcohol and drugs. A highly important investigation will relate to the migratory habits of the workers. Inquiry will be made into the law of master and servant, and as to the extent to which the Employers' and Workmen's Disputes Act has been used.

Under the head of administration there are ten subsidiary inquiries. Two of the most notable are the effect of differences in law or administration in Indian States or British India, and the acquaintance of workpeople with factory legislation. In this branch also the whole question of factory and mines inspection will be considered. The final main head is that of intelligence, under which the Commission will consider the possibility of improvement in statistics and future developments necessary.

It is intimated that the Commission will welcome evidence on any matter falling within the very wide scope of the inquiry, whether included in the schedule or not. Memoranda of evidence should be sent as soon as possible, and not later than September 21, to the Joint Secretary to the Commission, c/o Department of Industries and Labour, Simla, but written evidence from witnesses in Europe, if ready for communication by September 14, can be sent to the Joint Secretary to the Commission, India Office.

POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The decision of the Governor-General in Council, with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council, on the question of the amendment of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, foreshadowed in Lord Irwin's address at the joint session of both Houses of the Central Legislature in April last, has been published. The announcement was made recently in a notification in the *Gazette of India* authorising the insertion after Rule 17 of the following additional rule, namely:—

"Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 15 or Rule 17, the President shall not have or exercise any power to prevent or delay the making or the discussion of any motion relating to a Bill made by the member in

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charge of the Bill, or refuse to put or delay the putting of a question on any such motion, unless such power is expressly conferred upon him by, or such motion or the discussion or the putting of such questions, as the case may be, is expressly prohibited or directly precluded by any provision of the Government of India Act, these rules or standing orders."

It will be recalled that on April 11, three days after the bomb outrage, Mr. V. J. Patel, President of the Legislative Assembly, ruled that the further discussion of the Public Safety Bill would be out of order as, in view of the impending trials at Meerut, matters which were *sub judice* must inevitably come under discussion. The following day, in the speech above mentioned, Lord Irwin announced that the Government of India were unable to acquiesce in the ruling, and that action would be taken to render any repetition of this incident impossible.

The result of such a ruling, Lord Irwin explained, was twofold. In the first place it propounded an interpretation of the rules which he was satisfied was not in conformity with their intention. Secondly, the practical effect of the ruling, as it stood, was to debar the Government from asking the Legislature to give it the additional powers of which it conceived itself to stand in need, and to make it impossible for either Chamber of the Legislature to record any decision upon the Government's proposals, or to form its own judgment upon the question whether or not it could usefully conduct its debate on those proposals within the rules or orders.

The Viceroy then proceeded to state clearly the position of himself and his Government on both the foregoing issues. The Government, he said, entertained no doubt as to the intention of the rules in question, but recognised that the only appropriate person to interpret within either House the rules under which it worked was the President of that House himself. If, therefore, the latter's interpretation of the rules gave rise, as on the occasion mentioned, to a situation in which the Government, for grave reasons, was unable to acquiesce, the only effective remedy was "to secure by due authority such amendment of the rules as may be necessary to prevent any recurrence in future of a similar interruption in normal legislative procedure." After intimating that the Government intended to follow that course without delay, Lord Irwin, in order to avoid misunderstanding, added that, "the broad purpose of the amendment in the rules which we propose to seek will be to secure that the progress of legislation which it is within the power of the Indian Legislature to pass, shall not be prevented by the President of either House, except in virtue of express powers to do so conferred upon him by the Rules and Standing orders."

It will be seen that the new Rule follows closely the Government's intentions as expressed in the foregoing extract from Lord Irwin's speech. It will be discussed by the Legislative Assembly this week, and, at the time of writing, its approval by a majority is anticipated, although the Swarajists will protest.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 243)

with only one dissentient vote. And now the Provincial Committee, which sat with the Simon Committee, has reported in favour of immediate separation. This Committee holds that Burma's connexion with India is arbitrary and unnatural; and that her financial and economic interests have been seriously jeopardised by her political subservience to India. Immediate separation is considered by the Committee to be the first step towards the attainment by Burma of full responsible government. In a memorandum for the Statutory Commission the Government of Burma also favours separation, characterising it as the dominant political issue in Burma at the

present time. The Government deals with the financial aspects of the question, and likewise the constitutional issues, expressing the opinion that separation would greatly simplify Burma's constitutional problem. There is much to be said in favour of separation. Burma is not a part of India, nor are the Burmese people Indians. On the contrary the Burman differs from the Indian in religion, race, standards of living, and in most other things. He believes that his country would develop more rapidly as a separate unit than it will ever do as an Indian province. And he points to Ceylon and the Straits Settlements as instances of colonies which, since their separation from India, have greatly prospered. On the other hand it has to be admitted that there are arguments in favour of the continued inclusion of Burma in the Indian Empire. There is, of course, the problem of defence to be considered; and, as was pointed out by a correspondent in this journal some months ago, the tariff question may be of importance. Much that Burma produces is also produced in India; and she buys more or less the same classes of goods that India takes. It may be, therefore, to her advantage to be within the large area enclosed by the Indian tariff.

Public Health in India.

The need for a greatly enlarged scale of expenditure on measures calculated to improve the public health in India was strongly urged by Mr. G. Bransby Williams in an address which he delivered recently in Calcutta. Mr. Bransby Williams was formerly Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Bengal, and he is well acquainted with his subject. He was indisputably right in maintaining that the amount of money spent on public health work is ridiculously small. No real advance can be made unless and until there is a large increase in the expenditure on sanitation, water supply, anti-malarial measures, and measures designed to check the spread of epidemic disease. Even Calcutta itself is, Mr. Bransby Williams declared, becoming more unhealthy; and he quoted the death rate in support of this contention. It is true that in Calcutta the death rate fluctuates a good deal as it does in most other parts of Bengal. But it showed a steady increase from 1923, when it stood at 28.3 per thousand, to 1926—the latest year for which statistics are available—when it was 34.7 per thousand. In 1917 it was only 23.83, although in the immediately succeeding years it went much higher. Admittedly a great deal has already been done to improve Calcutta by the elimination of large slum areas, and the opening up of new suburbs. But there is an immense amount of essential work still remaining to be done. The drainage problem is becoming, if it has not already become, a menace to the city, as the outfall has been silting up for many years. Then, as Mr. Bransby Williams pointed out, there is Howrah, which is really an extension of Calcutta on the opposite bank of the river Hooghly. The improvement of Howrah—like the reconstruction of the Howrah Bridge—is one of Calcutta's most urgent and pressing needs. But nothing is done; there is endless discussion, but it seems to be impossible to overcome the inertia of the people and the authorities. Want of money is always given as the reason for the continuance of inaction. Any increase in taxation for any purpose is scouted; and every scheme that is put forward is discussed and considered and reported upon indefinitely—and there it rests.

Dr. Drummond Shiels, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India, visited the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, on August 31, and met the Indian cadets who are in residence there. After seeing them on morning parade he had personal conversation with them and saw their quarters. All the cadets, Indian and British, are treated alike and live under the same conditions. Dr. Shiels was received by Major-General Girdwood, Commandant of the College, who said he was well pleased with the general standard of the Indian cadets, amongst whom had been some of the most popular members of the College.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

September 5, 1929 (New Style).

August 23, 1929 (Old Style).

Rabia I, 30, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ab 30, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad arrived last week at the Hotel Metropole.

General Sir Charles and Lady Harington will leave London to-day for India.

Lord Sinha is expected to return to London from the Continent about September 7.

Mirza Issa Khan Sadig, Director of Public Education in Persia, left London last week for Paris on his return to Teheran.

Yusuf Beg Ghanima, Minister of Finance in the outgoing Iraqi Cabinet, arrived in London on September 1, for a short stay.

Arbat Keyhosrow Shahrokh, deputy of the Zoroastrians in the Persian Majliss, left Teheran recently for a ten weeks' stay in Europe.

M. Foroughi, Representative at Angora, and M. Alla, Representative at Paris, are the Persian representatives at the Council of the League of Nations which met yesterday (September 4).

Mirza Mehdi Khan Esfandiari (Nassiros-Saltaneh), Governor-General of Kerman, has been appointed Governor-General of Khorasan—the post formerly occupied by H.E. Saiyid Hasan Taqizadeh, Persian Minister in London. The new Governor-General of Kerman is Mirza Abolghassem Khan Pirnia.

Sir Edmund Wyldbore-Smith, a Director of the Suez Canal Company, and Vice-President of the Wagon-Lits Company, was received by the French Ambassador at the Embassy on August 30, when he handed Sir Edmund the insignia of Commander of the Legion of Honour, conferred upon him by the French President.

Sir Percy Loraine, the newly-appointed High Commissioner for Egypt, left London on August 27 for Cairo to take up his new duties. At Victoria Station to see him off were Lady Loraine, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Hamza Bey, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Radi Abou-Seif Radi, and representatives from the Foreign Office.

Prince Vassili of Russia, Prince and Princess V. Galitzine, Mrs. Clare Sheridan, Lord Douro, Lord and Lady Manton, the Hungarian Minister, Sir Ian and Lady Hamilton, Sir Basil and Lady Blackett and Miss Arbuthnot have been staying at Blair Drummond with Sir Kay and Lady Muir for the opening of the shooting season.

We regret to record the death, from heart failure, at Deanston House, Doune, Perthshire, on August 28, of Margaret, widow of Sir John Muir, Bart., and mother of Sir Alexander Kay Muir, Bart., of Blair Drummond, Perthshire. The Dowager Lady Muir was in her 89th year.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Hon. Patrick William Maule Ramsay, C.M.G., a Counsellor in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service, to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Athens in succession to Sir Percy Loraine, who has been appointed High Commissioner of Egypt. The second son of the 13th Earl of Dalhousie, Mr. Ramsay entered the Diplomatic Service in 1904, and has served, among other places, in Constantinople and Madrid, where he has been Counsellor since 1928.

H.E. SESOSTRIS SIDARO USS BEY, C.V.O.

After a stay of nearly five years in London, during the greater part of which he has been Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, H.E. Sesostris Sidarouss Bey left on September 3 for Athens, to take up his new post as Egyptian Minister to the Greek Government. At the same time he is accredited to the Yugoslav Government, and will spend part of each year in Belgrade. On his way to the Balkans Sidarouss Bey will break his journey at Geneva, in order to meet the Yugoslav and Greek Foreign Ministers, who are attending the present session of the Council of the League of Nations.

At Victoria Station last Tuesday a numerous company of friends had gathered to bid farewell to Sidarouss Bey. Among those present were: H.E. Monsieur Caelomanos, the Greek Minister, Mr. John Murray, representing the Foreign Office, Mr. P. M. Tottenham, Abdul Malek Hamza Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, Hassanein Bey, Chamberlain to King Fuad, the Staff of the Egyptian Legation and many members of the Egyptian community in London.

Sesostris Sidarouss Bey will be greatly missed in the diplomatic and social world of London, where his unaffected geniality, his hospitality, and kindly nature have made him a very popular personality.

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EDUCATION IN PERSIA.

[At the Adult Education Conference, held in Cambridge last week, Mirza Issa Khan Sadig, Director of Public Education in the Persian Ministry of Education, read a paper on Education in Persia. We are privileged to publish it herewith.—ED.]

I am happy to have been appointed by the Ministry of Education of my country to bring you their heartfelt greetings and their best wishes for your success. I must thank the World Association for Adult Education for the initiative they have taken in organising this Conference, which will, I earnestly hope, have all the fruitful effects we expect from it. I must also thank the University of Cambridge for the gracious hospitality it has offered to the Conference. This University is well known throughout the world for the propagation of knowledge and light, and no wonder that it has accepted the Conference as guests. Personally, I am most grateful to it for the time I have spent in it as student and as Assistant to the most deeply regretted lover of Persia, the late Professor Edward Granville Browne, whose dear name is always alive in Persian hearts. I could not find a better occasion to express the most profound gratitude and to pay the highest tribute of the Persian nation to that great scholar and Orientalist, who occupied for about forty years the Chair of Persian in this University, during which time he published scores of books and pamphlets on Persia, of which the most important is his monumental work called, "Literary History of Persia."

Now I must say that the participation of a country like mine in such a Conference as this is most useful, if not necessary; for Persia, just recently awakened, has done a great deal in the domain of modern education and, being in a special position, she may be allowed to say what she has done and, at the same time, to learn what the other nations have accomplished. In the last few years Persia, a country of ten million inhabitants situated between the East and the West, has created, besides the 2,139 old schools and 309 old religious colleges which existed from time immemorial, 1,133 new schools organised on the Western model for boys and girls. She is sending each year more than 200 students to the Western Universities, and at the present moment we have more than 750 students in Europe, of whom half have scholarships from the Government.

But what she has done and obtained from Adult Education is tremendous. Wishing on the one hand to introduce

reforms and to create European institutions on a vast plan, and lacking, on the other hand, the technical men needed for such purpose, the only means to which Persia could have recourse—and that is the special position of Persia—was the organisation of special evening classes for the categories of men required.

Desirous of creating modern elementary schools and of raising the standard of the knowledge of her present teachers, she has opened in different centres evening Normal schools, where hundreds of men were, and are, trained for the art of teaching.

Feeling the necessity of establishing Courts of Justice, Registry Offices and Register's Bureaux in all the towns, she has organised evening classes in Teheran to teach to the officials and men of sufficient culture, selected by examination, the essential principles of law, after which they pass an examination and in case they were successful practise for a while in the capital and then are sent to the provinces.

Again, when in 1925 the compulsory military service law was voted by the National Assembly and carried into effect, a great number of illiterates were enrolled, and the War Office, wishing to educate their minds at the same time as they drilled their bodies, created, where it has been possible, special classes to teach them to write and read.

I should not like to take up your time in speaking of the adult courses created to form assistant sub-engineers for the keeping of the numerous roads newly constructed all over Persia, nor of evening classes organised for the need of commerce, but I should like to make it clear that the method which we have adopted to train adults for the speedy organisation of European institutions in an ancient and civilised country has been the most effective, and to our mind the only one possible.

Now my communication would not be complete if I did not tell you of a special kind of Adult Education which has always existed, and which is proper to Persia. In the old religious colleges which I mentioned just now, and which are quite similar to those of Cambridge and Oxford, live, side by side with students, men of different liberal functions such as teachers, scribes, notaries, clergymen, lawyers, who follow certain courses to perfect themselves. This sort of Adult Education has existed from very ancient times, and these men in taking advanced lessons at the same time as working for their livelihood, carry out only the recommendation of the Prophet of Islam, who has said "Study the sciences from the cradle to the grave."

From what has been stated, you see that the efforts in the domain of adult education have been chiefly exerted towards higher and university education. And while the great majority of the village population and 30 per cent. of the town inhabitants are illiterate, and ask us by hundreds of letters and applications to open classes for them, you may wonder why we have directed all our efforts towards higher education of selected people. The reason is quite clear: we think that for a country that desires to adopt a part of the Western civilisation, the part which is in harmony with its own culture and traditions, the most vital problem is to have highly educated men at the head of all its public services: these men, in organising the new services well, will lead the people to the path of welfare and will become the centres of manifestation of light which will illuminate all that is around them.

Thinking so, we spend the funds we get for three purposes: (1) The high education of selected men in the country; (2) The sending of selected students to the Western Universities; and (3) The creation of modern elementary schools for the men of the future.

You may ask me now why private enterprise has not opened adult classes, as is the case in this country. The answer is that the Persians are somewhat the French of the East, and as the eminent French delegate, M. Roger, said for his country, I must say for Persia, that *étatisme* exists there in all strength. The State intervenes



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in all the aspects and phases of the life of the nation, and the nation on the whole expects everything to be done by the State. In the case of Adult Education, in particular, private initiative has been hardly encouraged, not only because it is not in conformity with the principle of *étatisme*, but because, I regret to say, we have revealed seditions, political and social propaganda, all ill-omened to the country, in some of the adult classes created by private enterprise.

In giving you this information I do not want to say that no steps have been taken for the education of illiterates: besides the education given by the preachers in the mosques, reading rooms, libraries, adult classes have been founded by enlightened men, and the Ministry of Education subsidises some of these institutions. By my assertion I wanted to emphasise that no systematic measure of a general character has been taken. But such a measure is to be taken soon, as in the Bill presented to the Parliament for the collection of new education rates for creating modern schools in the villages an Amendment was voted to the effect that the Ministry of Education shall open adult classes in the villages and small towns, and I hope that, according to the limits imposed by our means and resources, we shall be able to begin a new era towards the decrease, and perhaps the abolition, of illiteracy in the towns and villages.

IRAQIS AND PALESTINE.

We have received the following telegram from Baghdad, dated September 1, and bearing the signatures, Jaafar Abu Timman, Al Hashimi, Muzahim Pachachi, and Mahmoud Ramiz:—"Iraq people indignant over wrongs inflicted upon Palestine Arabs, protesting against Balfour Declaration and Mandatory system, and holding them responsible for all mischief."

AN IRAQI'S PARTING.

[Before he left London a few days ago, Shaikh Kadhim Al Dujaily wrote the following lines.—Ed.]

TO MY LONDON FRIENDS.

Oh, my friends, my misfortune is verily great,
And beyond all description my woeful state.
For from you and your country, alas! I must part,
Though this parting indeed is a thing that I hate.
To Baghdad from your London the distance is great,
And one thing alone can my sorrow abate.
'Tis the picture of you in my memory enshrined,
That, recalling your goodness, will soften my fate.

CORRECTIONS.

Our last issue, of August 29, contained some unfortunate misprints. In the article on "The Wailing Wall," line six from bottom, page 228, should read, "and to transfer the property to the Jews (who alone [not also] regarded the Wall as a sacred site." And the reference to the "Tomb of the Rock" should, of course, be to the "Dome of the Rock."

In the article on "The Sixteenth Zionist Congress" a line is missing from the bottom of the first column (page 227). The words "for the ensuing period. In addition £1,000,000 is to be," should have been inserted.

Negotiations are proceeding at Teheran for a permanent treaty between Norway and Persia, the present temporary treaty expiring on September 10.

It was reported last week that vessels arriving in Turkey from Philippeville, Algeria, would be required to undergo medical examination, three cases of plague having occurred in that city.

As the result of an aeroplane owned by the Ukrainian Airways Company falling into the sea near Sochi, Georgia, three passengers were killed, including Fabrizio, the assistant commander of the Caucasian Army.

The Soviet Government has officially expressed its regret at the action of the local authorities in Azerbaijan in publicly flogging peasants. In the neighbourhood of Baku, it is stated, peasants have been so terrorized that they "even endeavour to buy arms quietly to deliver them to the punitive detachments of the militia, and thereby escape flogging."

Book Review

BALKAN FLORA.

"*THE PLANT-LIFE OF THE BALKAN PENINSULA: A Phytogeographical Study.*" By W. R. Turrill, M.Sc. (Lond.) F.L.S. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 30s. net.)

At first sight a super-royal octavo volume of five hundred pages, well packed with polysyllabic italicized words, dealing with plant geography in the Balkans, might be thought to be of interest to the specialist only; but Mr. Turrill, who is Assistant in the Herbarium and Lecturer in Botany at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has done much more than produce a work of real value to botanists. Many of his chapters have a far wider interest, and provide fascinating reading not only for those with a personal interest in South-Eastern Europe, but also for all who feel drawn to probe into the relations between vegetation and man. In the author's own words, he has taken the whole Balkan Peninsula as forming a geobotanical unit, and has made it his aim to consider every aspect of the spermatophytic flora and vegetation that could throw light on the composition, origin, relationships, distribution and successional changes of the plant-covering of the area. This task has entailed a study of the geology, soils and climate of the Peninsula, and the classification, with reference to different regions, sixteen different habitats, and different altitudinal zones, of 126 families with 6,530 accepted species. The flora of the Balkan Peninsula is, as, incidentally, the layman who has wandered about the Peninsula might have been led to expect, richer than that of any other area of equal size in Europe. Not only is it prominent for the quantity of species, but the number (1,754) of "endemics" (species whose known distribution is entirely within the boundaries of the Balkan Peninsula) is likewise unique, and amongst these are many relicts of the Tertiary flora. Mr. Turrill points out the close connexion, from a floristic point of view, between the Balkan Peninsula and Asia Minor, and breaks new ground in analysing the relations of the Balkan flora to that of the neighbouring regions of Europe, Asia and Africa and establishing the main lines of plant migration to and from the Peninsula. A particularly interesting chapter is devoted to "The Influence of Man," in which the author deals with the varied human activities that have proved destructive of vegetation. On this subject the author summarizes his conclusions as follows:—

"Man has influenced the natural flora of the Balkan Peninsula from very early historic or even pre-historic times, chiefly in a destructive manner. This has been accomplished at the expense of the high woody vegetation, and has led to a great extension of brushwood communities and those of stony and rocky ground. This has resulted in the expansion, both in species, numbers and in distribution, of many genera suited to such habitats, and a corresponding reduction in the abundance of woodland plants. By draining marshes the marsh and aquatic vegetation has been reduced. New habitats have been provided by agriculture and by the more or less permanent occupation of sites for habitation. Species new to the flora have been introduced by commercial and military activities, and some have spread far and wide."

It is not without interest to learn from the author's preface that his service with the British Salonika Forces was responsible in the first instance for his association with the Balkan Peninsula. He spent most of the year 1917 in Greek Macedonia, and three visits since the War have enabled him to prosecute his studies, to the thoroughness and effectiveness of which this book bears abundant witness.

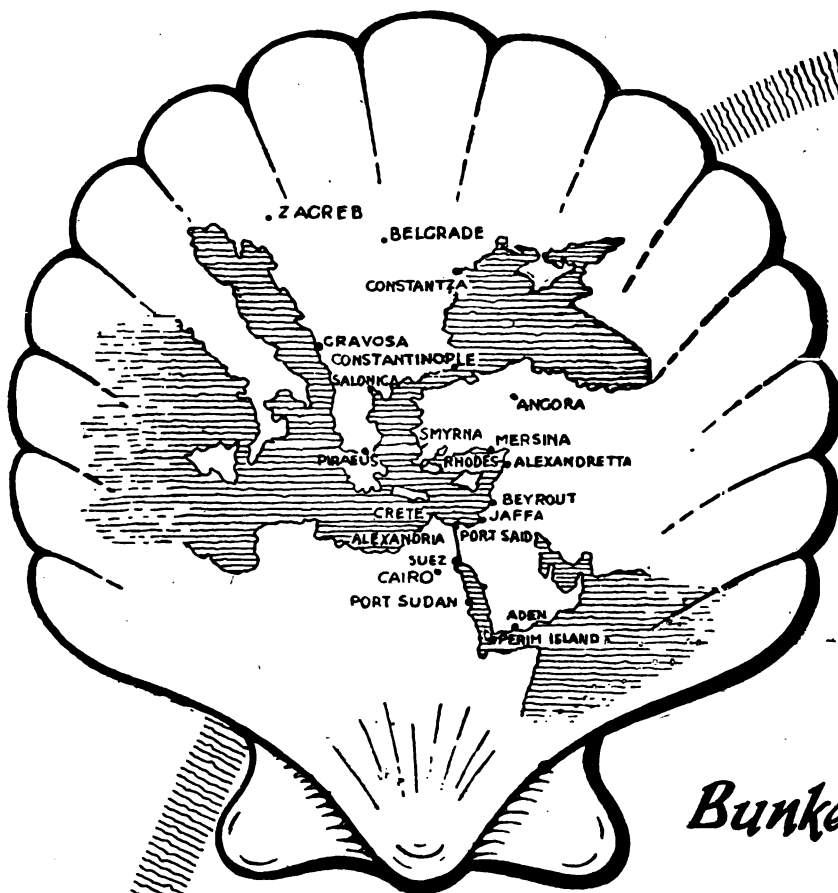
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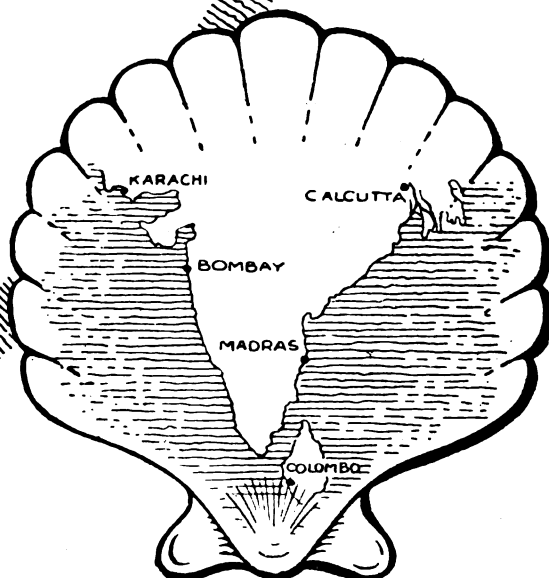
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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

British Manufacturers and Indian Tenders.

As manufacturers interested in Indian Government tenders are no doubt aware, the existing system of purchases of India's requirements through the Indian Stores Department in London is shortly to be replaced by purchases direct from Simla or Delhi as the case may be. This means for one thing that all quotations will henceforth have to be in rupees instead of sterling. That, of course, is a small matter, but the difference in the conditions implied in this change is of the greatest significance from the point of view of our manufacturers. It is possible to tender in London direct; it will not be so in regard to India, and only those firms who either have a branch establishment there or are represented in the country will be able to compete for tenders once the change is introduced. It is understood that the new rules for the purchase of stores by Departments of the Central Government, such as the State Railways, and by the minor local Governments will be issued shortly and will come into force one year after their publication. The object in view in this delay of twelve months is to allow those interested to make the necessary preparations for the change. As is well known, the requirements for Government commodities are, broadly speaking, standardised, and only on rare occasions undergo any particular modifications. There was an occasion a couple of years back, it is true, when the requirements for a certain commodity were suddenly altered, and traders were left with large quantities of goods on their hands. But, as I have indicated, that was an exceptional case, and the position in the future will be that manufacturers here will have the various specifications which interest them, and on receipt of a cable from their representative will issue instructions as to tendering. If they are unsuccessful, they will be in a position to have advice as to their prospects on a subsequent occasion. Naturally manufacturers ought to lose no time in making arrangements for representation in India, and it might be well for those who have not yet had experience of dealing direct with officials in India, many of whom have an outlook somewhat different from that of the officials with whom they have hitherto been brought in touch, to have the benefit of the experience which should be at their disposal from old-established British firms in India who know the country and can meet the officials there on common ground.

Roumania's Economic Recovery.

The Roumanian Government under Dr. Maniu deserves full credit for the courageous way in which it is grappling with the problem of placing the country's finances and general economic position on a sound basis. It has a long and difficult furrow to hoe, and its task is not simplified by the existence of a disgruntled Opposition, whose hostility becomes more and more embittered as it watches its hold on the country's economic life gradually being loosened. Fortunately for Roumania, the steps taken to restore the national credit included the appointment of foreign experts as technical advisers to the National Bank of Roumania, and the country has the assurance that the financial policy of the Government is endorsed by disinterested opinion and is no longer in danger of being subordinated to party or personal interests. Without this guarantee it must have proved difficult for the nation to

rise superior to the strain placed upon it. Last year saw one of the worst harvests that Roumania has had for many years. In the early months of this year, just when the State finances were beginning to feel the full effects of that misfortune, the country experienced a long spell of inclement weather, and a serious drop occurred in the revenue. The threatened deficit, however, had to be met; the Government was compelled to adopt a drastic policy, and the country, to its credit, responded well. All duties were increased by at least ten per cent.; taxes were revised, an energetic appeal was made for the payment of arrears, and various economies were introduced. By these means the revenues were brought up to the estimates. In the meantime a thorough overhauling of the financial machinery of the State was initiated, and a more effective control of public expenditure introduced. This year's harvest is well above the average, and it is estimated that the maize crop—an important factor in the purchasing power of the peasantry—will be worth more than double what it was in 1928. The country is not yet out of the wood; but, with its self-respect fully restored, it can face the future with confidence.

Yugoslavia's Shipping.

The various orders placed in Great Britain for new ships for Yugoslavia in recent years have provided a very plain indication of the efforts which are being made to develop that country's mercantile marine. Whatever the facilities which may be available for trade by means of the Yugoslav Free Zone at Salonika, it is only natural that Yugoslavia's attention should be concentrated on the development of her own sea board, and her railway policy has been, and is, directed with that aim in view. According to figures which have just been published, the total tonnage of Yugoslavia's mercantile marine is 302,910, which, of course, excludes recent construction. The number of steamers is 163, of a total tonnage of 170,816; sailing ships number 10,882 of 128,352 tons; while there are 98 sailing boats with notors, their tonnage being 2,824, and also 220 tugs and motor boats of a total tonnage of 928. The principal ports of origin of the steamers are three, Shushak being first with 49, Dubrovnik second with 47, and Split third with 42. It is an interesting indication of the steady development of Yugoslavia's sea-borne trade that since 1923 there has been a marked increase each year in the number of calls made by vessels at the various Yugoslav ports. For 1923 the total was 43,231, for 1924 55,014, for 1925 62,461, for 1926 69,772, for 1927 70,984, and for 1928 84,980. Trade during those years has fluctuated, but if 1926 be omitted (in which year the trade underwent a remarkable increase), then the trend has been steadily upwards, and it is evident that Yugoslavia's policy of port development is in process of justifying itself.

Greek Sterling Loans.

A very satisfactory position is revealed by the figures of the Greek assigned revenues for the first half of the current year. While the total of new revenues for the

Old-Established Company in India, having Direct Connection in London, is prepared to act as Makers' Representative in Tendering against Government Requirements, when Revised System of Purchasing becomes operative.—Particulars from Box 777, The Near East Ltd., 170, Strand, W.C.2.

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period amounted to 423,953,976 drachmæ, a decline of 20,853,270 drachmæ, the yield of the old revenues was 1,623,203,568 drachmæ, an increase of 34,080,963 drachmæ. On this basis the security available for that period for the 7 per cent. Refugee Loan of 1924 is £3,988,024, for the 6 per cent. Stabilisation Loan of 1928 £3,223,852, and for the 6 per cent. Public Works Loan of 1928 £2,717,981. The services of these loans require respectively £461,250, £342,327, and £132,860, so that they are covered more than eight, nine and twenty times respectively. As regards the Public Works it must be pointed out that only a small part of the authorised amount has so far been issued.

Greece and Turkey.

The threatened tariff war between Turkey and Greece will not materialise after all, if the latest indications are confirmed. With the breakdown of the negotiations between the two Governments regarding the exchange of populations, it was announced with a loud flare of trumpets in the Turkish Press that the maximum tariff would at once be imposed on all goods of Greek origin, as a reminder that Turkey was not to be trifled with. Without waiting for any official confirmation of this threat, the Greek Government immediately imposed its own maximum tariff on Turkish goods. It was then that Angora realised that the export of Greek goods to Turkey amounted annually to some £50,000, while Turkish goods to the value of £700,000 were exported to Greece. The Turkish representative in Athens was instructed to explain that there had been a misunderstanding on the part of the Greek Government, as any change in the Customs tariff was a general measure resulting from Turkey's recovery of her fiscal freedom under the Treaty of Lausanne and was not specifically directed against Greece. He proposed that a temporary *modus vivendi* should be established on the lines of the convention between Turkey and Great Britain, until such time as a commercial treaty could be arranged between the two countries.

The Turkish Tariff.

The new Turkish Customs Tariff continues to excite the liveliest interest in business circles here concerned with the Turkish market. A doubt has been raised whether the Turks will actually bring in the Tariff on October 1, which is the appointed date, but the general view is that they will do so. Criticism, it may be pointed out, is directed not only against the increases in duties, but also against the way in which the new Tariff has been drawn up, which is going to lead to many absurdities in practice. I find, by the way, that I probably underestimated the increases, which are said to range from 100 per cent. to seven or eight times that amount on the previous rates. One example will serve to show the nature of the classification. Brass bedsteads and painted bedsteads are classified separately, and the duty on the latter article, the cost of which may be a mere bagatelle, will be four times that on the former. Why this should be so is a question that only the authors of the new tariff are capable of answering.

A Political Move.

The view is widely held among traders that the new Tariff is neither more nor less than a political gesture. It is believed that the object Angora has in view is to have a weapon which will enable it to make a series of commercial agreements with the countries with which it has trade relations. Thus in the case of Great Britain Turkey might bargain for a reduction in the duty on carpets in return for equivalent concessions. The weak point of this from Turkey's point of view is that she has not much to bargain with in the shape of commodities. It is also very certain that, so far as public opinion in Turkey counts for anything, it will be found, as soon as the effects of the new Tariff are appreciated, to be strongly in favour of the modification of duties which must add to the cost of commodities and lower the standard of living.

Coal Competition in the Near East.

To judge by recent developments, the outlook for British coal in the Greek market appears most unpromising. As elsewhere, the predominant factor is the price, and the question of quality carries little weight against that consideration, which, of course, reacts to the detriment of British trade. The Athens Gas Works Company, which formerly used Durham coal, has recently been in the market for its supplies, amounting to 10,000 tons, for the third quarter of the year, and, as on the previous occasions this year, the contract has been given to one of our two rivals in the Near East coal trade. This time it was Turkey: on the two previous occasions Russia was successful, while before that it was also Turkey. Neither Turkish nor Russian coal even approaches to the quality of the British product, and the fact that this particular order goes now to one now to the other may possibly reflect the shortcomings of each in turn. The serious aspect of the matter from the point of view of the British coal trade is that on the last occasion the successful tender was approximately 35 per cent. below the ruling prices for British coal. While that condition prevails, it is hopeless to look for success in this outlet.

COMMENTATOR.

THE PALESTINE RAILWAYS.

The announcement made in *Modern Transport* that Colonel R. B. W. Holmes, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Palestine Railways, is shortly to resign his post owing to ill-health will be received with much regret by all those who during the last nine years have had experience of the efficiency and courtesy that have characterised the running of the Palestine railway system. Colonel Holmes was appointed Director of Railway Traffic to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and in March 1920 became General Manager of the Palestine Military Railways. As in the case of the Egyptian State Railways, the efficient administration of the line that connects Kantara, on the Suez Canal, with Jerusalem and Haifa has meant much to the thousands of Palestine's annual visitors, as well as to the inhabitants of that country.

Cables and Wireless, Ltd., announce that the transfer books of the 54 per cent. cumulative preference stock of this company will be closed from September 16 to 30 inclusive, for the preparation of warrants for the second instalment of the dividend for the half-year ended June 30, payable on September 30.

H.M. Representative at Durazzo reports that various amendments have been made to the Albanian Customs Tariff, resulting, *inter alia*, in reductions of duty on animal hides, cotton yarn and thread, wool yarn, silk and rayon yarn, iron or steel wire, paraffin wax and stearine.

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DEVELOPMENTS AT CONSTANTZA.

The following details regarding developments at the port of Constantza are given in the report of Mr. R. J. E. Humphreys on Roumania:—

No detailed report of the working of the port of Constantza during 1928 has yet been issued. A local newspaper has reported, however, that the year ended with a deficit of 40 million lei, and that 50 million lei was expended on new construction, supplies and maintenance. A two-storey warehouse opposite berths 6 and 7, 160 metres long and 20 metres wide, is in process of construction and one half is already occupied. A corrugated iron hangar, 40 metres by 45, has been constructed in front of berth 16 for storage of hides, skins, etc. Four electric three-ton cranes were ordered from a Czechoslovakian firm in 1928 and an order for goods-lifting apparatus for the new two-storey warehouse was placed with an Austrian firm.

A second pipeline for fuel oil has been laid down, and ships can now bunker at berths 37, 38 and A in the petrol basin, and load fuel oil at berths B and C, two ships at the same time. It is hoped to extend this pipeline to serve berths D and E in the course of the next two months, thus making five berths for fuel oil inside the petrol basin. It is also proposed to construct during the present year two pipelines (for lubricating oil and cylinder oil) of 10 inches and 6 inches diameter. Two new pumps will be installed to serve these pipes and will be driven by a Diesel motor of 150 H.P. Three new oil storage reservoirs each of 5,000 cubic metres capacity and three of 3,000 cubic metres capacity have been constructed. A fresh-water pipe to supply vessels in the petrol basin is also in course of construction. The order for one new tug has been placed in Italy. More tugs are really required, as the two at present in commission are of little use.

It has been proposed to widen the entrance to the petrol basin, but the scheme seems to have been abandoned on the ground that the removal of one end of the quay would seriously weaken the remainder of the structure. Reports are current that the port is rapidly becoming inadequate to accommodate the increasing amount of shipping. Several minor collisions occurred during 1928. At present, however, there appears to be no prospect of any additional construction being undertaken in the near future. Apart from improvements in the State controlled oil export installations, three Roumanian oil companies are collaborating in laying down with private capital an 8 inch pipeline for lubricating and refined oils and a 6 inch pipeline for cylinder oil and distilled black oils. These two lines, which are to serve berths A, B and C should be completed by May or June of this year.

The first official forecast of the Indian cotton acreage for 1929-30 shows an area of 15,885,000 acres as against 15,196,000 acres at the same time last season.

It is announced that the Roumanian Minister of Finance has arranged a loan of 1,000,000,000 lei (£1,230,000) with a Dutch firm for the purpose of financing the movement of this year's crops.

Redpath, Brown and Co., Ltd., Edinburgh, have obtained a contract for the steelwork required in the construction of the new locomotive workshops of the Egyptian State Railways at Aba Zaabal.

An American census of motor vehicles gives the following number of inhabitants in different countries of the Near and Middle East per motor vehicle: Aden 113, Cyprus 173, Palestine 207, Greece 350, Syria 541, Egypt 507, Roumania 600, Hijaz 773, Iraq 1,011, Yugoslavia 1,074, Turkey 1,516, Persia 1,068, Bulgaria 2,174, Albania 2,219, India 2,548, Sudan 3,086, Abyssinia 22,545, Afghanistan 23,106, Yaman 71,428, Asir 75,000.

The United States have one motor vehicle to every 4.67 persons in the country.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Surgical Instruments, Etc.—The Prisons Administration, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of surgical instruments and medical supplies. November 9. (D.O.T.)

Scientific Instruments and Clocks.—The Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of scientific instruments and clocks. September 30. (D.O.T.)

Steel Furniture.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of steel furniture required for the year 1929-1930. October 7.

TURKEY.

Girders, Etc.—The Administration Générale des Chemins de fer et Ports de l'Etat invites tenders, for the supply of approximately 180 metric tons of girders, 3 tons of bolts and 7 tons of round bars. It is stipulated that the materials shall be manufactured in mild steel complying with German specifications. September 4. (D.O.T.)

Electric Bakehouse.—The Municipality of Smyrna invites tenders for the construction and equipment of a modern electric bakehouse. According to statements in articles which have appeared on the subject in the local Press the municipal authorities anticipate that the total cost of the building and installation will be between £150,000 and £160,000. The latest date for the receipt of tenders has not yet been announced officially, but the Acting British Consul-General at Smyrna is informed that an announcement on this point will be made shortly, and that closing date will, in all probability, be about the middle of September. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Leather Belting.—The Acting British Vice-Consul at Skoplye (Ushub), Yugoslavia, reports that a local dealer in motor car accessories desires to be placed in touch with United Kingdom exporters of leather belting for motors and mills. Firms desirous of offering belting of British manufacture can obtain further particulars of this call for tenders upon application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1. Reference number B.X. 5639 should be quoted.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.S. Castalia for Bombay (Birkenhead, September 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.S. Stockwell for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 12); s.s. Mahseer for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 19).

Bibby Line.—S.S. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 18).

British India Line.—S.S. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 7); s.s. Hatimura for Bombay (London, September 7); s.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, September 21); s.s. Warfield for Bombay (London, September 21).

Cunard Line.—A steamer for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, September 28), and in Swansea, October 1; s.s. Bothnia for Gibraltar, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if sufficient inducement.

Johnston Line.—S.S. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, September 7); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 5).

P. and O. Line.—S.S. Novara for Calcutta (London, September 13); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, September 13).

Prince Line.—S.S. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus (London, September 11; s.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 14).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.S. Maronian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, September 7, Liverpool, September 12; s.s. Roumelian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 14, Swansea, September 14; s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, September 14, Swansea, September 19; s.s. Destro for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, September 19; s.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 28, Swansea, September 28. *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, September 3.

Dealings on the London Stock Exchange have been slightly larger this week, but the volume of business is still restricted. Fears of dearer money, however, have not checked activity in several industrials, and in the gilt-edged sections have been partly off-set by satisfaction at the Hague settlement, which also naturally encouraged dealings in European bonds. Investment sections generally, nevertheless, closed the week dull, although the steady revival in Home Rails, discussed below, continued, North-Eastern attracting chief attention. In the industrial sections, merger rumours, since confirmed, were responsible for activity in margarine issues and in Levers, and in the tobacco group, the British-American Tobacco Co.'s large capital increase assisting the latter. While in monetary circles an early rise in the Bank Rate is regarded as unavoidable, its effects have been largely discounted in the stock markets where the technical position remains strong.

The Hague Settlement.

General satisfaction is naturally felt in the City that the statesmen at The Hague ultimately reached an agreement conceding the British demand, when at one time prospects of a favourable ending to the Conference appeared slight. Mr. Snowden's firm stand has received unexpectedly widespread support in almost all circles, not because of the size of the concessions asked of this country, but because it is realised that while a great step forward was taken by the Young Plan in removing the Reparations problem from the sphere of political controversy, its provisions are by no means certain to stand for their full term, and it was wise to make it clear once and for all that Britain is not prepared to shoulder the whole burden of any future sacrifices that may be called for. At the same time, it must be admitted that Mr. Snowden's methods raised grave fear of the complete breakdown of the Conference, necessarily retarding the progress of European economic recovery. They have, too, had the effect of isolating this country, at any rate temporarily. It is to be hoped that the bitter feelings aroused

will be healed by time, and that the process of financial co-operation between the nations which the monetary history of this summer has shown to be sorely needed will continue.

Revival of Rails.

Recently there has been a quiet revival of interest in British railway stocks, which, if it should later become more general, would cause a considerable appreciation in this class of security. The outstanding events in railway affairs this year have been, first, the considerable and extensive operating economies effected, and, secondly, the very successful way in which motor transport competition is being converted into what will, it is hoped, prove profitable co-operation. While the bulk of the economy re-arrangements have now been completed they are mostly of a permanent nature, and further, if smaller, economies may still be expected. The railway companies have now bought up or have entered into working agreement with a great number of the leading country motor-bus services, and if negotiations now proceeding are successful, practically the whole of the country will be covered. Meanwhile, despite the drag of comparatively low passenger fare receipts, total receipts, including goods and coal, have steadily improved compared with last year. Some uncertainty is caused by the unanimous application of the railway unions to share in these benefits by cancelling the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. wage reduction agreed to about a year ago, but there are good reasons for believing that the matter will be settled peacefully and satisfactorily to both sides. Special attention is being given to L.N.E.R. preferred ordinary, especially in view of a rise of £412,000 in the company's gross receipts in the last eight weeks, compared with the same period last year. If this stock should receive a 2 per cent. dividend, the yield would be £6 10s. per cent. Great Western ordinary are also in quiet demand, and if last year's dividend of 5 per cent. should be raised to 6 per cent. the yield would be almost £7 per cent.

Oil Prospects.

Rumours from America of an output restriction agreement among operators in the new Oklahoma oilfields recently led to a spurt in the oil share market, which has been maintained despite subsequent figures showing an exceptional rise in American oil output. The outlook is, however, as uncertain as ever, and the recent history of oil output co-operation is not encouraging. Meanwhile recent figures have shown that at the half-year America had enough oil in stock to supply the whole world for six months. At present, despite these factors, the oil share market for the moment keeps up a firm showing. In view of the statistical position, and the difficulties of output co-operation among producers, investors would be very well advised to confine their attention to the few leading and well-established oil companies out of the fifty or more whose shares are quoted on the Stock Exchange. That Anglo-Persian, in which the principal shareholder is the British Government, is one of the soundest companies is indicated by the yield of £3 per cent. on its ordinary shares, which last year received a $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dividend. The second cumulative preference, however, can be bought to yield £6 per cent. Burmah Oil ordinaries yield £5 per cent., and the 8 per cent. cumulative preference £6 per cent., while Shell Transport and Trading ordinary give a return of £5 10s. per cent.

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A ploughing competition is to be held near Belgrade during the first half of October.

The submarine Proteus, which has been built in France for the Greek Government, has finished her trials at Brest, and delivery was taken of it on August 31 by the Greek Navy. The vessel has a displacement of 780 tons on the surface and 960 tons submerged. She is 220½ ft. long, and has a speed of 14 knots on the surface and 19.6 knots submerged. She has two Diesel-Sulzer engines, in addition to an electric motor. Her crew consists of 41 hands.

THE YUGOSLAV MARKET FOR TRACTORS.

The market for tractors in Yugoslavia, while rather limited at present, offers a fair outlook for the future, (says the American Consul at Belgrade, Mr. W. Percy George, in a recent report). The agrarian reform, undertaken soon after the foundation of the new Kingdom, resulted in the expropriation of the large estates, splitting up the vast holdings, so that at present few large tracts are individually held, except in the timber regions. This fact, together with the poor crops in 1925 and 1926, had a general depressing effect on the prosperity of the farm population, but during the past two years crops have been good, and there has been a growing tendency to translate crop prosperity into better farming conditions by the purchase of better farming equipment.

There are two general types of tractors in use in Yugoslavia, each differing only in ignition. Most of those in use are equipped with magneto ignition, this being the type found on American tractors. The other type of ignition, the glow-head, is found on the German makes. Tractors equipped with glow-head ignition have the advantage of being able to burn lower grade fuels than those using the magneto.

Wheel tractors of the 10-20 horse-power type are almost exclusively used, because the rather small acreage of the Yugoslav farms does not warrant the use of heavier types of tractors found on the larger farms in other countries. Most of the tractors brought into the country are destined for agriculture, with the exception of a few which are used in lumbering operations, thereby precluding the use of heavy or tracklaying tractors.

Tractors equipped for the consumption of low-grade fuel are especially favoured in Yugoslavia because the cost of petrol is excessive. The cheaper grades of tractors also find a ready market, as price and cost of upkeep are the two principal considerations in the expansion of trade. Mechanical features, such as the number of cylinders, transmission drive, fan drive, and the cooling system, make little difference to the Yugoslav buyer. His main consideration, beside the cost and upkeep, is the useful power effectiveness of the tractor. Little attention is paid to the horse-power "rating" of a machine. If a tractor is able to do the required work at the right cost, it is acceptable.

Yugoslav statistics show that on January 1, 1923, there were 625 tractor units in use in the country, exclusive of 126 steam and motor ploughs. Although later statistics are not available as to the number of tractors in use at present, it appears from estimates of the trade that about 1,100 tractors were imported into the country during the period from 1925 to 1928, inclusive. It is believed that the greatest number of these tractors, both those in use in 1923 and those imported since 1925, are of American origin. However, according to United States export figures, only 192 tractors were shipped to Yugoslavia since 1923, so it is likely that most of the American tractors in use entered the country through the United Kingdom, Germany, France, or other adjacent countries.

In 1925 tractor sales were easy, but since that time two poor crop years have changed the situation. Long credits and facilities for payment are asked, which are frequently beyond the resources of the dealers to allow. Credits for tractors sold in Yugoslavia are seldom under 24 months and usually run up to 36 months. Dealers are seldom able to accept such credit terms and accordingly seek easy payment terms or local bank credits for themselves. Yugo-

slav banks offer scant relief because of their extortionate interest rates, which often reach 24 per cent. Open credits are out of the question, and trade acceptances, unless over guaranteed, are not taken by the banks for discount. Therefore, as cash must be had to meet manufacturers' terms, farm mortgages must be resorted to.

It is believed that Yugoslav dealers will be chiefly interested in tractors with small light engines of medium power (7-12 or 14-18 horse-power), with well-rated effective power, at fairly low prices. Tractors are desired for general farm purposes, including field work as well as threshing. There is also a demand for crawler tractors with low consumption of low-grade fuel, and with a speed of not less than 4 or 5 miles per hour in high gear. These machines should be capable of doing work on hilly ground as well as on sandy and boggy soil.

THE INDIAN MARKET.

The Department of Overseas Trade (35 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1) has drawn attention to the facilities and assistance which H.M.'s Trade Commissioners in India are in a position to give to British manufacturers, or their representatives, visiting that market. The Commissioners are Major R. W. Clarke at Bombay, and Mr. W. D. Montgomery Clarke at Calcutta. They are particularly anxious to meet visitors from the United Kingdom, as with their organisation they are in an excellent position to render considerable assistance either to principals undertaking a special mission of investigation, or to commercial representatives developing the sale of British goods in India. The Department will be pleased to provide letters of introduction to the Commissioners.

If, on the other hand, information is wanted prior to the departure of the principal, or representative, the Indian section of the Department will be glad to discuss the matter fully, with a view to the rendering of such assistance as may be possible, not only as regards general market conditions, but also, if desired, on such points as itinerary, outfit, etc.

H.M.'s Senior Trade Commissioner for India (Mr. T. M. Ainscough, C.B.E.), who is now on leave in the United Kingdom, will be on duty in London and available for interviews with British firms from September 23. Mr. Ainscough will also be making a tour of some of the chief industrial centres in the United Kingdom, in order to consult with and advise United Kingdom firms in connexion with their trade with India.

A Cairo message states that the Egyptian State Railways are inviting tenders for 165,000 tons of coal. The adjudication will be made on December 3.

The National Bank of India has declared an ad interim dividend for the half year ended June 30 last at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, payable September 14, free of tax.

In accordance with a Law recently enacted in Iraq a foreign judgment may be executed in Iraq by the order of an Iraq court. Any person desiring to execute a foreign judgment must bring action in the Court of First Instance claiming the issue of an order for execution. The application must be accompanied by an authenticated copy of the foreign judgment and the reasons therefor. A regulation has been issued applying the Law to the judgments of the Courts of the United Kingdom. It is necessary for firms in this country to appoint local advocates for the purpose of applying in Iraq for an order for the execution of a judgment obtained here.

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Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

Road Improvement.

The Minister of Transport writes to say that he has just received a deputation from the Roads Improvement Association. This, which was introduced by Sir Edward Iliffe, included Col. Crampton and Messrs. Rhys Jeffreys, William Haigh, George Mitchell and Wallace Riche. The deputation represented to the Minister the importance of providing for a comprehensive national programme for the modernisation of the existing road system, as a means not only of meeting the constant development of traffic by road, but also to provide useful employment. The fact that assistance from the Road Fund could be depended upon over a period of years would in itself act as a stimulus to local authorities. On points of detail, attention was drawn to the large amount of work which could be provided in the elimination of dangerous corners and bends, and in the improvement of road junctions, generally. The Minister says that in his reply to the deputation he explained the broad lines of the policy which he had adopted, and was following in the matter of road improvement and development, and pointed out that in many respects it was in harmony with the views which the deputation had expressed. He said that he had issued, earlier in the year, a circular to the larger highway authorities inviting them to submit to him for his consideration, programmes of work on Class I and Class II roads, covering a period of about five years. In addition, he had laid proposals for an extension of the programme of trunk roads reconstruction, so as to deal with a further 550 miles of trunk roads at a total cost of about £9,500,000. He had instructed his officers to give every assistance to local authorities in the preparation of their plans, and there is, he says, no reason why any well considered, carefully thought out, and useful scheme should be held up for lack of assistance from the Road Fund.

That something is to be done of real value, in connexion with road work, is evident, and engineers all over the country are preparing for a general increase of activity in stone getting and breaking, concrete mixing, and tar boiling plants, while steel re-inforcement makers anticipate some considerable increase in trade activity. To mention only a few directions in which it is likely that big schemes will be put in hand, the Wallasey district is to become what the journalist would probably describe as a hive of activity, so far as road making is concerned. A very big scheme has been prepared and approved, and is ready for putting in hand. Big road work is to be done at Morton, Wallasey Village, and New Brighton, and early next year a new road is to be cut from Wallasey to Leasowe, other roads in the vicinity are to be widened and improved, and when these are properly under way, a new road is to be cut across the garden city area to the borough boundary and part of the Birkenhead-Hoylake road is to be remade. Plans have been submitted for a new road from Queensferry Road to the Denbigh Road, so as to by-pass Mold and the putting of some of these schemes in hand will give the engineers concerned an opportunity to sit down and think out routes, etc., for more new roads.

Naturally, there are snags and pitfalls in this road-making business which must be avoided. The larger view of highway location must embrace the arrangement of highway routes so as to permit the use, by through traffic, of roads that will enable that traffic to reach its ultimate destination without the necessity of pursuing the ways in and out of centres of populations that are provided for and likely to be congested by local traffic. It may at first be desirable to visualise the nature of this through traffic. It will be composed of two main classes, private and commercial. The former may be sub-divided

into pleasure and business, but seldom will it be necessary to make that sub-division for the purposes in hand. For all passenger traffic the advantages of by-passing congested areas will lie in the avoidance of danger, the enjoyment of better scenery and the satisfaction of saving time. Some of these advantages are more apparent than real, but that does not and need not trouble the motorist. If these seem to be enjoyed the matter of distance and grades is of little or no consequence.

To the commercial vehicle traffic, by-passes, if they seem to offer relief from congestion, with its delays and dangers, will also appeal if excessive distance and heavy grades are not the price that must be paid. The traffic to be by-passed should be again regarded, so far as a consideration of the route to be adopted is concerned, as divisible another way into at least two parts. One is that where origin and destination are located within a comparatively short radius from the congested centre. Such a fraction will call for a by-pass quite close to the congested area.

A second fraction would be that traffic coming from a considerable distance and headed for a destination at a corresponding distance from and beyond the centre. Such traffic could most readily use a by-pass such a maximum distance out from the centre as would not, in effect, destroy the directness of the main route for this traffic. Other fractions may be conceived, intermediate between the two mentioned, though circumstances will for the present have to decide how many of these fractions shall be provided against and, indeed, whether or not any such fractional consideration shall be attempted.



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to
the Secretary

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Low Temperature Carbonisation.

Characteristic of the new scientific methods now being adopted for raw coal is the "K. S. G." low temperature carbonisation plant at New Jersey, U.S.A., which has now started up in full running. It is the largest installation ever set at work, having a throughput of 520 to 720 tons of bituminous coal dust and smalls per 24 hours. The plant is operated by International Combustion Engineering Corporation, who, along with Coal Oil Extraction Ltd., of London, control the "K. S. G." process, and the plant is supplying on long contract, a minimum of 3,000,000 cubic feet of town gas per 24 hours, 535 B.Th.U. per cubic foot, to the Public Service Electric and Gas Company of New Jersey, with normally 4,000,000 cubic feet.

In this case eight standard retorts are included, constructed by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation of the usual design, being a long rotary, slightly inclined, mechanically continuous, externally heated steel cylinder, 72 ft. long and 10 ft. diameter, having an inner cylinder, 85 ft. long and 5 ft. 6 in. diameter, which carries the load. The speed is very slow, one revolution in 90 seconds, with drive by means of suitable gearing, and the complete weight of the finished steel retort is about 160 tons, the outer drum being made in three sections, the two end sections $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick and the middle section 1 in. thick, with all the seams hammer-welded under watergas heating annealed. Also each seam is re-inforced by means of outer steel bands 2 ft. wide and 13-16 in. thick, rivetted and welded, and the inner drum is on the same lines, but much heavier made of 1 3-16 in. plate.

The small coal enters the retort at one end and travels along the inner cylinder during 1 to 1½ hours, being raised to a temperature of 400 to 570 degrees F. (205 to 300 degrees C.) Then the charge falls out through small apertures into the outer cylinder, which at this point is the hottest zone, about 925 to 1025 degrees F. (495 to 550 degrees C.), while at the same time highly super-heated steam at 850 to 850 degrees F. is blown through the charge to the extent of about 100 to 200 lb. per ton of coal. As a result of this very sudden rise in temperature, combined with steaming, the plastic material in the case of coking coal does not expand unduly, because of the rapidity of carbonisation, giving, therefore, a dense hard, smokeless fuel in mechanically continuous operation. The low temperature carbonisation is completed in another 1 to 1½ hours' travel in the outer cylinder, the temperature slowly declining to about 800 to 900 degrees F. (430 to 485 degrees C.).

Also a certain amount of the low temperature fuel dust and breeze, not over 10 per cent., is blended with the raw coal to prevent the plastic charge sticking, while for heating the setting, producer gas is burnt in a small fire-brick combustion chamber, and the resulting flames and hot gases at 2370 to 3095 degrees F. (1300 to 1700 degrees C.) are diluted not with air, but with about 50 per cent. of the total combustion gases recirculated to give approximately 1100 to 1290 degrees F. (600 to 700 degrees C.) passed round the retort. In this way corrosion and deterioration of the steel cylinder is minimised since no oxygen is present, and all the mixed gases and vapours evolved by the carbonisation pass through a dust extractor, while the hot smokeless fuel is quenched, not by water or steam, but with the aid of cold gas.

The installation at New Jersey includes a large water gas equipment, which normally is used to supply blue water gas, this being mixed with the rich low temperature carbonisation gas to give the minimum of 3,000,000 cubic

feet per 24 hours, 525 B.Th.U. per cubic foot, but usually 4,000,000 cubic feet, as stated. In emergency, however, the water gas plant can be operated with a carburetting installation, using heavy oil and producing the desired amount of town gas direct, independently of the low temperature carbonisation.

There is being used in this installation highly bituminous gas coal dust and smalls, and the average yield per ton is about 3,900 cubic feet of very rich gas (800 B.Th.U. per cubic foot), 5 gallons crude light oil, 30 to 33 gallons tar, and 14½ cwt. (75 per cent.) solid smokeless fuel with 12 per cent. volatile matter. This corresponds, therefore, on maximum operation to an output per 24 hours from the complete plant of 2,500,000 cubic feet rich gas, 2,500 gallons crude oil, 19,000 to 21,000 gallons tar, and 470 tons solid smokeless fuel, and the detailed results of this installation will be awaited with great interest.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

EASTERN AND GENERAL SYNDICATE.

The report of the Eastern and General Syndicate covering the period to December 31, 1928, states that the geological expedition referred to in the directors' last report made a thorough examination of the Syndicate's oil concession covering the Bahrein Islands, with encouraging results. Negotiations are in progress for the completion or ratification of certain agreements covering the Bahrein Islands and other oil concessions in Arabia, upon which geological work will also be undertaken. The group associated with the Syndicate in its oil interests holds options from the Syndicate upon all these properties, and in the event of such options being exercised the Syndicate would receive a sum of cash for each property taken up and would retain an interest in the properties in the form of a royalty upon oil won.

The Syndicate is without funds, and money has been advanced from time to time by directors in order to protect its interests in Arabia and to enable the above-mentioned negotiations to be carried on. The directors therefore recommend that 40,000 of the unissued ordinary shares of 5s. each be converted into 40,000 preference shares, to be offered to shareholders at par *pro rata* to existing holdings, any balance of preference shares not taken up by shareholders to be available for subscription otherwise, at the directors' discretion. Meeting, 19, St. Swithin's Lane, E.C., September 6, at noon.

The Bucharest International Wireless Exhibition was opened on September 1, and will continue until September 20.

H.E. Sir Abdul Hamid Suliman Pasha, Minister of Communications, who has been on leave in Europe, sailed for Egypt on August 29.

The first anniversary of the proclamation of the monarchy and of the accession of King Zogu I. was celebrated throughout Albania on September 1.

Three aeroplanes of the Turkish Air Force flew last week from Eskişehir to Smyrna to take part in the victory celebrations. When about to land one crashed, and its two pilots were killed.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.10½
Athens	Drachms to £	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.87
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.19½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32—29/32
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.89
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	817½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.81
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32—29/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1.018
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84½—13/16
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123.95
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	163½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.71
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	673
Teheran	Krans to £	48	55½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.45
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 3/16—7/16

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 28:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—During the sessions immediately following our last report very little alteration in values has occurred, trading throughout this period being confined to unimportant transactions without any particular features of interest developing. Over the week-end, cables from Egypt reporting damage to the crops began to be circulated; this evidently had the combined effect of forcing short covering and encouraging speculative support, as a progressive rise has since been recorded in Alexandria. The upward movement has so far only enlisted a moderate amount of support as far as our own contract is concerned, as conservative sources in Egypt, whilst admitting that the crop is backward, do not so far confirm that any material damage has yet taken place. As a result, the local market has again lost ground in comparison with ruling values in Alexandria, the November/November options now showing Liverpool at 36 points discount, quite apart from the necessary shipping charges. A slight improvement in the trade demand has been noticeable during the past few days; there is not, however, the slightest disposition on the part of spinners to anticipate the course of values, and it appears probable that the present general policy of covering only immediate requirements will be continued until the yarn demand furnishes the necessary encouragement. With the Sakel crop now passing through its most critical stage, periodical scares will probably be experienced during the course of the next few weeks; this being the case, we consider that any operations on the "short" side are inadvisable; rather we would prefer to advise taking advantage of any set-backs to enter into conservative purchases with the idea of being content to secure a moderate profit on any upward swing.

Uppers Contract.—A decided change in sentiment has taken place in this market during the past week, due principally to less favourable crop advices and fears of damage through floods; in addition, it is stated in certain quarters that the ginning yield of early lots is well below last year's high standard. The effect of the above reports has resulted in a fair amount of "short" covering which has only been practicable at consistent appreciation in values, the advance on the week amounting to 40 to 45 points for near and 45 to 38 points for distant positions. Only a moderate amount of trade support has been in evidence, and the trade generally are awaiting further developments before entering into new crop commitments. Our premium over the American contract has widened sharply during the past few days. Reports of the American staple crop are rather conflicting, and should the less satisfactory of these be confirmed later, prevailing ideas of Upper Egyptian values will have to be revised.

Egyptian Spot.

A fairly steady business has been transacted in this department during the past week, but it must be confessed that so far the generally anticipated activity that was to follow the reopening of the mills has not as yet materialised. During the past few days values have stiffened on less promising crop reports.

Sakels have only been in moderate request, the inferior qualities and cotton ranging in value from 50 to 150 on forming the bulk of the business. The top grades have been neglected.

Uppers still constitute the mainstay of the reported sales, with the demand continuing to concentrate on the medium qualities. The basis tends to stiffen, and good stapled lots are becoming increasingly difficult to pick up.

Pilion has only been dealt in occasionally, but full premiums have been paid for high grade staple lots.

Nahda and White have received little attention from buyers.

Sudan Sakel continues in fair request without change in basis.

Tokar Sakel continues neglected.

C.i.f. business has expanded slightly for near shipments; very little interest and few contracts have been put through in new crop cotton. Forwardings to the trade last week amount to 3,589 bales Egyptian and 1,381 bales Sudan. Estimated sales for the week 2,100 bales Egyptian and 400 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel are advanced 35 to 55 points, and those of Upper and Pilion 37 and 40 points respectively. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 17.05d. F.G.F. Upper to-day 11.50d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day 12.60d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 22, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been quiet, although fluctuations have been irregular; closing prices to-day were at about the same levels as last week. The week's summary of movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 32.05 dollars, unchanged; January, 32.45 dollars, unchanged; March, 32.90 dollars, 0.03 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 20.52 dollars, 0.06 dollars up; December, 20.99 dollars, 0.07 dollars up; February, 21.42 dollars, 0.06 dollars up; April, 21.95 dollars, 0.20 dollars up; June, 22.23 dollars, 0.04 dollars up.

Sakel business effected this week has not been of the same volume as during the last few weeks, although each session has seen rather marked fluctuations in prices. The resumption of work in Lancashire on Monday last affected our market favourably, but the absence

of any revival in the demand as a result of this resumption of work upset the calculations of our operators. The trade has taken but little interest in the market, and the undecided tone of New York is causing local operators to hesitate before taking a decided view of the future course of prices.

News from up-country on the whole continues to indicate satisfactory conditions. It is true the crop is backward, but, for the time being at least, the anxiety shown by the bull element has no justification. The Government offered for sale on Wednesday last 993 bales Sakel, of which 195 bales found buyers. The Sakel/Uppers Straddle (Nov./Oct.) this week stands at 1,153 points against 1,159 points last week and 1,328 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—Nothing special to report; this market has continued to follow New York closely. Some hedging, against fixations of up-country purchases, has been noted, but, being of only moderate volume, it was easily absorbed by the purchases of the trade. Prospects are for rather quiet markets in the near future.

The Ashmouni/American Straddle (Oct./Oct.) this week stands at 222 points against 233 points last week and 442 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 404 kantars against exports, 60,749 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,379,474 kantars.

Spot.—During the past week, in spite of a slight improvement in the demand, there has been no great improvement shown in the estimate Sakellaridis 1,760 bales, Ashmouni and Zagora 1,320 bales, actual business done. Of the week's total sales of 3,400 bales we Pilion 300 bales, and White 20 bales.

Sakellaridis.—Here the demand has moved down on to the grades Good Fair/Fully Good Fair and below, and cotton has been taken up regardless of staple. Cotton around Fully Good Fair with decent staple is now not on offer; the better grades have been neglected. Premiums are unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—Here the demand still remains for cotton grading Fully Good Fair up to Good. There has been a small inquiry for Good Fair/Fully Good Fair. Good premiums have been paid but offerings were of cotton of very poor quality.

Pilion.—There has been a moderate demand for good staple Pilion at last week's premiums.

Other Varieties have been almost entirely neglected, with the exception of a small demand for White.

Crop, 1929.—Reports on the progress of the crop continue to be satisfactory. In Lower Egypt the temperature during the past week has been about normal and the humidity has not been excessive. Boll shedding due to "Nadua" and damage caused by the pink boll



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the purchasing power of the public, are factors which restrict any activity beyond actual requirements. Sales proved difficult to effect, and comprise: Amalias 42s., Patras 45s. to 46s., Gulf 46s. to 47s., Smalls 42s. to 44s., and Vostizza 49s. to 55s. A few sales of new crop Pyrgos are reported at 35s. 9d. down to 35s. c.i.f. September shipment. Quotations: Pyrgos 41s. 6d., Amalias and Patras 42s. to 43s., Gulf 42s. to 47s., Vostizza 49s. to 55s.

Sultanas.

Smyrna.—We finish the season with bare boards and stock practically exhausted. New crop promises well, and is of good quality. Not much interest has been taken in forward business of the new crop, the trade feeling that there is apparently no urgent need to anticipate the season's requirements. A little of good average quality was disposed of at 26s. to 27s. c.i.f. September shipment.

Cretans.—Fine quality on overland samples met a moderate inquiry for early shipment on the basis of 52s. to 65s. c.i.f.

Figs.

Genuines.—New crop have been sold at 22s. 6d. c.i.f. September, and 21s. 9d. c.i.f. October shipment.

The Egyptian Minister of Communications has under consideration a scheme for a direct railway line between Suez and Cairo.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended August 10 amounted to £E8,302, making the total from April 1 £E104,306 as against £E91,147 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

LONDON EXCHANGE		RAILWAYS.		INDIAN EXCHANGES.	
Government Stocks.		Prices on Sept. 2		Government Loans.	
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	80	Assam-Bengal	93 1/2	3 1/2 Government Paper	67 1/2
Do. Pref. 3 1/2 p.c. 1890	70	Bengal Doonars	182 1/2	Banks	1,395
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	87	Bengal Nagpur	9 1/4	Imperial Bank of India	1,004
Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94	81	Egypt Delta Light Rly.	43 1/2	Bank of India	19 1/2
Bulgaria 4 1/2 p.c. Gold, 1907	28 1/2	Nizams Gtd.	42 1/2	Central Bank of India	6 1/2
Do. 7 p.c.	82	Ottoman (Smy. L. Aid)	59	Coal.	5 1/2
Greek 5 p.c., 1881	69	Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb.	58	Baraboni	4 1/2
Do. 5 p.c., 1884	69	Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb.	190 1/2	Bengal	4 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	52 1/2	Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds.	115 1/2	Burrakur	2 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	65	Southern Punjab		East Indian	2 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	66 1/2	South Indian		Equitable	2 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902	58 1/2	Rubber.		Fench Valley	5 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	75 1/2	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord.	9 1/2	Ranees-ulge	6 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. Issue)	100 1/2	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	19 1/2	Standard	5 1/2
Do. 7 p.c., 1924	96 1/2	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber...	26 1/2	Cotton.	5 1/2
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	100 1/2	Hewagum Rubber Co.	17 1/2	Bengal Nagpur	7 1/2
Palestine 5 p.c.	85 1/2	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	34 1/2	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	7 1/2
Persia 5 p.c., 1911	87 1/2	Malayalam Rub. and Produce		Bowraah	180
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext.	44	Shipping.		Buckingham and Carnatic	14
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	81 1/2	Anchor 5 1/2 p.c. Prf.	8 1/2	Cawnpore Textiles	54 1/2
Do. 7 p.c.	106	Cunard	25 1/2	Century	455
Sudan 5 1/2 p.c. Guar. Bds.	85 1/2	Furness Withy	39 1/2	Central India	91
India 3 1/2 p.c.	66	Khedivial Mail Ord.	58 1/2	Elgin	7 1/2
Do. 3 p.c.	98 1/2	P. and O. Deferred		Khatua Makaanji	54 1/2
Do. 5 1/2 p.c.	85	Tea.		Muir	161
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	18 1/2	Assam Co.	21 3/2	New Ring	135
Banks.		Bengal United Tea Ord	17 1/2	Phoenix	4 1/2
Agri. Bank of Egypt...	7 1/2	Bramapootra	33	Sradeshhi	568
Bank of British West Africa	44	British Indian Tea Ord.	113 1/2	Jute.	28 1/2
Bank of Roumania	80 1/2	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord.	315 1/2	Alliance	562
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl.	28 1/2	Carolina	5 1/2	Barnagore	397 1/2
Chartered Bank of India	205 1/2	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	3 1/2	Budge Budge	561
Eastern	613 1/2	Consolidated Estates	3 1/2	Clive	575
Hambros	10 1/2	Darjeeling Co.	231 1/2	Dalhousie	897 1/2
Ionian Bank	625 3/2	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	17 1/2	Delta	457 1/2
Imperial Bank of Persia	11 1/2	Doonars Tea Ord.	4	Fort Gloster	579 1/2
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	16 1/2	Dooloomram Tea	4 7/2	Gourepore	65 1/2
Lloyds	63 1/2	Doom Dooma	2 1/2	Howrah	543 1/2
Mercantile Bank of India A	32 1/2	East Assam	1 1/2	Kamarhaty	603 1/2
Do. B	33 1/2	Empire of Ind.	2 1/2	Kankannarrah	30 1/2
National Bank of Egypt	49	Halem Tea	21 1/2	Khardah	472 1/2
National Bank of India	11 1/2	Imperial Ind.	3 1/2	Kinnison	1,04 1/2
Ottoman Bank	8 1/2	Jhanrie Tea Association	2	National	722
P. and O. Bank Corporation	76 1/2	Jekai (Assam) Tea Ord.	17 1/2	Standard	24 1/2
Westminster	8 1/2	Jorehaut	7	Union	4 1/2
Land.		Lanka Plantations Ord.	27 1/2	British India Corporation	225
Kassala Cotton	5 1/2	Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	37 1/2	Bengal Paper Mills	387
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates	5 1/2	New Dimbula	6	Bengal Timber Trading	15
Sudan Plantations	3 1/2	Nuwars Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	24	Burn and Co.	12
Mines.		Nedem	34	Cawnpore Sugar	9 1/2
Salaghat Gold Mining	5 1/2	Ouvah	214 3/2	Champaran Sugar	
Burma Corp.	8 1/2	Pabbolan		Howrah Oil Mills	
Champion Reef Gold	12 1/2	Standard		ALEXANDRIA	
Mysore	18 1/2	Scottish Assam		Prices on Aug. 23, supplied by G.L.	
Nundydroog	7 1/2	Scottish Tea and Lands		Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.	
Overseas Gold Mining Ord.		Upper Assam			



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1929.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	265	INDIAN NOTES	267	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Notes and News	283
Egypt's Choice	268	Earthquakes in Persia	280	Commercial Companies in Turkey	286
SPECIAL LETTERS—		CORRESPONDENCE	271	Motors and Motoring	287
Egypt	269	PERSONAL AND GENERAL	279	The Motor in Persia	288
Abyssinia	270	BOOK REVIEWS	276	Shipping Intelligence	290
Cyprus	270			The Week's Finance	291
Calcutta	272			Cotton and Cotton Goods	295

Notes of the Week.

Palestine and the Inquiry.

The announcement by the Colonial Office last week that a Commission of Inquiry into the immediate causes which led to the recent outbreak in Palestine is being appointed was made in a form which appears to have dissatisfied many observers. Jewish opinion, which is, of course, admirably, or, at any rate, very thoroughly, organised, had expressed the hope that the Commission should not only be presided over by a non-official, but should also comprehend the whole situation in Palestine, including, most notably, the conduct and the attitude of the Palestine Administration towards the establishment of a "Jewish National Home." That hope has been rudely shattered. What Arabs, whose propaganda is far less well organised than that of the Jews, think of the Commission is not yet discernible. Other less directly interested circles seemed to believe it desirable that the whole policy of His Majesty's Government in Palestine should be considered: it was widely thought that fresh light should be thrown on the question whether or not the establishment in Palestine of a "Jewish National Home" was really practicable. But, as we pointed out last week, there was never any possibility of this: it could be taken for granted from the first that no fundamental alteration in the British Mandate would be considered. The lines of what is called "major policy" have been irrevocably laid down. The significant passage, however, in the announcement of the formation of a Commission of Inquiry lies in these words: "When its (the Commission's) Report has been received it will be a matter of earnest consideration by His Majesty's Government along what lines within the terms of the Mandate future policy in Palestine should be directed." These words may refer either to the progress of the Arabs towards self-government, or to the establishment of a "Jewish National Home," or to both. Of the former it would not be profitable to write at this moment, but in regard to the latter, it is well to remember that hitherto the only restrictions (other than those imposed by the Mandate itself) upon the "upbuilding" of a "Jewish National Home" have been economic restrictions. Whether to these restrictions, arising from the limited

absorbent power of the Holy Land, there may be added political restrictions, arising from the hostility of the Arabs and the consequent necessity for retaining a British garrison in Palestine, remains to be seen. Another incalculable element in the situation derives from the attitude of the Jews themselves. Will there be on the part of Zionists and of non-Zionists a more determined desire to send and to subsidise immigrants, and will such immigrants increasingly wish to flow into Palestine? Two opposite opinions on this vital question are freely heard. All that can safely be said at the moment is that Zionists appear to have seized this critical occasion, not as an excuse for relinquishing effort, but rather as a spur to compelling the Mandatory Power to further measures in their favour.

Imperfect News Services.

A minor point, but one that is of importance to the general public, is the fact that so much of the "news" that has been cabled from Palestine during the disturbances has been untrustworthy. To select but a few "stories" which have since been exploded or at least modified:—Heavy fighting reported north of Beisan was but an unimportant skirmish with a few *Badawin*; a severe engagement by Beersheba, in which British troops suffered many casualties, did not take place at all; of the mutilations and other usual horrors, which the Jews attributed to the Arabs, the British doctors could find no trace; and who ever in history heard of an Arab's putting poison into coffee? Some of these fancies can be treated at their proper value at once by the informed reader, but others are much more plausible, and, therefore, alarming. A special obligation rests on the non-party sources of information in Palestine, for the effect of falsehoods upon world opinion is very much greater than that of their subsequent denial. It is quite obvious that all the enemies of Great Britain are looking with glee upon the situation in Palestine and are making capital out of it. Nor is this *Schadenfreude* confined to the Mandatory Power's enemies; among her friends also is visible an inward joy that things have run to this pitch in the Holy Land. All the more reason, therefore, for letting the truth and truth alone be emitted from Palestine.

The Position of the Arabs.

The military situation in Palestine appears to be tranquil—the result of very considerable efficiency and tact upon the part of the military authorities—and, if present appearances are not deceptive, now is the time when the real needs of friendship with the majority of the population in Palestine may be sown anew. It is inevitable, one supposes, that any journal which at this juncture would appeal for fair play for the Arabs will be dubbed pro-Arab. But the label pro-this or pro-that is an indiscriminating sign, and we must let those who would be bill-stickers indulge their wasteful fancies. So to control the present situation as not vitally to offend the Arab people—and, deny the possibility of the realisation of the Pan-Arab dream how you will, you cannot deny the fact that everywhere the vivid sympathy of Arabs is with their co-religionists in Palestine—is a capital British interest, and it is precisely in Imperial interests that we would counsel that the broadest possible view be taken of this outbreak in Palestine. Of the Jews we would say the same as of the Arabs but for the self-evident fact that they already have in abundance the ear of the Government: whatever action the Mandatory Power may take in the Holy Land, it will not be performed in ignorance of the Jewish aspect of the case. It will be the immediate task of Sir Walter Shaw and of his three Parliamentary colleagues to penetrate through the mass of exaggeration on either side, and it is to be hoped that their Report will not only satisfy the domestic position, but will also be recognised by impartial observers abroad as a model of fair British judgment. For, we repeat, the problem is a problem that far transcends our domestic worries; by the manner in which extrication is effected from this Arab-Jewish conflict in Palestine the statesmanship of the British Government, the recent success of which in other matters has been loudly acclaimed, may well be judged. The order of events, then, is, first, the re-establishment of order—which we trust has now been virtually accomplished; next, the report upon the causes of the outbreak, including an opinion on whether or not it was preconcerted; and thirdly, the steps taken by the Mandatory physician, consequent upon the diagnosis of the specialist Commission, to heal the wound. For it must never be forgotten that Great Britain's prime duty in Palestine is now to heal the breach between Arab and Jew, not to emphasise antagonism between the two races whom, presumably, it still hopes one day to fuse into a single whole.

Comments Helpful and Unhelpful.

He who came to this critical problem of Palestine with no special knowledge, and relied upon advice offered him in the Press or by public speakers, would surely feel not a little puzzled. He would learn from the Prime Minister, for instance, that this outbreak was in no wise due to racial conflict between Arab and Jew—a remark that was quite meaningless, unless it referred to the undoubted fact that Jews co-operate admirably with and are perfectly tolerated by Arabs in communities where they have no special pretensions; he would learn from Mr. Ittamar Ben-Avi, Editor of the *Palestine Weekly*, that the whole trouble has sprung from the anti-Jewishness of various officials of the Palestine Administration—Mr. Luke, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Mills, Mr. Keith-Roach, and so on ("Let the London Government know that no peace will ever be possible in Jerusalem so long as 'Richmond and Company' are within its bounds"); he would learn from the Arab Executive that the High Commissioner and his subordinates are biased in favour of Zionism; or he would learn from the *Jewish Chronicle* that the outbreak might have been due ("I by no means for my part reject its possibility") to a "deep-laid plot on the part of some of the Government officials whereby England shall, while yet staying in Palestine, have an excuse for dropping the promise of helping in the formation of the Jewish National Home." If such an observer, however, had some knowledge of the Palestinian situation, he might be tempted to

summarise such comments as these in three sentences; that ignorance of the real situation in the Holy Land exists in an alarming degree in certain high quarters; that the Jews are implacably opposed to, and are resolved to get rid of, certain highly placed officials in the Palestine Administration; and that the Arabs have a considerable distrust in the justice of the British Government, believing it to be prejudiced by contact with Zionists. In spite of the last two conclusions, however, we would venture upon the speculation that there will be no resignations from the Palestine Administration. . . . As for the attempt made to represent the whole Arab outbreak as anti-British rather than anti-Jewish, it is so childish as not to be worth consideration. It is disproved by the casualty lists alone.

What Provoked the Arabs?

In a revealing letter to *The Times* last week, Mr. Vladimir Jabotinsky, the gifted Revisionist leader, explained his own position towards the establishment in Palestine of a "Jewish National Home," in dissenting from the statement made by the Jerusalem Correspondent of *The Times* that "the present outbreak is also due to the open demands of Jabotinsky and the Revisionists far more than the Mandate demanded." Now we do not intend here to discuss what provoked the Arabs to the actions which have been witnessed in Palestine, but a disclaimer must be made against Mr. Jabotinsky's charge, in the letter referred to, that THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA saw in the solemnities attending the enlargement of the Jewish Agency "a provocation of the Arabs." If by this Mr. Jabotinsky infers that we connected the enlargement of the Jewish Agency with the probable shedding of blood in Palestine, he is entirely mistaken. Does he mean anything else? To state that the extension of the Jewish Agency would not be regarded by the Arabs with blind and unheeding eyes was, we should have thought, an obviously safe prophecy. Consider the position. Owing to an economic crisis in Palestine and to constantly dwindling funds at the disposal of Zionist authorities, the Arabs are led to suppose that their original fears of Jewish predominance are illusory. But redouble the Jewish effort, collect a million pounds sterling annually for Jewish work in Palestine, and instantly the old fear must begin to haunt the Arab. But Mr. Jabotinsky will look in vain in our columns for the expression of any opposition, in the interests of the Arabs, to the Extended Jewish Agency. That enlargement was, in the circumstances, probably an inevitable development; but must it not in itself have instigated a redoubling of effort on the part of the Arabs? The point is so patent that one cannot easily understand the Revisionist leader's resenting its expression. To judge by certain of the letters published since the outbreak in Palestine in the Jewish interest, the Zionist movement may well pray to be saved from some of its friends.

The Hague and the Balkans.

British satisfaction with the results of The Hague Conference has its counterpart in the Balkans, where both Yugoslavia and Greece are well pleased with the outcome of the deliberations. For Greece the principle has been laid down that she shall receive in reparations the sums required to meet her actual War debts, whereas under the Young Plan there promised to be a substantial deficiency. At the same time she will be given the funds required to defray the awards of the Arbitral Tribunal for War losses incurred by Greek nationals. Yugoslavia has also improved upon the Young Plan; she retains her original percentage of reparations, and the proportion of the conditional payments due to her from Germany is considerably reduced.

An Aegean Bogy.

Ever since it was announced, with the inevitable flourish of trumpets, that the reconditioning of the Yavouz (ex-Goeben) was nearing completion, the Turkish and the Greek Press have done their best to work up a big naval

scare in each country. With the Yavouz able once more to ride the high seas—an exploit of which it has not apparently been capable since the Armistice—the Turkish Press saw the Republic definitely established as mistress of the Ægean, and indiscreetly allowed itself to contemplate the ease with which the islands belonging to Greece that are near the Asia Minor coast might be recovered. The eagerness with which these lucubrations were seized upon in Greece as a normal preliminary to a declaration of war by Turkey must have rejoiced the souls of many armament firms in different countries, but was not without its embarrassment for the Greek Government. In deference to popular clamour the possibility of making use of the Salamis, the unfortunate battleship, ordered by Greece before the War, which has remained ever since in the German yard where it was built, because the Greeks had no use for it and could not pay for it, was re-considered, and a Greek mission has been visiting the Vulcan works to decide whether the ship could be profitably brought up to date at a cost that Greece could meet. The Greek Government, however, has already agreed upon a naval programme suited to Greek requirements, and a vessel that calls for a complement of over a thousand men, it may be supposed, has no part in that programme, even if Greece were anxious to spend some three millions of pounds in bringing the Salamis up to date. M. Venizelos's personal authority has, accordingly, been enlisted to damp down the excitement of the Greek Press, which threatens to blaze forth whenever the Turkish Government frowns afresh. Greece, it is to be hoped, will not allow her economic and financial rehabilitation to be stultified by war scares regarding Turkey. It is fair to the Turkish Government to say that it has shown no disposition of late to lend itself to any policies of adventure, but, on the contrary, has displayed a lively appreciation of the advantages of peace. If, however, madness should seize Angora, and Greece become the victim of a war of aggression, she would probably find whole-hearted reliance on the League of Nations a cheaper and more effective safeguard than indulgence in a rivalry with Turkey in naval armaments.

Greece's British-Trained Police.

The practice of borrowing military and naval missions from the Great Powers has been widely adopted by smaller States, but Greece broke new ground when, in 1918, she engaged a British Police Mission, under Sir Frederick Halliday, to train a Greek police force for the chief towns. The experiment has been completely successful, and the only possible rival in South-Eastern Europe to the Greek policeman was for a period his Turkish colleague in Constantinople during the Allied occupation. The latter has now "passed," and the Greek force responsible for the policing of Athens, the Piræus, Patras and Corfu stands alone for general efficiency in the Balkan Peninsula. With the return to power of M. Venizelos the rivalry that had been allowed, quite unnecessarily, to grow up between the police and the gendarmerie, and which had even been fostered under the dictatorship of General Pangalos, has been removed. The two forces have their clearly defined spheres, and the possibility of overlapping will now be more effectually obviated by the decision to extend the jurisdiction of the police to the immediate neighbourhood of Athens, including Old Phaleron, Maroussi and Kephissia. Greece can be said to be the only country in the Balkans where the British conception of the policeman as the friend, guardian and guide of the public, as well as a deterrent to evil-doers, has taken root.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Coastal Traffic Reservation Bill.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon have once more drawn attention to the danger of economic discrimination against non-Indian mercantile and industrial interests. When giving evidence before

the Statutory Commission, the Chambers strongly pressed for the insertion in the new Indian Constitution of safeguards against this possible risk to British interests. And they are wise to bring the matter forward again now, seeing that the Commission is understood to be approaching the final stages of its inquiry. Moreover, the Coastal Traffic Reservation Bill, to which reference has been previously made in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, has recently advanced a stage further in the Indian Legislature. This measure is a striking example of the class of legislation against which the Chambers ask for protection. It is open to the gravest objections in principle; and, although it has now been revised and amended by a large Select Committee of the Assembly, these objections have not been removed, nor even lessened. One objectionable feature of the Bill is that it discriminates between the citizens of the various parts of the British Empire in respect of the coastal traffic of India. Another is that it contemplates expropriation, in that it seeks to restrict the traffic to Indian-controlled vessels after it has been in operation for five years. The existing European controlled shipping companies are to be eliminated at the end of that period; and none but Indian-controlled vessels are to engage in the traffic thereafter. As is indicated in another column, the Chambers have sent copies of the amended Bill to Members of Parliament and to the leading commercial and industrial bodies in this country. There is, they say, every indication that it will be passed by the Assembly, for it is enthusiastically supported by the extreme Nationalists, while the Moderates will hesitate to oppose any measure which claims to promote national aspirations. The Bill will convince any unbiased person that the danger which the Associated Chambers apprehend is a real danger, and that it is one against which protection should be afforded. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the action which they have taken will be strongly supported, and we notice with satisfaction in this connexion that the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has already moved in that direction.

Development of the Indian Salt Industry.

About seventy per cent. of the very large quantity of salt consumed in India is manufactured in the country, the remaining thirty per cent. being imported. The areas which depend chiefly on the imported article are Bengal, Bihar, Assam, and a large part of Burma. The people of these territories like fine white crushed salt, and they do not take readily to the Bombay or Madras variety. The question of so developing the Indian industry as to supply their requirements has been talked about for a long time.

(Continued on page 274)

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1929.

EGYPT'S CHOICE.

If Nahas Pasha's speech on the last day of August before a mass meeting of his followers represents the Wafd's considered attitude towards the proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian treaty, it is to be feared that Egypt stands confronted with a difficult situation. By refusing to discuss the proffered terms until they are presented before Parliament, the Wafdist leader announced in effect that, with the Wafd, party considerations come first and will not be subordinated to any potential good of the country. The studied silence with which the proposals have been met, in contrast with the immediate denunciation that greeted the Sarwat Treaty of 1927, shows that the Wafd is unable to take serious exception to the new terms. If, however, it declares its acceptance of the proposed treaty, it fears that its endorsement will redound to the credit of Mahmoud Pasha, who negotiated it with the British Government, and will weaken its own position in the country. It contends, therefore, that the Egyptian people should pass no judgment on the proposed terms, but should leave it to an elected Parliament to say whether the terms shall be accepted or rejected. The full significance of this claim deserves to be understood. Before Parliament can meet, there must be elections, and elections pre-suppose that the suffrages of the electorate will be invited on one or more definite issues. It would be thought that the most vital issue before the country at the present time was the proposed settlement of Anglo-Egyptian relations. It is inconceivable that this issue should be awaiting the judgment of the Egyptian people, and yet should not be submitted to them at a general election. Elections held under such conditions could not fail to be a farce; but it may be worth while considering how the farce will play into the hands of the Wafd. It is a matter of common notoriety that, until Mahmoud Pasha was appointed Prime Minister a little more than a year ago, and suspended the Constitution, the great bulk of the Egyptian electorate had been dragooned or bemused into support of the Wafd. Nine-tenths of the Egyptian electorate neither reads nor writes; if that section is told by someone, arrogating to himself sufficient authority, to shout "Saad," it shouts "Saad"; if told with equal assurance to shout "Mahmoud," it will no less vociferously acclaim the latter. Under the prestige of Zaghloul Pasha the Wafd was able to convert itself from the Committee that its name implies to a well-organised party, capable in such a country as Egypt of sweeping any general election by the mere force of its name, whether it went through the pretence of submitting any issue to the electorate or not. Although the Wafd's influence has been in abeyance for a year, the Egyptian people retains its characteristics, and the Wafd is free to resume its former practices. Not content, however, with its advantages, it stipulates that its political opponents, who have never sought to rival its methods of political organisation, shall not submit to the electorate their trump card—the proposed settlement of the Anglo-Egyptian question. The Wafd is to be free to subject the present Administration to every form of mis-

representation, on the lines of Nahas Pasha's speech at the Wafd meeting, but the Government of Mahmoud Pasha is not to be allowed to use the most telling argument in its defence.

If a general election should be held on the lines laid down by the Wafd, there can be little doubt as to the subsequent course of events in Egypt. For reasons already stated, the Wafd would be returned with an overwhelming majority. It is more than probable that it will be afraid to reject the proposed treaty summarily, and after impassioned debates and attempts at modification, the terms will be accepted under protest. Thereafter the Wafd remains in power, and the consequences have to be considered. Its past record suggests that, even if it signed the treaty with Great Britain, it would resume its agitation for better terms, and Egypt would soon be back again where it was in the spring of 1928. Apart from this baiting of Great Britain, the Wafd has no clearly defined policy: it stands for no recognised principles of government for the introduction of which it claims that Egypt is ripe; it has not even troubled to elaborate an administrative programme. Political power in countries new to constitutional practice is apt to be sought by most politicians for the sake of office. The Wafd, it is to be feared, is the paladin of this doctrine in Egypt. With it office takes the form of a reward for political services, without regard to the administrative capacity of the recipient. Government under such conditions is bound to be inefficient, if it is not also corrupt. In a country such as Egypt, with a considerable foreign population, apart, altogether, from the special relationship with Great Britain, an incompetent Government sooner or later must lead to international trouble, and the peculiar circumstances of Egypt's position should be sufficiently well-known to make even the most unpatriotic of its citizens hesitate before they deliberately expose their country to this fate, with the almost certain withdrawal of all the advantages that it has now gained for itself.

A dispassionate view of the situation suggests that the Wafd needs to be saved from itself, just as much as Egypt from the Wafd. A return to power at this stage must almost inevitably sweep the Wafdist off their feet and commit them to countless follies that the better amongst them know that they will be able to avoid in time. Already some of the wiser heads that sympathised at first with the bold stand for Egyptian rights have left the Party in disgust at policy and tactics that are divorced from all intelligence or common sense. The process was being continued, but will now have been arrested by the prospect of office which the Wafd holds out before its followers. How then is Egypt to obtain the required popular sanction of the proposed treaty with Great Britain without plunging back into the vortex from which she was rescued only last year? One method that may be suggested is the Referendum, adjusted, as it must needs be, to the capacity of largely illiterate people. If a verdict in favour of the treaty were reached by means of a Referendum, no subsequent Parliament would be likely to take upon itself to reverse that judgment. The present truce in party politics could thus be continued, and Egypt would have the full period of three years prescribed for her in which to familiarize herself with the fundamentals of self-government and to bring home to her people that the essence of constitutionalism is government in the interests of the people as a whole and not in the interests of a few office-seekers. It is to be hoped that the present Egyptian Government will be left to make its choice of methods of implementing the treaty proposals, free from outside pressure. If there is reason to believe that the return of the Wafd to power must inevitably plunge Egypt once more into the chaos from which Mahmoud Pasha rescued her in June, 1928, no steps should be taken which render such a return possible. For a year now the country has undergone the very necessary experience of self-discipline, and Nahas Pasha is responsible for making it evident to the world at large that the process has not yet been continued long enough.

'The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Alexandria, August 30.

The Premier's Speech.

The long-awaited speech by Mahmoud Pasha was delivered in the presence of a highly enthusiastic audience of about twelve thousand last Saturday. In some ways it was a disappointment, but in others it was a revelation. Those who expected a definite statement of the Prime Minister's intentions with regard to the coming election, went empty away. That is not surprising, for Mahmoud Pasha had been in the country just over twenty-four hours, and the matter is of such gravity as to need the most complete study, both by the Prime Minister and by his colleagues. In other respects, however, the speech was so much above what one has been led to expect from an Egyptian statesman, that it furnished additional proof, in the estimation of many observers, that Mahmoud Pasha is the first real statesman Egypt has yet produced. Absolutely free from any self-praise, party appeal or abuse of opponents, the speech was a clear and comprehensive explanation of the proposals. It made an honest and sincere appeal to the nation to study the question solely in the light of the nation's best interests, and it concluded with a remarkable gesture of friendship towards the Wafd. It would have been so easy for Mahmoud Pasha, the leader of the smaller party, to have come back and boasted that he had succeeded in obtaining for Egypt proposals which the Opposition has been vainly striving for during the last ten years. It would, perhaps, have been a legitimate boast, and one which most Englishmen could easily forgive, for the attitude of the Wafd has become intolerable. By his scrupulous avoidance of anything calculated to stir up bad feeling or to gain any personal triumph, Mahmoud Pasha has added to the conviction, which is steadily gaining ground, that the interests of Great Britain in Egypt could be considered reasonably safe as long as he is at the head of the Government.

The Wafd's Attitude.

The Wafd, on the other hand, have once more exhibited the cloven hoof, and their attitude since Mahmoud Pasha's speech has proved that whatever the rest of Egypt may be prepared to do for the good of their country, the Wafd will do nothing but make inflammatory party speeches, and attack, with the utmost bitterness, those who are endeavouring to solve a very difficult problem. It is a strange commentary on the cries of the Wafd emissaries in London that Mahmoud Pasha was a ruthless dictator and had even suppressed the Opposition Press, that *Al Balagh*, the Wafd organ, had been attacking the Prime Minister, daily, in terms which would be quite sufficient to bring about the paper's immediate suppression in any country but Egypt.

The Wafd have obtained permission to hold a meeting

to-morrow in a large open space by the house of the late Zaghloul Pasha, and Nahas Pasha will then address his party. It is certain, however, that nothing will be said about the actual proposals, for at a private meeting of the Wafdist Parliamentary Committee explicit instructions were given that the proposals were on no condition to be discussed by members of the Wafd, even among themselves. Nahas Pasha will presumably repeat his previous speeches, i.e., that nothing must be done until the Wafd is back in power, and also repeat his former attacks on Mahmoud Pasha.

The gravity of the present situation cannot be too deeply emphasised. Unless the electoral law is modified, and there is a feeling that such an action would not meet with the approval of the Labour Government, the Wafd must be returned once again. That the Labour Government may have been taken in by the plausible representatives of the Wafd in London would not be surprising, but that some of the Labour Party are still, especially the members of the I.L.P., determined that the Wafd must be put back into power, because such an action would coincide with their democratic principles, is incomprehensible. Any one who has lived for any length of time in Egypt would tell them what the Wafd are: that they are a body of professional politicians who have consistently exhibited, and are still exhibiting, bitterly anti-British tendencies: that they are entirely unscrupulous and have gained their large following by wild promises and boastful speeches about how they will turn the hated English out of Egypt. They have retained their hold because the fellah is philosophical, and if he repeatedly fails to see any signs of the Wafd's promises maturing, he uses the traditional Egyptian words *Malcesh Bukra*, and continues to till his land, until such time as one of the Wafd leaders comes along and tells him that he must join in some kind of a demonstration—which he does, blindly.

A High Nile.

The river this year is higher than it has been for very many seasons, and some fears have been expressed by the authorities that serious damage may be done to the river banks. All precautions are being taken, however, and the Minister of Public Works has recalled from leave all engineers and technical officials, so that their services may be utilised in this connexion, and he has also re-engaged temporarily about twenty officials who had retired on pension. He himself has proceeded up river on a launch and is directing damming operations. The river has badly overflowed its banks in Tanta Province and over 500 feddans of cotton fields are inundated. It was thought at one time that three villages in the neighbourhood would also be flooded, but strenuous efforts have saved them. It is a long time since there have been no complaints about the lack of water for irrigation, and everybody, except the officials recalled from leave, is happy.

ABYSSINIA.

Addis Ababa, August 15.

A Social Summary.

In view of the unavoidably long time that has elapsed since the last letter from Addis Ababa it may be permissible to summarise the chief social news during the interval.

On June 21, the new British Minister, Sir Sidney Barton, arrived from China to take up his duties. Lady Barton, accompanied by two daughters, is expected to arrive here at the end of August. M. Janssen has also arrived to take up his appointment as Belgian Minister.

A Thanksgiving Service for King George's recovery

¹Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

was held at the English Church on July 7. It was attended by the British Minister, and, including the Legation Staff, there were present in all thirty-two British subjects, by no means a bad muster for this small community.

The great ecclesiastical event for Abyssinia has been the arrival of the new Abuna, Aha Kyrillos, who was duly enthroned at Gorgis Church by King Tafari and four Abyssinian Bishops.

Addis Ababa has received a visit from the French Navy in the persons of officers and men of the cruiser *Dusquesne*, who were entertained by the French Minister and by officials of the Abyssinian Government.

Railway Matters.

On the night of July 25-26 a railway bridge at kilometre 64 from Dire Dowa was washed or blown away, to the serious disorganisation of both passenger and goods traffic. The Railway Company pleads *force majeure* and accepts no responsibility for the carriage of goods across the break, leaving it to traders to organise their own transport to and from the nearest stations, which are, incidentally, seven kilometres apart. Fortunately, it is the quietest period of the year, when the volume of goods traffic is small, but it is inconceivable that the Railway Company should not itself have made arrangements. It is expected that goods traffic will be resumed within a month, but this is an optimistic view, for material is short.

Railway freight rates are again being increased as from October 1, the excuse being that owing to the decline in the value of the dollar the rate in francs must be increased. The general foreign view is that the rates are quite high enough, and that it is shortsighted policy to increase them, as this only makes it more difficult for Abyssinian produce to compete against produce from other parts of the world. Instead of trade being fostered, it is bled at every turn.

Rains are with us now in earnest, and the express train between here and Jibouti has been suspended owing to the risk involved in the possibility of some part of the lines being washed away.

Abyssinia's Representatives Abroad.

Abyssinian Ministers have left for their respective posts in London, Paris, Berlin and Rome. It must be presumed that the Abyssinian Government is convinced of the necessity for these appointments, but it is difficult for many who are well versed in Abyssinian affairs not to wonder whether the money spent on these Legations could not be employed to much greater advantage, as far as the nation is concerned, in the construction of roads and the general improvement of communications as well as in some attempt at sanitation in the capital and principal towns.

Aviation in Abyssinia.

The Government has ordered aeroplanes from France and Germany, and their arrival by air from Jibouti is expected at any time in the immediate future. It would seem as if the omission of any order for British machines was due to failure to push British interests in the matter adequately—surely in the circumstances a cause for special regret.

Passports.

Passport regulations are being enforced to a point that it cannot be easy to justify. If a resident of Addis Ababa leaves by train for Modjo, a few hours' journey, he is expected to carry his passport with him and to produce it on his return to Addis Ababa, notwithstanding the fact that he has not left Abyssinia. If passports are examined at the Frontier Station, there should be no need for troubling passengers at Addis Ababa. Also, if passports are required to be handed over for endorsement, a receipt for the passport by a responsible official—not an irresponsible and illiterate *zebaniah*—should be given. It is understood that the Legations are moving in the matter in order to have these regulations altered.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, August 21.

The Delegation to London.

It has appeared likely that the project of a Greek delegation to London would be shipwrecked owing to some differences of opinion among leaders. On the other hand, there has been strong insistence on the part of the Press and many persons, that it should be carried out. It has been contended that, if only delegates chosen by the members of Council were to go, there would be danger lest an impression might be created in London that they did not represent Cypriot Greek feeling as a whole, but only that of a party or clique. After further consultation with the Archbishop, it has been decided that the memorial should be forwarded to the Governor, Sir Ronald Storrs—whose support is asked for—for transmission; and that the question of the deputation, as before constituted, to seek an interview should be again discussed. It matters but little, of course, how the document is to reach the Colonial Office, as it can only meet with the same reception that has been so often given to previous petitions. It has been decided that a final meeting shall be held on August 22, at which the Abbot of Kykkou Monastery, as well as the Holy Synod, will meet the members of Council, and arrive at decisions regarding the mission.

It would be strange if there were not some lukewarmness on the part of some persons of leading, seeing how emphatic have been the replies of the Secretaries of State. It might be added that the present moment is particularly inopportune, since any loosening of the bonds between the Empire and Egypt would increase the importance of the island. It is no doubt the accession to power of the Labour Party that inspires these fresh hopes.

A Martyr's Memorial.

Much interest is taken by the Greek community in the arrangements for a mausoleum to be placed in the precincts of the Phaneromeni Church at Nicosia, to the memory of Greek Cypriots who were slain, or fell, in the rising and war of 1821. It is to be constructed of Pentelic marble from Athens, at a cost of £1,000 including freight to Cyprus, and the work has already been taken in hand. In a memorial to be erected, at Athens, to the memory of unknown soldiers, towards the construction of which cubic blocks of stone are to be contributed by various Greek communities in foreign parts, it is proposed that Cyprus should take part. The Greeks may send blocks of compact limestone, or Cyprus "marble," from the Kyrenia district, or of alabaster, of which there is at least one quarry in the island.

The Greek Centenary Celebrations.

Steps are also being taken to determine how best Greeks of Cyprus may participate in the Hellenic National Centenary Celebration of Greek Independence next year at Athens. It is understood that Mr. N. K. Laniti, M.L.C., a leading Greek of Limassol, is in consultation at Athens with the central organising committees, and with the Cyprus Archbishop, who will in due course issue communications on the subject.

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Ex-King Husain.

The ex-King Husain has expressed through the Greek Press his sincere thanks to the people of Cyprus for their universally kind expression of condolence on the loss of his wife. His sons, Abdullah, Amir of Trans-Jordan, and the Amir Ali, who came to Limassol to bid farewell to Sir Ronald Storrs, returned together to Amman.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

PALESTINE: AN INQUIRY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Events in Palestine should recall England to her moral destiny, which has been somewhat in abeyance since the Treaty of Versailles.

The great community of Palestine Arabs, by a series of unprecedented and fundamental injustices, have been driven to a desperation which may well shock the civilised world. For this the policy of "Divide and Rule" is mainly responsible.

We may well ask what has driven a great and gifted people to so terrible an extremity. Although they represent the large majority of the people of Palestine, they are unrepresented in the Administration of their country; their economic rights are not safeguarded; 30,000 of their energetic sons, temporarily absent from Palestine, have been deprived of Palestinian Nationality which is freely acquired by Russian and European Jews.

Add to this: the tampering with the *status quo* declared inviolable by the British Government and the League of Nations, and the raising at the Zionist Congress of the Wailing Wall as a political issue, and the formation of a powerful Jewish Agency, described as a great diplomatic machine entrusted by the League of Nations to all Jewry for the upbuilding of Palestine and with access to the British Government—and you have a series of events that might well inspire not only Arab but also world anxiety.

When the Arab appeals for his rights in Jerusalem he is told the decision is at the Colonial Office, and when his rights are contested here it is said the decision is with the Palestine Government. Strong groups of British members of both Houses of Parliament, realising the treatment of the Arabs, have made continuous and strong efforts since 1922 to redress the Arab wrongs.

The Arabs' inalienable rights are being suppressed, and they do not know where justice is to be looked for, nor whether in the future they are to be ruled by the League of Nations or by the Jewish Agency or by both.

The National League now calls for a drastic English inquiry in full daylight into the Arab grievances. It appeals to all Churches of every denomination and organised bodies throughout the British Empire, to see fair play to this people, taught to believe in our sense of justice, to call for the ceasing of bombing of innocent villages by a Labour Government, one of whose *raison d'être* is the rights of small nationalities. The Arabs are our national Allies in the Middle East, and surely a wave of moral indignation will rise through the civilised world and the cry go out "remedy the injustice." Since David slew Goliath, the truth may still slay the Dragon of a spurious Internationalism, which is what the Arab really fears.—I am, etc.,

MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON.

The National League, St. James's Street, London, S.W.1., August 31.

The Turkish Government has approved the appointment of M. Polychroniades as Greek Minister in Angora.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Two cases of plague were reported last week at the Piræus.

The Athens police last week arrested three members of the editorial staff of a newspaper called *Communist Youth*.

A permanent treaty of friendship between Persia and Italy was signed in Teheran on September 5.

The Roumanian Government is negotiating with a French firm for the purchase of 100 new aeroplanes for the Air Force.

Lord Melchett intends to visit Palestine at an early opportunity to study the situation.

M. Demetrovitch, a supporter of the Pribitchevitch group, has been appointed Minister of Trade in Yugoslavia in succession to M. Mazhuranitch, who recently resigned.

The King of Yugoslavia on September 3 signed a decree putting into force the Traffic in Opium Convention, signed under the auspices of the League of Nations at Geneva in 1925.

By order of the Turkish Government the newspaper *Politia*, which is published in Greece, is not allowed to be brought into Turkey on account of its anti-Turkish pronouncements.

"Journey's End" is being played at the Kotopouli Theatre in Athens with success in a Greek translation by Mr. George Syriotes, the London Correspondent of the *Eleutheron Béma*.

The trial by court-martial began at the beginning of the month in Bucharest of 47 persons charged with being implicated in a conspiracy against the Roumanian Government and Constitution earlier this year.

The delegations to the Congress of the Federation of Inter-Allied Ex-Servicemen (F.I.D.A.C.), which have been meeting in Belgrade at the Great Hall of the University, were received at the Royal Palace by King Alexander.

The party of French ex-Servicemen who saw service on the Salonika front in the French armies fighting in that theatre of war, and who went on a pilgrimage to the battlefields, left Belgrade on September 3.

Prince Firooz Mirza, the former Minister of Finance in the Persian Government, who was arrested in June on suspicion of treasonable conduct in connexion with the revolt in Fars, has been released, but has not been reinstated in office.

The Chief Justice of Palestine, Mr. M. F. J. McDonnell, the Attorney-General, Mr. Bentwich, and the Commandant of Police, Mr. A. S. Mavrogordato, returned at the end of last week to Jerusalem from leave.

Signor Mussolini sent a telegram last week to King Zogu of Albania on the occasion of the anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne. In acknowledging Signor Mussolini's greetings, King Zogu referred to the "indissolubility of the link" which binds together the two allied and friendly nations.

A new law dealing with debtors entered into force in Turkey on September 4. Whereas before persons who failed to pay their debts regularly were imprisoned, under the new law offences of this description may not be punished with imprisonment. All those serving sentences for debt have been released.

Sir Robert Hamilton, Liberal M.P. for Orkney and Shetland, has been invited by the Government to join the Palestine Commission of Inquiry. The Commission will consist of Sir Walter Shaw, Chairman, and three M.P.s, selected one from each of the three political parties.

It was originally stated from Jerusalem that Mr. Harold Wiener, the Jewish scholar who was shot dead by an Arab on August 23, had bequeathed £10,000 to Muslim institutions. It is now learned, however, that neither in Mr. Wiener's will nor in a codicil dated January, 1927, is there any bequest to any Muslim institution.

As a means of cutting Budget expenses the Roumanian Ministry of War is reported to be drafting a Bill reducing the period of service with the colours from two to one year. It has also issued an order that in future the word "war" is on no account to be employed in connexion with the Ministry, which will be called the Ministry for the Army.

The death occurred, after a long illness, at Zagreb on September 3, at the age of 72, of M. Hinkovitch, a well-known Croatian writer and politician. After the formation of the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, M. Hinkovitch took up politics and joined the ranks of the Opposition. During his illness last spring King Alexander showed a personal interest in his condition and sent him money in view of his reduced circumstances. M. Hinkovitch was exiled under the Austro-Hungarian régime, and lived for some time in London.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 22.

The Congress Presidentship.

The Congress and Lahore have provided a not very edifying spectacle. The heading in my newspaper was, "Uproar at a Congress Meeting." There does seem to have been some roaring; there were lions present. First, at a meeting of the Provincial Congress Committee, Mr. Gandhi's name was recommended for the presidentship of the Congress next year by nineteen votes against fifteen, the indication being that the opposition was strong. The young lions have felt their strength, and are out to use it. The meeting of the Provincial Committee was followed by a meeting of the Reception Committee. "At the outset," one report reads, "there were uproarious scenes, which indicated that the election of the Reception Committee would follow party lines." The Congress is not one party, but at least two; two undisciplined parties caring less and less for discipline. How loosely men in India may belong to their parties this shows. It is an open secret that many Congress members of the Councils, while quite prepared to resign their seats on a signal given, have privately made up their minds to stand again immediately for election under some other ticket. A party will have adherents, as long as it "pays" men to belong to it; that is, if belonging to it ensures election to a Council. If it does not ensure that, farewell to it. You might think that such a fact as that the Congress party secured an easy majority of the contested seats in Bengal at the last election, proves Bengal to be Congress-minded politically. It does not; it only proves that in Bengal most people think that the Congress party is the one it "pays" to belong to.

Mr. Gandhi Says "No."

At the meeting of the Reception Committee, when the uproar had subsided, when they had done quarrelling as to whom should be allowed to vote; when it had been decided that those might vote who had paid their subscriptions, if only at the last moment, and had signed the form long enough before the meeting for the ink to be dry, Mr. Gandhi was then proposed for the presidentship. His name had been recommended by ten Provincial Committees, Mr. Vallabhai Patel's by five, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru's by three, and Mr. Kelkar's by one. No one present opposed, and the President declared Mr. Gandhi elected. Then followed another interval of uproar. Mr. Gandhi has since telegraphed, regretting his inability to accept the presidentship. He has not been well. His doctor is of opinion that he is not suffering from any disease, but that his enthusiasm for dietetic experiments has caused inflammation of the intestines. One hopes he will be guided in future by men who understand the working of the human digestion better. The Congress—will it suffer itself to be guided, and has the guide—it is to be Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru probably—any wisdom in him? The enthusiasm of the Congress for other than dietetic experiments, independence and the rest, has led to very serious inflammation of what may be thought of as its intestines.

The Gandhi-Jinnah Meeting.

The meeting between Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah, of which I wrote last week, called forth an interesting statement from Moulvi Muhammad Yakub, the Deputy President of the Assembly. He said: "I fully appreciate Mrs. Naidu's and Mahatma Gandhi's solicitude to bring about a settlement between the two great communities in India, which brought about the Mahatmaji's interview with Mr. Jinnah, whose genuine nationalistic tendencies and earnestness make him prominently suitable (words, all of those, used with only half a sense of what they mean) to be approached to open negotiations. But Mr. Kelkar's recent statement on the point makes one feel rather pessimistic and hopeless as to the success of the effort. It is

obvious that the Hindu Mahasabha, and no other individual or organisation in the country, including the Indian National Congress, is, nowadays, in a position to represent the general Hindu point of view and enter into negotiations on their behalf. It must be said to the credit of Mr. Kelkar that he has so plainly and unequivocally explained the Mahasabha attitude on the subject, which, to put it in a nutshell, is that even the slightest alteration, addition to, or modification of, the Nehru Report, as it now stands, cannot be tolerated by that body."

The Communal Problem.

I have quoted Lord Irwin on the communal problem; I have written about it myself. Here is another opinion that of *Liberty*: "We are perfectly aware that there is much uphill work to be done, and that there are extremists on both sides who will refuse to be easily dislodged from their position. The recent meeting of a section of Muhammadans under the presidency of Suleman Haji Qassam Mitha, where the most extravagant demands were made on behalf of the Muslim community, leads us to suspect that the forces of blind and unpatriotic communalism have not yet quite exhausted themselves, and that perhaps there will always be a small but vocal minority of communalists who, even for the sake of national freedom, will not be able to outgrow their narrow and perverted ideas. That adequate safeguards should be provided in any constitution for the protection of Muslim religion, culture, personal laws and education, every true nationalist will admit only too gladly, but when in the name of communal rights attempts are made to introduce communal domination and a division of India on communal lines, every nationalist will feel that to agree to these demands even for the sake of unity is to strike at the roots of nationalism itself."

The Indian States.

I have repeatedly called attention to the way that in India publicists will say things that they know and all the world knows are not true, but are only what people wish to heaven was true. Pandit Motilal Nehru recently addressed a long open letter to the Muslim community. He made a statement in it of that kind I refer to. No door was closed, he said. You might have believed it. The Deputy President, who knows, and who for the moment has no reason to wish to be seen to know—this is what he says: "... no door that, according to Pandit Motilal, was not closed, is as a matter of fact *not* locked and sealed." Another statement of the kind is this one, taken from the columns of *The Hindu*: "The ideal of a United States of India must appeal as much to the Indian Princes as to British Indian politicians." All the world knows that the fact is that the ideal does not appeal to the Princes one jot, not a jot. What could make it appeal to them? Why should they want their capitals filled with muddled-thinking, rubbish-speaking British Indian politicians? If you rope in a number of new Provinces, there would be so many more Councils, and so a better chance of your being elected to one of them.

Jute Mill Strikes.

It is devoutly to be hoped that the sad years of strikes in the Bombay textile industry are not destined to be followed by as long and as distracted a dispute in the Bengal Jute industry. At the end of last week 240,000 workers were reported to be out on strike. Then a provisional settlement was reached, and the mills were all to resume work on Monday. Many did, or all did; but some had to close down again in a day or two, and others closed down that were not in the beginning among those affected. It has been difficult to keep pace with events or, if the names of the mills are not familiar names, to remember which mills were still working and which not, on any particular day.

Miscellaneous News.

The news of the bursting of the Shyok dam—a glacier thrust across a tributary of the Indus—will have

been cabled to your side, with the report of the safety of the Attock bridge, for which there had been fears. The fuller accounts, not yet to hand, will be worth reading. Attention may also be called to a monograph on the inscriptions of the later Western Chalukyas, published by the Nizam's Government. The author is Mr. C. Krishnama Charlu, Assistant Superintendent for Epigraphy, Southern Circle, Madras. It has matter of great interest, especially for students of ancient Indian education. To pass to present-day education, much interest has been aroused by two new appointments at Aligarh University; those of Mr. Syed Ross Masood as Vice-Chancellor and Mr. A. E. Horne as Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Mr. Horne is laying down his present post, the Principalship of Patna College. He is not expected to find his new post a bed of roses. It is to be hoped that the public concerned will not render unavailing his and Mr. Ross Masood's efforts to make Aligarh University an institution more worthy of its great founder.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN INDIAN TRADE.

At the last annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Indian and Ceylon, it was unanimously resolved that "this Association claims on grounds alike of India's interests and of common justice that the Indian legislatures should not, by legislation or taxation indicating discrimination of a racial or communal character, imperil the existence or development of, or otherwise cause prejudice to, any commercial or industrial interests in India." The most striking practical example of the danger apprehended in this resolution is the Coastal Traffic Reservation Bill, to which attention has been directed on more than one occasion recently in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA. The Bill is now before the Indian Legislature and has been recently scrutinised and amended by a Select Committee of that body. Similar Bills have been under consideration in previous years but were not proceeded with. The present Bill, though in some respects an improvement upon its predecessors, retains undiminished the objectionable principle of racial discrimination. In one of its clauses there is, in effect, a proposal to take over in five years an industry which has been built up on generations of experience by the greatest sea-faring nation in the world.

Seeing that, with the approaching conclusion of the work of the Statutory Commission, Indian affairs are likely to be very much to the front in the near future, the Associated Chambers have taken further action in this important question. They have addressed a letter to all Members of Parliament, to the leading Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of British Industries, the Chamber of Shipping, the London Stock Exchange, Lloyds and other important public bodies in this country. In the course of their letter the Chambers remark: "As His Excellency the Viceroy observed in his inaugural address at the meeting of the Associated Chambers, to which allusion has already been made, the ambition that India should have her own mercantile marine and that the ships of that mercantile marine should be officered as well as manned by Indians is not an unworthy ambition.

The problem, as His Excellency saw it, was whether India could be helped to realise this ambition without resort to methods of confiscation. British and Indian capital have often co-operated in the past for India's commercial and industrial advancement, and there is no reason why they should not do so in the future. But at present the aim seems to be to supplant British effort rather than to supplement it. Now that the extremest forms of nationalism are likely to have greater rein the interests of India and Great Britain alike demand certain constitutional safeguards or the economic structure of both countries will be seriously imperilled. This Association has endeavoured to impress on Sir John Simon and his colleagues the necessity of providing such safeguards in

the future Constitution, and, at Sir John's invitation, it has forwarded to the Statutory Commission certain draft clauses illustrating what is required.

It must not be thought that the members of this Association are unsympathetic to Indian economic aspirations; on the contrary they recognise that constitutional advance must be accompanied by an increasing control of the industrial development of the country and to this end they are in favour of Indians taking a predominant part in directing new industries. They are also not opposed to Indians being afforded increasing opportunities of participating in existing industries which have been built up by European enterprise. But schemes such as that contemplated by the Coastal Traffic Reservation Bill, which amount to wholesale expropriation of established interests can do nothing but alienate the sympathies of India's well-wishers, doing irreparable harm to the credit of the country and depriving it of the British capital, initiative and technical experience, which will probably prove indispensable factors in India's industrial development for many years to come.

It is with the object of making clear the dangers to both India and England of nationalism unrestrained and the necessity of providing adequate safeguards, that this circular has been written. This Association does not believe that Indian and British interests are irreconcilable; on the contrary, it holds that the trade and prosperity of the two countries are and must be interdependent. That trade is not merely a matter of capitalistic interests—ultimately it means the prosperity and happiness of the working man, Indian and English alike. It can be furthered by mutual help but endangered by racial antipathies. It should not be beyond the power of British and Indian statesmanship to evolve a working arrangement, which, while satisfying legitimate Indian aspirations, shall protect British interests from the unjust attacks of the extremist politicians."

THE VICEROY AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY.

As was anticipated in the THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA last week, nothing came of the Swarajist resolution protesting against the enactment of the new rule with reference to the powers of the President of the Legislative Assembly. At the re-opening of the Assembly on September 2, Mr. Patel, the President, made a statement on the subject. He had interpreted Lord Irwin's speech of April 12 as an unconstitutional criticism of, and censure on, his ruling with reference to the Public Safety Bill. And this view he had put forward in a letter to the Viceroy, which letter, together with Lord Irwin's reply, he read to the Assembly. Lord Irwin made it abundantly clear in his reply that it was no part of his intention, either to criticise the President's ruling or to censure it; and he regretted that his words should have been so interpreted. He agreed that within the House it is the President, subject to the House itself in established form, who is the sole and final authority in all matters relating to order. After reading the letters Mr. Patel said he was convinced that it was not the wish of the Viceroy to establish a precedent derogatory to the dignity of the

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Assembly, and that he regarded the incident as closed. On September 3, the Swarajist resolution was brought forward, and during the debate the Law Member intimated that the Government were prepared to promise that, in future, except in an emergency, they would approach the Assembly for its opinion before enacting a rule or an amendment to the rules. This undertaking the mover of the resolution accepted, and withdrew his motion. After a statement made by the President it would surely have been ridiculous to have passed a resolution one clause of which referred to "the part played by His Excellency, Lord Irwin, in the enactment of this rule" as highly reprehensible. Moreover, it must have been realised by the members, certainly by the non-Swarajists, that the Government of India have the power to amend the rules. For according to the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919, rules governing the procedure of the Assembly are to be framed by the Governor General in Council and approved by the Secretary of State in Council.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF BENGAL.

Unlike most Indian official returns the annual Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal is always published promptly. It appears in June or July of each year, and it relates to the year ending on the last day of March immediately preceding. In accordance with this commendable practice the report for the year ended March 31, 1929, has now been issued, and, as is customary, it presents a concise statistical account of the external trade of the Presidency during the twelve months. It records a year of steady progress, but one not entirely free from difficulty. The total value of the foreign trade compared very favourably with that of any one of the few years immediately preceding. It exceeded Rs.237½ crores—exports aggregating about Rs.146 crores, and imports being over Rs.91½ crores.

As regards imports the trade in cotton piece goods was disappointing, as both quantity and value declined. And, what is more, there is said to be some reason to believe that the methods which were adopted to tide over a period of difficulty have resulted in the permanent relinquishment of some part of the piece-goods trade of Calcutta in favour of Karachi. Sugar was imported during the year on a record scale, in consequence of a fall in price brought about by over-production. And an outstanding feature of the year was the importation of very large quantities of Australian and Canadian wheat, the value of the imports of grain going up to Rs.517 lakhs as compared with only Rs. 44 lakhs in the preceding year. The wheat was required to make good a deficiency in the wheat crop of Northern India.

As regards exports, jute was prosperous, tea did moderately well, and lac put up a record. The value of the raw and manufactured jute exported from Calcutta was Rs.87½ crores; and it is stated in the report that the local jute mills made profits amounting to Rs.7½ crores. Jute manufactured goods represented no less than 41.5 per cent., and raw jute 22.47 per cent. of the total exports of merchandise from Calcutta. These figures are convincing evidence of the enormous importance of the jute trade to Bengal. Tea comes next to jute, but it is on a much more modest scale. It represented 12.22 per cent. of the total, and the value of the Calcutta exports was about Rs.16½ crores. Although, as it is mentioned above, tea did moderately well, the year was the least satisfactory for the trade since 1921-22. The total production was in excess of that of 1927; and the average price per pound in the Calcutta auctions was lower than in any one of the four preceding years. The demand for lac was exceptionally heavy. Not only was the raw material—stick and seed lac—exported in increasing quantities, but the exports of shellac and button lac were the highest on record in respect of both quantity and value. The aggregate value of all the lac ex-

ported was close upon Rs.8½ crores, the equivalent of 6.19 per cent. of the total exports of merchandise of all descriptions.

The report shows that trade with the British Possessions and Dependencies improved considerably during the year. The value of the imports rose from Rs.4½ crores to Rs.9½ crores, a development which appears to have been largely due to the Canadian and Australian wheat purchases, to which reference has been already made. Exports increased from Rs. 19 1-10 crores to Rs.19½ crores. Australia took a record number of jute bags, and Canada more jute cloth and tea than in the preceding year. Trade with the United Kingdom suffered a reduction to some extent. Imports fell from Rs.47½ crores to Rs. 44½ crores and exports from Rs.33½ crores to Rs.26½ crores. The largest drop, so far as regards imports, was in cotton piece-goods; and the fall in the price of teas was responsible for the greater part of the decline in exports. After the British Empire, the United States are the biggest buyers of Indian products; and last year was no exception to this rule. The value of the exports to the United States was Rs.3,196 lakhs, while the imports amounted to only Rs.527 lakhs. Germany came next, taking exports worth Rs.1,122 lakhs, and sending imports to the extent of Rs.413 lakhs.

[At 1s. 6d. per rupee a lakh of rupees is equivalent to £7,500 and a crore of rupees to £750,000.]

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 267)

And it was carefully investigated by the Indian Taxation Inquiry Committee, of 1924-25, who expressed the opinion that it was desirable to make India self-supporting in the matter of salt supply. This was really only another way of saying that the consuming market of Bengal ought to be captured by salt of Indian manufacture. The Committee examined the transport and other difficulties against which Indian salt has to contend in its competition with the imported article; and they also considered the feasibility of manufacturing in India salt of the quality required in Bengal. It seemed to them that the problem was one which might be examined by the Tariff Board, and they made a recommendation to that effect. The Government of India did not act upon this recommendation at the time. The Inquiry Committee had made a number of other proposals concerning salt, and these, together with the recommendation, were remitted by the Government to the Central Board of Revenue. After an inquiry the Board reported that there was no *prima facie* case for a reference to the Tariff Board; and this decision the Government accepted. But the Legislative Assembly then intervened, some of the members expressing a strong opinion in favour of a Tariff Board investigation. In view of this the Government went into the matter again, and the Finance Member visited Karachi—the chief manufacturing centre—to examine certain new developments. As a result the Government of India have now directed the Tariff Board to undertake an inquiry. The Board will consider whether it is desirable in the national interest that steps should be taken to encourage the production in India of salt suitable for consumption in those markets which are now supplied from abroad, and, if so, what measures should be taken to that end. This is a satisfactory outcome of the matter, as it is certainly desirable that India should supply her own salt requirements. Presumably there is now a reasonable prospect of the manufacture at Karachi of the quality consumed in Bengal; and if this new industry can be developed without any sensible increase of price to the consumers it will be all to the good.

Indian Food Products.

The appeal which the High Commissioner for India made the other day for the extended use of Indian products in this country will be, we hope, productive of good

results. India being essentially an agricultural country, her exports consist chiefly of raw materials, food products, and partly manufactured goods. The more of these goods that she can sell, the greater will be the quantity of manufactured goods that she will be able to buy. Nowadays, as Sir Atul Chatterjee pointed out, Great Britain's share of the import trade of India is less than it used to be; and if the United Kingdom bought more Indian produce there would be a better chance of getting the percentages back to their previous level. He mentioned rice in particular, and we agree that the merits of Indian rice ought to be more widely known here. One third—close upon 80 million acres—of the cultivated area of British India, including Burma, is devoted to rice. India is responsible for half the rice produced in the world and, given a larger demand, she could grow still more. It is remarkable that notwithstanding the efforts which are being made to promote Empire trade, Great Britain is to-day buying a smaller quantity of Indian rice than she formerly bought. India does not supply more than one third of the total quantity consumed in this country, although she could easily supply the whole demand if encouraged to do so. The High Commissioner was probably right when he expressed his belief that this unsatisfactory state of things is due mainly to ignorance. It is not a question of quality, for Indian rice is as good as any in the world. This is not, however, so well known as it ought to be; and we hope, therefore, that the Empire Marketing Board will persist in their efforts to popularise the Indian grain. Sir Atul Chatterjee referred also to tea and coffee as Indian products of which larger quantities might be bought by Great Britain. We entirely agree, although as regards tea, the consumption here is already high. But there does not appear to us to be any reason why India should not get her full share, as an Empire product, of any further development. For this reason we observed with regret a few months ago that the Indian tea industry had been unsuccessful in its efforts to have the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act of 1926 put into operation as regards foreign teas. For in respect of tea, as in respect of other products, the consumer ought to be placed in possession of such information as will enable him to decide for himself whether he will buy Empire grown, or foreign tea or any blend of the two. This information, which is now withheld from him, would have been at his disposal, if the marking order asked for by the Indian industry had been granted.

Proposed Bengal Waterways.

A few weeks ago we mentioned a proposal which had been put forward in Calcutta, that the Government of India should institute a comprehensive inquiry into the problem of the conservation and development of the waterways of India. The idea underlying the proposal was that the care of the waterways should be transferred from the local Governments to the Central Government. As we pointed out at the time, there is much to be said in favour of this transfer, as the existing system of control by the local Governments has not been successful. In fact, the condition of some of the Bengal rivers is deplorable. The attitude of the Government of India

towards the proposed change of policy is not yet known. But in the meantime it is satisfactory to see that the Government of Bengal have decided upon a forward move. For many years past it has been urged by commercial interests in Bengal that there should be established by Government a Waterways Trust to exercise control over the great river systems of Bengal, Assam, Bihar, and Orissa, and the United Provinces. The difficulties created by the absence of any common system of conservancy, and by the fact that the several local Governments may hold divergent views regarding river control, have always been apparent. And it was suggested, in order to remedy these difficulties, that a unified organisation should be constituted. According to recent telegraphic reports it would now seem that some such body as that indicated is at last to be formed. For it is stated that the Government of Bengal has decided to establish a whole-time Waterways Board with statutory powers more or less in line with those exercised by the Board of Trustees for the improvement of Calcutta. It is reported that the Board will include representatives of the three provinces, namely, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and Assam; and that it will be charged with the supervision of the twenty thousand miles of large rivers in the Gangetic Delta. In the absence of details it is, of course, impossible to consider the scheme fully; but if it really contemplates the formation of a Waterways Trust armed with full powers, it should be welcomed by all interests. It is certainly not a hasty step, seeing that a Trust was proposed as far back as 1917. Moreover, it has been admitted for a long time that some of the principal waterways are progressively deteriorating. If this deterioration cannot be arrested it may prove to be a serious matter for the provinces, and in particular for Calcutta.

THE INDIAN AIR MAIL.

The Imperial Airways liner *City of Jerusalem* crashed in flames on the night of September 6 while bringing mails to India. The accident, which occurred near the landing stage at Jask, in Persia, involved the loss of three lives—those of Captain A. E. Woodbridge, the pilot, of Mr. V. G. Bell, a passenger, and of Mr. J. Court, spare mechanic. Mr. H. C. Amor, mechanic, and Mr. H. Bourne, wireless operator, were injured. The cause of the fire is stated to have been a short-circuiting of the wing tip electric light, which was, as usual, illuminated during the night landing. Captain Woodbridge had a fine record during the War (he brought down Richtofen) and afterwards did splendid service in the East. Mr. Bell, who was in charge of the Forestry Department in the Malay States, served with the R.A.C. during the War in France, Palestine, and Egypt.

The Postmaster-General announces that in order to allow of the posting in London, up to the latest possible moment, of letters for the Indian air mail, arrangements have been made for late correspondence to be accepted, as from the mail to be dispatched next Saturday, at the post office, Charles Street, Haymarket, up to 9.25 a.m. on Saturdays. The letters must be handed in at the counter, and only unregistered articles can be accepted. No special charge beyond the ordinary postage and air fees (see the Air Mail leaflet obtainable at any post office, will at present be made on correspondence posted under this arrangement.

Mr. Isaac Hutchinson Humphrys, of Saxted House, Emsworth, Hants, author, formerly Assistant Accountant-General at the India Office, who died on June 28, left estate of the gross value of £1,169, with net personality £1,058.

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Book Reviews

BYZANTIUM.

"**THE BYZANTINE ACHIEVEMENT A.D. 320-1453.**" By Robert Byron. Illustrated. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 15s. net.)

"**THE EMPEROR ROMANUS LECAPENUS AND HIS REIGN.**" By Steven Runciman (Cambridge University Press 16s. net.)

Mr. Byron has clearly very strong ideas on the iniquity of the Treaty of Lausanne, and especially on the atrocious crime which has come to be called euphemistically "the transfer of populations." Accordingly he proposed to himself a history of the Eastern Mediterranean between the years 1919 and 1923. But, on looking deeper into the matter, he soon realised how impossible it was to understand contemporary history in these parts and its consequences without careful inquiry into the past. To this he tells us that he devoted two years of study (these must have been laborious years, but they have been well spent), and this brilliant book is the result. We trust that it will ere long be followed by the work originally intended.

Mr. Byron's theme is, shortly, that Byzantine civilisation was unique and that its value to the world is beyond computation. Its destruction was a real catastrophe, but it has never really died, and it is for the modern world to realise what it was and to build on it rather than on the inferior Roman and Western civilisations which have so far led us astray.

He postulates three essentials in true civilisation. The first is "the stable element, the universal confidence in the social organism to maintain itself and its government, and to modify itself to external and internal necessity." The second is "that composite element in human activity, the quest of transcendental values and their collateral ethics." "Other than the Byzantines," he says, "there was never a people who, during a thousand years of unaltered existence, consecrated their lives with a like conscience to the joint rendering to Cæsar and God of each his things." The third element is "the cultural, product of the scientific and artistic impulse generated by a corporate intellectual activity.

The stable, the transcendental, the cultural: *genii* of civilisation. Each has existed without the others. Hellas had Culture, Judah a Soul, Renaissance Europe both. The United States of America now enjoys the blessings of Stability. But it is the fusion of the three that constitutes a civilisation, the vitality of which will vary inversely with the deficiency in any one of them. We in Europe, sponsors of a civilisation which posterity will term the most momentous phenomenon in history, are conscious of the necessity to hold the balance between them, if less certain of the ability. And it is at this point that the relevance of civilisation's analysis in connexion with the Eastern Mediterranean becomes clear. Only once, during the whole history of our continent and all the people that have contributed to our present, has this balance been discovered: and once discovered maintained for nine centuries: to contend against the agony of dissolution for another two. This was behind the walls, and within the sphere, of Constantinople.

The reader will see what a vast and entrancing territory is being explored by Mr. Byron. Without claim to original research, but building on the sure foundation of careful study, he elaborates his theme through some three hundred pages of deeply interesting and convincing narrative and reasoning. Not the least delightful of these pages are those which treat of El Greco and give us a fresh and unusual view of this great painter's genius in relation to the history of the Byzantine Empire from which he sprang.

Our author is a good hater. Among his worst aversions are Gibbon, classical scholars and Rome with everything, ecclesiastical and otherwise, for which she stood and stands. So-called Philhellenes come in too for their share of the lash, and we wish we could spare space to quote Mr. Byron on that subject. His command of English is a useful weapon in his hands, though there is an unfortunate tendency to something a little too like Sitwellian idiosyncracies. But this is a small matter, and can well be pardoned in a man who is young enough to dedicate his book to celebrate the silver wedding of his parents which took place last year.

We must not omit to add that the illustrations have been chosen with the greatest care, and, like the book itself, have been excellently produced.

Mr. Runciman's book is, as its sub-title implies, a careful and scholarly "Study of tenth-century Byzantium." It deals with the reign of a usurper whose line had no continuation, an Emperor who did much to restore the health of the Byzantine Empire, but has been undeservedly belittled by Gibbon and other historians. Mr. Runciman does much to make the collection of dry chronicles, which he has collected from all kinds of sources, live, though the task of making an interesting consecutive narrative out of the intricacies of the Armenian maze has proved too much even for him. What will strike readers of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* as especially interesting is the fact that the definite attachment of the Croat Church to Rome and its loss to Byzantium occurred during Romanus's reign. It is startling to find in this book the first beginnings of the difficulties with which King Alexander of Yugoslavia is now struggling. The reign of Tsar Simeon of Bulgaria is treated at considerable length and the causes of the fall of his Empire are made very clear, while the account of the Croats, Serbs, Dalmatians, Bulgarians and the various tribes of the Steppes bordering Romanus's Empire or having dealings with it will interest readers. The book is altogether a valuable contribution towards the correct reading of an important and little understood epoch of Byzantine history, to which end its excellent maps also contribute.

C. S-W.

THE PERSIAN SHORE OF THE CASPIAN.

"**MAZANDARAN AND ASTARABAD.**" By H. L. Rabino (*Gibb Memorial Series*) (London: Luzac, 25s. net.)

It is not easy to do justice within the compass of a brief review at once to the writer and to the prospective reader of this book. To say that it is indispensable to all students of the area with which it deals, that it contains much information not to be found elsewhere, and that it is encyclopædic within the limits which the author has set for himself, is to do the barest justice to its contents. These limits on the other hand have not permitted Mr. Rabino to do justice to himself, for they are somewhat narrow: owing to his official position, he explains, he has felt himself "debarred from touching upon any subject that savoured of politics."

We learn, with keen sympathy, from the Preface, of the loss of valuable notes on agriculture and kindred subjects "in the sack of Anzali," but the circumstances in which the Vice-Consul's papers were "sacked" and by whom, are left to the imagination of future generations of readers.

Of Russian interests in Mazandaran we hear little or nothing: the existence of Russian Consuls may be deduced from acts of vandalism of which they have occasionally been guilty (p. 102): the rest is silence.

Nor are modern historical and economic developments adequately dealt with: the dry bones of the dusty valley of history are enshrined in these pages in abundance, but Mr. Rabino has done nothing to make them live, and little to arrange them in such a manner that a future

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Cuvier may reconstruct for us a more vivid presentation of life and manners in a province which is none the less typically Persian because it is climatically and geographically unlike any other part of the Persian Empire.

The map is good, but the transliteration of names is different from that of the text, and is not that of the R.G.S. A work such as this, which is admittedly intended to appeal primarily to students, should be provided with an ampler bibliography: we miss, to mention only a few, references to the Russian authorities such as Bakulin, Bartold, Benderev, Berezin, Bessonov, and Blaremburg; German writers such as Buhsé; and French sources such as Blochet, Bouvat, Ferrand, and Khanikoff, whilst among general sources the special articles in the encyclopædia of Islam deserve mention—and study by the author.

There are sixteen pages of notes, many of much interest and value, some of which deserve to have been embodied in the narrative of which they are an integral part.

MORE INDIAN MEMORIES.

"INDIA—STEMMOTHER." By Sir Claude Hill. (Edinburgh: William Blackwood and Sons Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

Sir Claude Hill has chosen an unhappy title for his book, for India has, as he quite frankly states, been a good mother to him. Indeed her affection followed him even when they parted, for after tasting most of the good things of Indian office, Sir Claude succeeded to distinguished positions in Europe, and is now Governor of the Isle of Man.

From an officer of such varied experience and with such various opportunities of seeing things from a height we had expected a book of more than usual value. But he takes his duties of silence on matters officially known to him so seriously that he debars himself from writing of or discussing numerous subjects on which we should particularly have liked to hear his views. And, to be quite frank, what he left himself to write about was hardly worth giving to the public. This is a pity, for, without any real indiscretion, he could have given us something to be grateful for. As it is, the book is a sad contrast with those on the same lines by Sir Walter Lawrence and Sir Evan Maconochie.

Even on the burning question of the future of the Government of India we find very little enlightenment, though we are grateful to him for pointing out clearly the great danger that may arise from ignoring the fact that what is expedient for one Province in India may be utterly inexpedient for others.

"ANSCHLUSS."

"SELF-DETERMINATION FOR AUSTRIA." By F. F. G. Kleinwaechter. With four Sketch Maps. (London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

Of all the Succession States of the Austro-Hungarian realm there is no doubt that the Republic of Austria has suffered most from the shock of amputation. Indeed, it was long in doubt whether the patient would survive or not. It is natural that the dark years the country has come through should have led to thoughts of how life and health were to be maintained. Again, it is natural that many should have felt that the only hope lay in

union with the big German brother. Even when things were worse, this remedy by no means commended itself to all. There were many who wondered whether the offered panacea would not turn out to be poison. And, as things have gradually improved and the future no longer seems to be hopelessly black, what enthusiasm for union with the German Reich there was tends to disappear. It is probably kept alive to-day more because it is a forbidden proposition than because it is really desired. There are good reasons for this prohibition, though our author seems to know of only one, *viz.*, the unwillingness of the French to see six and a half million Germans added to the Reich. Czechoslovakia has no desire to see itself in the pincer-grip of German territory, nor does Roumania like this aspect of the case any better. Yugoslavia and Italy have no desire to see the German frontier pushed up to theirs, and it is certain that the opposition of these four countries to a union between Austria and Germany, is, and will remain, at least as uncompromising as that of France.

At the same time, there is another side to the question, and we had hoped to find it clearly and logically put by Dr. Kleinwaechter, who is obviously writing a manifesto for the Pan-German Party for consumption abroad, especially in the United States. We regret that the Party did not select a better advocate. A mixture of rhetoric, sentimentality and indignation; neglect to state and meet the views of the opposite side; a harping on irrelevant matters and the begging of the question whether Austria really desires this union or not make the little book most disappointing.

C. S-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"High Pressure." By Colonel Lionel James, C.B., D.S.O. Illustrated. (London: John Murray. 12s. net.)

"The Baghdad Air Mail." By Wing-Commander Roderick Hill. (London: Edward Arnold. 18s. net.)

"Mr. Ram." By John Eyton. (London: J. W. Arrowsmith (London), Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"La Vie de Mahomet." By Emile Dermenghem. (Paris: Librairie Plon. 15 Fr.)

"Ramazan the Rajah." By Vere Lockwood. (London: Herbert Jenkins, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Islam in Spain." By the Rev. Canon Sell, D.D. (London: Church Missionary Society. 3s.)

"The Unity of Religious Ideals." By Inayat Khan. (London: The Sufi Movement. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Branching of Egyptian Cotton Plants." By J. Templeton, D.Sc. (Cairo: Government Press, for Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt. PT3.)

"On Alexander's Track to the Indus." By Sir Aurel Stein. (London: Macmillan and Co. 21s. net.)

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FINAL SIGMA IN GREEK.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Your Reviewer in his very courteous notice, contained in your issue of August 22, of the Schweich Lectures for 1926 ("Palestine in General History") asks whether the disuse of final *sigma* in Greek transliterations is a misprint. It is not, and I am glad to know that several distinguished scholars support me in discarding it. Final *sigma* only became general in the middle of the 15th century, about the same time as the invention of printing, though no doubt isolated instances can be found from the 14th century onward, but (I think) earlier.

I do not see why we should be for ever bound to the fashion of a very decadent period of Greek handwriting, when we have so many examples from earlier and more artistic ages.—I am, etc.,

F. C. BURKITT.

Westroad Corner, Cambridge, August 24.

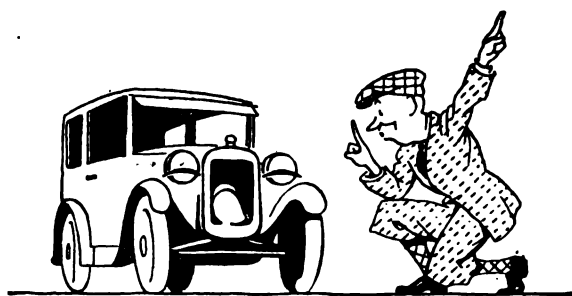
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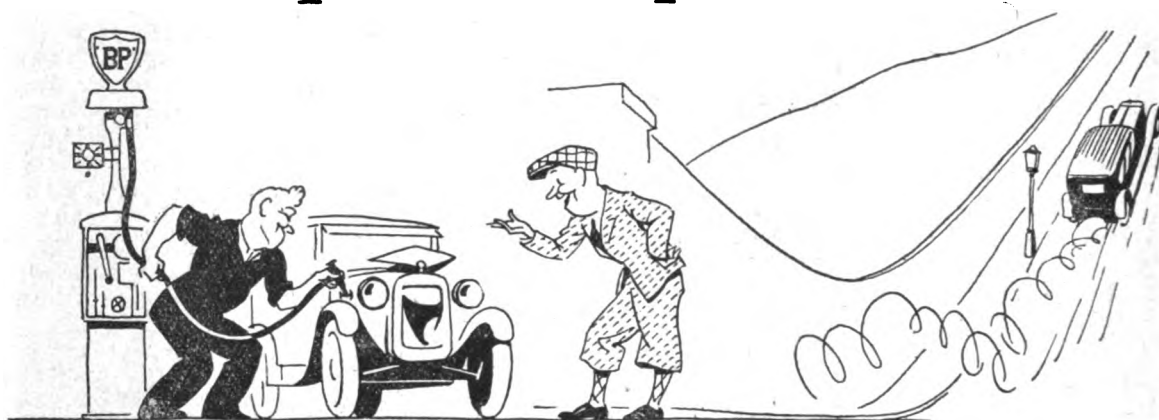
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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

September 12, 1929 (New Style).
 August 30, 1929 (Old Style).
 Rabia II, 7, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.
 Ellul 7, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Crown Prince Peter of Yugoslavia celebrated his sixth birthday on September 6.

Dr. Jal Dastur C. Pavry returned to London from the Continent on September 2.

The Rancee of Pudokota left Claridge's Hotel last week for the Continent.

M. Grégoire Constantinesco, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, has returned to London from leave in Roumania.

The Bishop of Lahore sailed in the P. and O. s.s. Macedonia from Tilbury on September 6 on his return to Bishopsbourne, Lahore.

Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall and Miss Priscilla Weigall are spending a holiday at Le Touquet, and will be away until the middle of September.

Captain Demetrius Papalexopoulos, Naval and Air Attaché to the Greek Legation, left London on September 3 for Paris, on leave.

Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, having completed his cure at Harrogate, left last week with his suite for the Solent to see the Schneider Trophy Race.

H.E. Hohvannes Khan Mossaed, the predecessor as Persian Minister in London of H.E. Saiyid Hasan Taqizadeh, has been appointed Persian Minister in Tokyo.

Hikmet Delvina, Albanian Minister of Justice, left Tirana on September 4, for a short visit to France and England.

Professor P. E. Newberry has been appointed Professor of Ancient Egyptian History in the Faculty of Letters of the Egyptian University on a three years' contract.

Lady Chetwode has arranged to leave England early in October on her return to India, and will join the P. and O. s.s. Rawalpindi, which will sail from Tilbury on October 4.

The Hon. Sir Francis Lindley was received in audience of the King at Sandringham on September 7, and kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Lisbon.

Prince Mirza Reza Khan (Arfa ed-Dowleh), Persian Minister in Scandinavia and formerly first Persian representative at the League of Nations, has left Teheran for Monaco, where he has a residence.

Mr. Alfred Short, Under-Secretary at the Home Office, arrived at Port Said on September 5 en route for Cairo, where he joined Mr. W. R. Smith, of the Board of Trade, and Mr. Hayes, Controller of the Household. The party proceeded from Egypt and Palestine.

We regret to record the death of Sir James W. Headlam Morley, who until his retirement last year was Historical Adviser to the Foreign Office. It will be remembered that Mr. Headlam Morley paid a visit to Palestine about two years ago, to study the possibilities of educational development there.

M. Kitabji Khan has been nominated representative of the Persian Government for the conference on international law which is to meet at The Hague on December 4.

Among those arriving on August 30 at Marseilles from Bombay in the Naldera were the Maharaja of Tikari, the Hon. Mr. Justice T. S. Macpherson, and the Hon. Mr. Justice A. W. Wort.

The King has given authority for Mr. Leonard Nicholas Robinson, C.B.E., M.D., President of the Egyptian Medical Commission in Paris, to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services.

General Sir Charles and Lady Harington left London on September 5 to join the P. and O. s.s. Viceroy of India at Marseilles for Bombay. Lieutenant-General Sir Cyril and Lady Deverell, Sir Charles Alston, and Lady Stuart Williams are among the passengers.

The Hon. Cecil Campbell returned to Alexandria from leave at the end of last month and is now acting Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government during the absence on leave of Mr. Frank Watson. During the recent absence of both Mr. Watson and Mr. Campbell, Mr. Mellor acted as Financial Adviser.

Nagadras Makonnen, the first Abyssinian Minister in London, will shortly take over the duties of his new post. Although still under forty years of age, Nagadras Makonnen has held office in Abyssinia as a Provincial Governor, a Counsellor of State and Minister of Commerce. He will have as Secretary of Legation George Heroui, son of the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, who has recently completed his education at Cambridge, and as Attaché Ato Tadla, formerly of the English Department of the Abyssinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Charles Michael Palaret, C.M.G., a Counsellor in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service, to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Bucharest. Mr. Palaret succeeds Sir Robert Greg, who had been Minister to Roumania since May, 1926, and who will succeed the late Mr. Harry Farnall as British Commissioner on the Council of the Egyptian Public Debt. Mr. C. M. Palaret entered the diplomatic service in 1905, and has served, among other places, in Athens. He was attached to the Peace Delegation in Paris in 1918-19, and served in the Foreign Office from 1926 to 1928, when he was transferred to Rome.

Where to stay in the East

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EARTHQUAKES IN PERSIA.

BY AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

Persia is as a whole less liable than Europe but more than most Asiatic countries to catastrophic earthquakes, but the references thereto in printed literature are few, and peculiarly difficult to discover, as few, if any, indexes to books on Persia so much as mention the word.

Watson (p. 190) remarks that earthquakes are "very frequent in most parts of Persia." Allemagne (13) classes them with plagues and famines as Acts of God, to which the country is specially liable.

Khurasan. Hamdallah Mustaufi refers to a cypress at the village of Kishmar near Tarshiz (100 miles S. of Nishapur) "such was its power that earthquakes which frequently devastated all the surrounding districts never did any harm in Kishmar." This was in A.H. 247 (A.D. 861).

Nassiri Khusrau (A.D. 1340) states that Nishapur was completely destroyed by an earthquake in the reign of Abaqa Khan (A.D. 1267). Wajid ud Din Zangi Fariwandi rebuilt it in A.H. 669 (A.D. 1270). A similar catastrophe overwhelmed the town in A.H. 808 (A.D. 1405), when most of the inhabitants were buried in the ruins.

Rukn-ud Din Khoi (quoted by Barbier de Meynard—p. 132) in his edition of Yaqut's "Mujam ul Baldan," relates that at this time there resided in the city a learned astrologer of Shiraz called Abu Tahir, who foretold that the said earthquake should happen upon the sun's entrance into Scorpio in the year A.H. 235 (A.D. 849), and should overthrow the whole city. To which, when he found the people would give no credit, he went and was importunate with the Governor to force the people out of the city. The Governor . . . did all he could . . . but could not persuade above one-half of the people to stir, which fell out to their destruction, for the earthquake happened at exactly the hour mentioned in the prediction, to the overwhelming of 40,000 persons.

Le Strange quotes Hamdallah Mustawfi and Ibn Batutah in reference to (A.D. 1208) and A.H. 679 (A.D. 1280) and Yate refers to one in A.D. 1267.

Kuchan in the same province suffered severely in 1852, when 2,000 persons lost their lives, and again in 1871, 1893 (Nov. 17) and 1895, after which the town was abandoned. (Allemagne III 67).

The year 1830, says Watson (p. 257) "was marked in Persia by the occurrence of a series of shocks of earthquakes. In the month of April the town of Demavend suffered severely; not less than 500 persons are said to have been buried in the ruins."

Morier writes ("Second Journey Through Persia," 1818, p. 355), "Very severe earthquakes are sometimes felt at Demavend. We had a strong shock whilst residing there in June (1811) and nine years ago (viz., in 1802) they were, so violent and repeated that many villages in Mazandaran were totally destroyed."

The towns of Semnan and Damghan likewise suffered great injury: in all 70 towns and villages are said to have been destroyed. Damghan was destroyed by an earthquake in A.H. 242 (A.D. 856) (Fraser p. 314).

Azarbaijan.—Of disastrous earthquakes in the Tabriz neighbourhood we have ample evidence.

Le Strange refers to earthquakes which destroyed Tabriz in A.H. 244 (A.D. 858) and A.H. 434 (A.D. 1042) when 40,000 of the inhabitants perished.

Mustaufi (p. 79), writing in A.D. 1340 with regard to the earthquake of A.D. 1042, refers to a prophecy that the City would not again be laid in ruins by an earthquake and adds "up to the present date during the 300 years that have elapsed since this prediction, this prophecy has been proved to be perfectly true, for though the City has many times been visited by earthquakes, these have caused no great ruin."

In the Spring of 1721, however, Tabriz was destroyed by an earthquake, wherein 80,000 souls perished. To quote Father Krusinski (Du Cerceau's translation) "what

most frightened Isfahan was a phenomenon that appeared there in the air during the summer of 1721. The clouds being at that time very thick, the sun appeared through them of a blood colour, which lasted for two months."

Malcolm in his "History of Persia" gives the date as A.H. 1134 (A.D. 1721) and says that the City was completely destroyed, 100,000 people losing their lives.

Morier ("First Journey," 112, p. 276) writes as follows of Tabriz in 1810: ". . . Close to the walls near the Teheran gate is the complete ruin of a mosque . . . built about 600 years ago . . . destroyed by an earthquake within thirty years."

"The inhabitants complain . . . of frequent and violent earthquakes, which they attribute to the volcanoes in the district which throw out smoke but no flame. The smoke is so mephitical that it kills immediately a dog or fowl placed over it. The danger of earthquakes has taught the inhabitants of Tabriz to build their houses generally as low as possible and to employ more wood than brick and plaster in their construction. For the same reason the bazaars have only wooden roofs, and are not arched. . . . Yet I am told that in earthquakes the domed buildings have invariably stood, where others, the strongest walls, have been rent asunder."

Sir H. J. Brydges, writing in 1834, states (p. 306): "Between the camp and Bosmech, we passed over ground which some years before had been rent by a succession of earthquakes in the most extraordinary manner, and on the left hand of the road, I was shown a mountain riven at that time from top to bottom. This terrible calamity took place in the year 1774."

Of Tasuj (N.W. of Tabriz) Morier ("First Journey," p. 297) writes in 1810. "It appears once to have been a large place but it is now reduced, by earthquakes, to the denomination of a village. There are remains of domed bazaars and mosques spread in every part of the place."

Qazwin was described in 1810 by Morier ("First Journey," p. 254) as "almost one mass of ruins. An earthquake within no distant period threw down the buildings . . . and made cracks in almost every wall. A large mosque, built by the Abbasids, has been rent in many places in its thick walls and totally ruined."

Chardin, who visited Tabriz in April, 1672 (p. 382), writes as follows of Qasvin: "The History of Qasvin makes mention of two other fatal disasters that befell it, occasioned by earthquakes. The first in the year A.H. 460 (A.D. 1067) that overturned all the walls and a third of the buildings, and the second, which did not so much mischief as the first in the year A.H. 562 (A.D. 1169)."

Chardin, in his description of the Coronation of King Solyman III (p. 127 of App. to "Travels"), writes as follows: "Towards the end of 1667 arrived sad tidings at Isfahan from the provinces adjoining to the Caspian Sea that at Shirwan (the capital city of a province of the same name, and which makes a part of Armenia the greater, near Tiflis, the capital city of Georgia), an earthquake has overturned the greatest part of that city and ruined four villages near adjoining, and that above 30,000 Persians had perished in the ruins. That in another city called Shamaki in the province of the same name, another earthquake has occasioned the loss of 20,000 persons and swallowed up three-quarters of the city—which two accidents had reduced those two provinces to utter desolation."

Isfahan.—Hamdallah Mustaufi (A.D. 1340) states in reference to this city that "earthquakes very seldom occur here."

Turning now to South Persia we find though local tradition and the testimony of living men states that earthquakes are of by no means infrequent occurrence, there is little reference thereto in current literature. It is a notable fact that of all the massive bridges built from Sasanian times onwards, often of great beauty, solidity and strength, not a single one remains. The site of some of them precludes the possibility of their being carried away by the most abnormal floods, and the appearance of the ruins in certain cases, notably those across

the Kashgan in the Khurramabad plain and in the mouth of the gorge above its confluence with the Said Marreh River suggests seismic movement rather than the operation of decay and neglect, though the latter was doubtless a powerful feature.

Curzon, Vol. II (p. 219) states that local tradition favours the theory that the colossal statue of Shapur in the Kazrun Valley was thrown down by an earthquake. The steady diminution in the number of pillars noted as standing at Persepolis by successive travellers, suggests that earthquakes have been frequent but not excessively severe. The construction of the pillars is so massive as almost to preclude destruction by any other agency. Up to 1670 there were at least 19 pillars standing. In 1677 Fryer saw 18; the number thereafter recorded is uniformly 17, till Franklin in 1787 reports 15, which figure is repeated till De Bode in 1841 reports 13. This figure is likewise recorded by subsequent travellers till 1881, when Stack gives the number as 12. Mr. G. M. Lees has drawn attention to the fact that as a result of earthquakes the topmost stones of certain pillars have been rotated some 30 to 40 degrees, and displaced from their original position, lie askew, and overhanging the edge of the parent pillar.

Wills (p. 260) describes in great detail a great earthquake at Shiraz in the Sixties, which caused great loss of life, and he mentions that slight earthquakes were very frequent in the neighbourhood during his residence there. The tradition still remains and the light wooden structures in the gardens are still known as earthquake houses (*silzileh khaneh*).

Sawyer (p. 3 and 73) refers to the southern slopes of Shuturun Kuh in the Bakhtiari country as being deserted in 1889 owing to frequent earthquakes.

There were several shocks of earthquake in Fars in 1890 and at Jahrum some thirty lives were lost. Kamarij Khisht and Fasa were also visited by several shocks, but no great damage was done. Towards the end of February 1894, Shiraz and the neighbourhood were visited by an earthquake which caused some injury to life and property. (Administration Reports Persian Gulf Residency).

Sykes makes no reference to earthquakes in his books on Persia, but Le Strange (p. 307) states that the Kubbat-i-Sabz at Kirman was completely ruined by an earthquake in 1896.

Sistan.—Mustaufi (p. 193) refers to a gold mine in Sistan which was laid in ruins by an earthquake in the time of the later Ghaznawids, and became choked so that its very position was hid from sight.

Persian Gulf.

Earthquakes are frequent and sometimes severe in the Persian Gulf Proper, especially towards the lower end upon the Persian side. In 1865 an earthquake levelled the villages of Darveh Asuh, near Mugam, with the ground; and its remarkable effects were witnessed by Dr. Colvill of the Bushehr Residency.

In August, 1880, an earthquake was said to have destroyed some houses and caused about 120 deaths in Bastak.

On October 16, 1883, a severe shock was experienced at Kangun, 'Asalu and Tahiri and in their neighbourhood, where much damage was done, and tremors continued until the 24th; this shock was felt also at Bushire.

In 1884 a somewhat serious earthquake occurred and was felt most severely on Qishm Island; the shocks continued for several days, the most violent being on May 20, when a number of villages were partially destroyed; and 132 deaths were said to have been occasioned. Many of the inhabitants left the island and there was much distress, in consequence of which the annual revenue was remitted; and the Shah of Persia subscribed 1,400 Tumans for the relief of the destitute and the repair of mosques. Shocks were experienced at Lingeh also, but did no damage there; and in June one was observed at Ras-al-Khaimah on the Arabian side of the Gulf.

By far the most severe earthquake of recent times in the Persian Gulf area was one which, on the night of January 11, 1897, laid Qishm town in ruins; only two mosques and three or four other buildings were left standing, and over 1,600 bodies were said to have been afterwards recovered from the ruins. There was some loss of life, on this occasion, on the island of Larak; and vibrations were felt as far to the west as Lingeh.

In June, 1902, Kishm and Bandar 'Abbas were affected by seismic disturbances, which began on June 9 and lasted for several days, and as usual the damage was greater at Jishm town than elsewhere.

In 1905 shocks were experienced on Hanjam Island on April 25 and on Qishm Island on April 27; and at the same time there were movements in the neighbourhood of Bandar Abbas which caused landslips and the collapse of houses at the Ginau mountain and 'Isin village.

Recent Shocks.

Two severe earthquake shocks occurred in Nebandan and Siestan districts on March 12 and 13, 1928, and on August 22, 1928, a severe earthquake occurred which affected Sabzawar, Nishapur and Shirwan, some ten persons being killed.

A very severe earthquake occurred on May 2, 1929; 12 distinct shocks were felt within twenty-four hours at widely separated points in the province of Khurasan, running from Bandargaz to Kalat on the frontier between Persia and Russian Turkistan. The towns of Shirwan, Bujnurd and Jajarm were severely damaged, and it is clear from reports received from Moscow that much damage was done across the frontier in the district of Askhabad, telegraphic reports from Moscow stating that 1,000 persons were killed. The earthquake shocks penetrated far into the interior of Persia and it was stated in the *Daily Telegraph* of May 6, 1929, that a cleft three yards wide was opened between the towns of Khaki and Bagham, to the east of the Teheran Isfahan road, the cleft extending to a distance of 18 miles. The towns of Kuchan and Rubat also suffered severely, huge fissures in the ground being opened up, one being, according to a report in *The Times* of May 9, 24 miles long and 9 feet wide. The total casualties were subsequently given in an official report from a Government Inspector at Kuchan as 3,253 persons killed, 1,121 injured, 83 villages destroyed and 6,542 cattle killed.

It is interesting to note that the Governor-General of Khurasan, at the time of these severe shocks was Saiyid Hasan Taqizadeh, now Persian Minister in London. The efficiency of the measures taken by him to relieve the vast amount of suffering and distress caused by these earthquakes elicited many tributes of appreciation from the sufferers and from foreign observers, and is perhaps the most encouraging feature in a sad story.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

England in General.

All good things come to end, and the respite which "Alter Ego" has enjoyed from daily watching the affairs of England unfold themselves is now finished. What are one's first impressions of happenings during the interval? Unquestionably things that are chiefly occupying conversation are the increased prestige of the Labour Government, owing to the conduct of its leaders abroad; the September heat-wave; the victory of England in the Schneider Trophy; the flouting of the Communists at the Trade Union Congress, and the relations of the *Daily Herald* with a capitalist organisation; and the victory of Notts in the County Championship, together with the merits of the South African team.

No doubt things of greater moment than most of these have happened since last this feature appeared in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA. Their omission must be put down to the holiday feeling.

The Labour Government.

It appears to be generally agreed that the prestige of the Labour Government at the moment is very high. Fervid Tories and passionate Liberals joined in the acclamation given to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose very brusqueness in standing out for what was considered here the just claims of England was deemed a virtue. Undoubtedly Mr. Snowden has chosen a psychological moment for manifesting the traditional British obstinacy: he is on a very high pedestal. That he will remain there is alike a widely-entertained hope and fear.

Nor should Mr. Henderson's services be overlooked. It is no disparagement to the Foreign Secretary to say that his conduct so far has been a revelation to those who imagined either that he was a vainglorious noodle or that he would be content merely to obey the Prime Minister's orders in foreign policy.

The enemies of the Labour Party, indeed, are wondering whether the success of Messrs. Snowden and Henderson is entirely to the liking of all the heads of the Party, so conspicuous has been the part they have played. But that problem is their affair; suffice it to say that, were the Labour Party to go to the country to-morrow, their chances of sweeping the country would be very bright.

The Trade Union Congress.

Another factor which seems to have confirmed the position of the Labour Party is the conduct of the Trade

Union Congress last week at Belfast. There the fact was proved anew that the British working man is a fellow not only of moderation but also of ideas.

Mr. Ben Tillett's speech on the part which the Empire should play in the economic future of the world greatly heartened the increasing number of Britons who have succeeded in freeing themselves from fiscal shibboleths; Communism received such a smack in the face as, one would imagine, would set up a permanent tingling in the cheeks of the very few but determined members of the movement in England; and the whole problem of co-operation in industry was discussed in a spirit that was at once frank and cautious, that is, eminently helpful.

On the whole it may certainly be said that Trade Unionists added to their own laurels last week and consequently to those of the existing Government, which may well be feeling now that the stars in their courses are fighting for it.

The Heat Wave.

This sudden and prolonged heat wave in September caught us unawares, and those few who have professed complete enjoyment of it have been perspiringly scowled at by the majority of us. Many of the days have been of that intolerable humid heat which makes rags even of those who are accustomed to Oriental suns; nor have the nights brought rest.

Naturally a new demand has gone up for more rational garments—among the males, that is, for the females know well how to adapt themselves to these oppressive changes of temperature. Again has the iniquity, the senselessness, of the collar been impressed upon us conventional ones; the sight of men struggling in a stiff collar, under a bowler hat, and in dark clothes, to get the coolth that their sisters take, so to speak, in their stride, was truly ludicrous.

That a change will come in men's attire during hot weather is, I think, certain. But not yet. What rubbish! it is to suggest—as is everywhere suggested at election times—that women are conservative by nature! Just consider how much their dress has changed since the War, whereas man's garments are identical to the last button.

Cricket.

In "torrents of sunshine" (the immortal phrase of E. V. Lucas, and beloved of all cricketers) the cricket season comes to an end. It has been a wonderful year, with just that balance between bat and ball that makes the game vital even to the non-participant. Runs have flown one day, and the next, wickets have fallen *en masse*: which is exactly what it should be.

Given the season—mainly hard wickets—Notts have certainly been the best team. They had little youth (except Larwood and Voce) to serve them, but batsmen and bowlers who knew their art before the Great War was thought of—and the distinction between pre-War and post-War batsmen is a real one—upheld the eleven most gallantly. In the field they were slow—naturally, for age withers speed; but, taken all in all, they were a safe and not too unenterprising a side.

Enterprise, of course, was found in plenty in southern and western teams, and nobody could see Sussex or Gloucestershire play without wishing that the renowned efficiency of the North for once would fail to tell. These two sides, I think, provided the finest cricket of the year.

One does not forget the South Africans, however. Certainly nothing in the whole season was as good as the visitors' fielding, which was marvellous in its speed, accuracy and unflaggingness. Nothing thrills at cricket like brilliance in fielding; that is largely why South Africa won the hearts of all Englishmen watching them. In a few years' time they will indeed, as I think "Plum" Warner said, be making the Kangaroo jump and twisting the Lion's tail.

And now farewell, King Willow! Back to your green baize covering you must go, until the sun lights next spring on new-mown grass.

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NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Progress in Abyssinia.

The pending arrival in London of an Abyssinian Minister to the Court of St. James' serves as a reminder that Abyssinia is beginning to take seriously the new status that membership of the League of Nations gives the country in the world scheme. Almost simultaneously the first aeroplane has arrived at Addis Ababa, as a further proof that the old exclusiveness of the Abyssinians is gradually yielding to the onward march of progress. In this connexion we may be allowed to echo the regret expressed by our Addis Ababa Correspondent that British enterprise did not also secure, with French and German firms, a share in the order given for aircraft. If success attends any efforts to open up the country by means of the aeroplane, it should mean much for the establishment of closer touch between the Sudan and Abyssinia. Addis Ababa lies about equidistant—some 350 miles as the crow flies—from Jibouti, its present port in French Somaliland, from Zeila, a port of British Somaliland, and from Assab, the Italian port in Eritrea, where free port facilities have recently been granted by Italy to the Abyssinian Government in return for a concession for the construction of a motor highway from Assab *via* Dessia to Addis Ababa. The latter is, again, less than 500 miles in a straight line from Kassala in the Sudan, with Lake Tana almost exactly half-way between the two towns. In view of the practical non-existence of roads in Abyssinia, and of the necessarily long time that must elapse, owing to shortage of funds, before any adequate system of roads can be constructed, it is evident that there are great possibilities in regard to air service for commercial purposes, if the Government could be persuaded to approach the subject seriously and scientifically. Abyssinia, however, will not be modernized in a day. It is fortunate in having an enlightened ruler on the throne in the person of King Tafari; but no one is more conscious than he is of the limitations imposed upon him by the general state of backwardness of the country and of the extreme conservatism of the people, and to force the pace in bringing Abyssinia into line with modern States would inevitably shipwreck the policy of gradual progress to which he is committed.

The Problem of Communications.

King Tafari has made a satisfactory start in devoting special attention to the question of Abyssinia's communications. At the present time the country is entirely dependent for its communications with the outside world on the single line of railway that connects the capital with the French port of Jibouti in the Gulf of Aden. The limitations of this line are well exemplified by the reference to it made in the letter that we publish on another page from our Addis Ababa Correspondent. A bridge was destroyed by bad weather, and more than a month is required to repair the breach. In the meantime the Railway Company accepts no responsibility for the maintenance of through communication, and individual traders are left to make their own arrangements for transport over the four and a half miles between the two stations on either side of the broken bridge. Again the incidence of the rainy season suffices to cause the cancellation of the express train, until the weather improves. A further handicap on the development of Abyssinia is imposed by the abnormally high freight rates imposed by the Railway as a result of the lack of competition. Under such conditions developments in the opening up of road

communications with the coast are likely to play an important part in the economic progress of the country. The agreement with Italy provides for the construction by Italian interests of the section within Eritrea of the road linking Addis Ababa with Assab, and it is hoped that the Abyssinian Government will place in the same hands the order for the construction of the Abyssinian section, in order to obviate any delay in the completion of of the whole roadway. Equally important is the concession given to a British-Indian firm, having its headquarters at Jibouti and branches in Abyssinia and British Somaliland, to build motor roads linking the latter territory with the Harar province of Abyssinia. The programme provides for roads from Zeila *via* Buramo to Jigjiga, from Berbera *via* Hargeisa to Jigjiga, and from Jigjiga to Aisha, on the existing railway line, and to Harar, the capital of the province. It is not forgotten that the Ethiopian Motor Transport Company which is registered in Cyprus, has obtained a concession to build a road from Gambela to Buré, and thence on to Gore and other places in Abyssinia. This, clearly, is a good beginning; but judicious recourse to aeroplane services is calculated to exercise a useful moral effect on the people, while not obviating the necessity for roads.

The Port of Salonika.

When Salonika belonged to Turkey a concession was given to a French (Franco-Greek) Company for the management of the port; and Greece, on obtaining possession of this portion of Macedonia, confirmed the Company in its concession. Since that date, however, the situation in Salonika has undergone important changes. In the first place, the trade of the port has declined, and the concession is probably no longer as lucrative as it was once. The Company, in any case, has had an excuse for delaying works for the improvement of the port. On the other hand, the establishment of a Free Zone and the necessity of reviving the trade of Salonika have made the Greek Government the more anxious to do everything possible to increase the facilities of the port. Four years ago negotiations were opened with the French Company with a view to arranging for the termination of the concession, but a settlement regarding the amount of compensation to be paid in respect of the unexpired period

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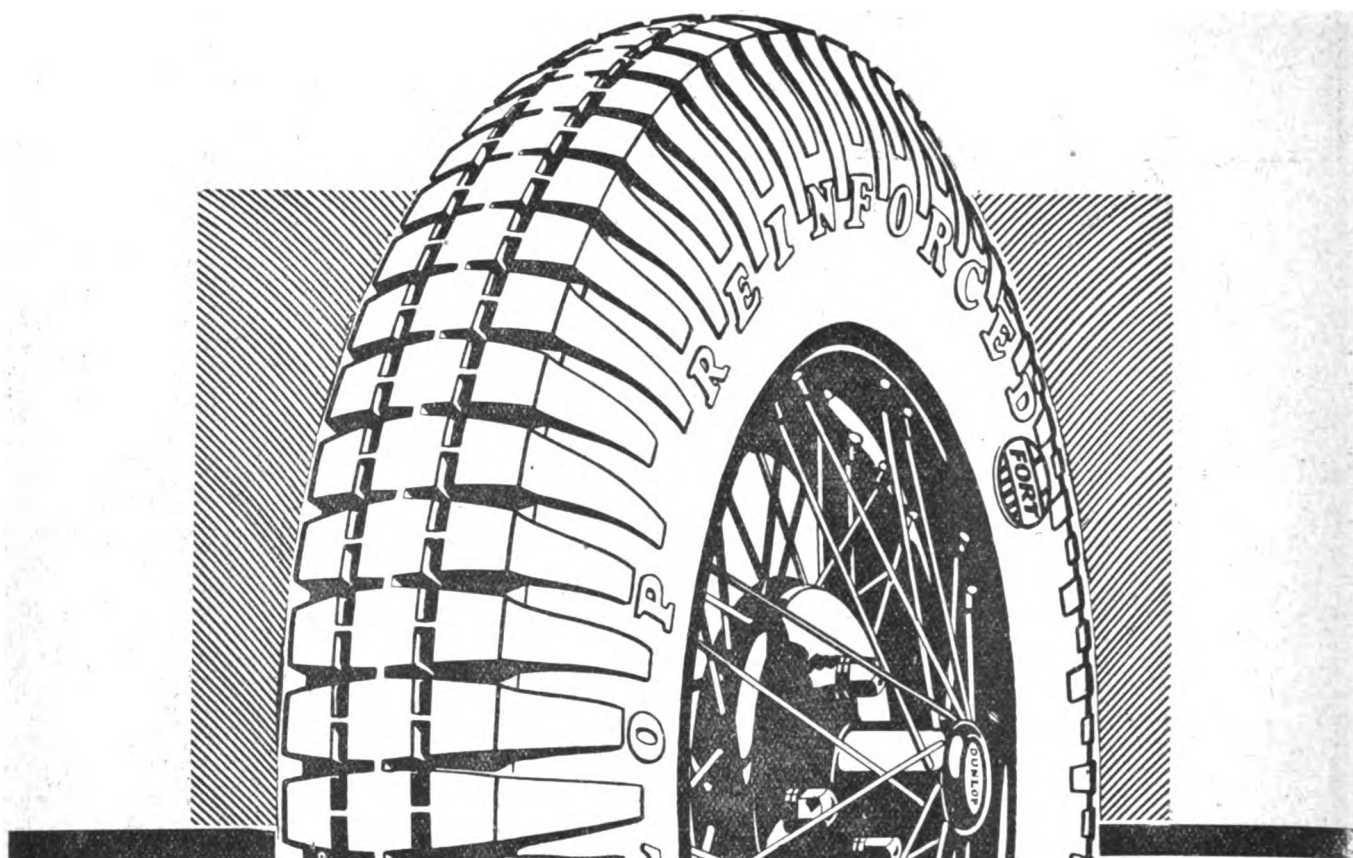
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of the concession has proved difficult to reach. Last week, however, it was announced that the protracted negotiations had been concluded, and an agreement reached for the transfer of the management of the port to the Greek Government. In the past there has been a tendency for the Piræus to regard Salonika as a potential rival and to exercise what influence it could to prevent any expenditure on the northern port which might be earmarked for itself. To-day, it may be hoped, different views prevail. There is room in Greece for the two ports, the more so as Salonika's future must be dependent largely on its transit trade; but with the establishment of an autonomous Administration for Macedonia Salonika may be expected to see to it that its rights are not ignored, and, with the management of the port in its own hands, the Administration can be relied upon to keep trade and traffic facilities fully abreast of commercial requirements.

Port Problems.

Greece cannot expect to be exempt from the problems that confront all port authorities. It is the duty of the latter not only to be entirely up to date, but also, as far as possible, to forestall the future. By this means only can trade be attracted and, once secured, be retained. Even when due allowance is made for the chronic shortage of funds that hampers so many countries in the Near East, it has long been apparent that this elementary fact has not been properly appreciated by many countries. The chaotic conditions that were allowed to exist year in, year out at the Piræus must have materially affected Greek revenues; and only recently has that port seriously given itself up to setting its house in order. Now, indeed, the Greek Government is credited with the intention of undertaking works on a big scale that will revolutionise Athens' seaport. In the case of Salonika the Government has also rightly decided that the town could never forge ahead satisfactorily with the inadequate facilities with which under the French company the port was equipped, and has now taken the control into its own hands. The Turkish Government, it is to be hoped, is beginning to realise that its treatment or neglect of Constantinople has prejudiced the country as a whole by driving trade away; but years may well elapse before lost ground is made up. One of the difficulties confronting all States constitutionally young is to inculcate into its politicians, especially those of the professional café-haunting type, the conception of the country as a whole, the welfare and progress of which is bound up with the well-being of as many activities as possible.

The Turkish Tariff.

Although the new Turkish tariff is due to come into force on October 1, British goods, as well as those of certain other countries, will remain for the present subject to existing duties. By an exchange of Notes, dated July 2, 1929, between the British and Turkish Governments provision was made to this end. The *modus vivendi* remains in force for a minimum period of six months, and

at the close of this period is terminable at any time, subject to three months' notice. April 2, 1930, is, therefore, the earliest date at which British goods can be subjected to the new tariff, unless a treaty of commerce between the two countries makes other provision. In the meantime application of the new tariff to the goods of such countries as are not protected by conventions or commercial treaties will give Turkey an opportunity to check its general utility, and, possibly, to correct any mistakes in details that may be discovered. From an article published on another page dealing with the working results of a number of Turkish companies in 1928 may be deduced one of the reasons, other than the desire for additional revenue, that has prompted the Turkish Government to adopt a policy of protecting home industries. The Turks' preliminary ventures into company business have not been generally successful. No doubt, they must buy their experience, as others have; but it is a matter for regret that they should have been pushed, as it were, by the Government into the mistaken idea that successful business is not as much an exact science as other professions and does not call for special knowledge and training. Even the regulation compelling foreign firms to employ a certain percentage of Turks on their staffs does not seem to have been introduced so much from a desire to educate Turks in business methods as from a resolve to deflect the profits of foreign firms as far as possible into Turkish hands—a very different matter.

Weights and Measures in Greece.

An official announcement to the effect that the Greek Ministry of National Economy is carefully studying the question of the substitution of the metric system for the weights and measures actually in use affords a good illustration of the wide gap that often separates theory and practice in the East. The metric system was officially introduced into Greece in 1898. It was made compulsory in 1922, but a decree was issued under the Pangalos régime on March 3, 1926, which again made it compulsory throughout Greece from April 1 of that year. As the event proved, the Dictator's good intentions were treated as a *poisson d'Avril*, and the Greeks still clung to their oke and piques, even if they did homage to the law by exhibiting kilogram weights and metre measures. To-day the oke and the pique retain their ascendancy, and a practical Government points out that the Budget has made no provision for the expenditure entailed in a general and immediate change, and so the country must be left to conform to the metric system gradually, or, in other words, in its own good time.

COMMENTATOR.

In spite of the dengue epidemic, floods and other exceptional conditions the Greek Budget for 1928-29 showed a surplus of 300,000,000 drachmæ (£800,000). The revenue for the first four months of the current financial year exceeds that of the corresponding period of 1928 by 200,000,000 drachmæ, and the estimates by the same amount.

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COMMERCIAL COMPANIES IN TURKEY.

An official report on the present state of commercial companies in Turkey has recently been published by Remzi Bey, Director of the Companies Department in the Ministry of Economy and Commissioner of Companies in Constantinople. According to this Memorandum the Ottoman Bank was the first joint-stock company to be founded in Turkey, in 1863. It was formed with a capital of £10,000,000 sterling, half of which was paid up. By the terms of the concession the Ottoman Government conferred upon the Bank the right to issue paper money, and it was also granted a form of control over the State Budget. The Treaty of Lausanne has, however, abolished these stipulations. The second company to be formed with Turkish capital was the Shirket-i Hairieh, whose boats ply on the Bosphorus.

During the 45 years from 1863 to 1908, the date of the proclamation of Turkey's independence, three companies, with a capital of £T695,000, and four others, with a capital of 344,895,000 frs. were established. With the exception of the Shirket-i Hairieh the capital of these companies was derived from foreign sources. From 1908 to 1914 thirty-nine joint-stock companies, with a capital of £T2,535,000, and one company, with a capital of £1,000,000, were formed. Since the Great War, up to the formation of the National Government, in 1920, fifty-nine joint-stock companies, with a total capital of £T12,488,000 were established.

From that time to 1928 167 companies with a total capital of £T82,209,000, one with a capital of 3,750,000 frs. and another with a capital of 8,000,000 Swiss frs. were founded. In other words, considerable impetus was given to the formation of new companies by the establishment of the new Republican régime. Thus the number of companies, of all descriptions, formed during a short period of seven years exceeded the total of the previous sixty years. Whether this sudden burst of company promotion was altogether healthy is another question, for very soon a portion of the new companies found themselves in difficult circumstances and the economic crisis has hit them severely.

According to statistics on the position of the various companies during the year 1927-28, there were in 1928 sixty-two industrial firms, 61 of which had a combined capital of £T16,423,499, and one with 8,000,000 Swiss frs. Of these companies, 26, representing a capital of £T9,141,499 and one of 8,000,000 Swiss frs., realised a profit of £T1,730,833 and 742,584 Swiss francs. The other companies, with a total capital of £T7,282,000, closed their accounts for 1928 with losses.

Among the industrial firms 14, with a capital of £T1,675,000, are engaged in the textile industry and have suffered losses. Two sugar factories which are worked by two joint-stock companies have been in existence for two years. One of these factories was established in Alpöllu, in Thrace, the other at Ushak, in Anatolia. The latter has closed its books with rather heavy losses. The production from these two factories is insufficient for Turkey's needs.

In order to favour local products, a new protectionist Customs tariff will shortly come into force. An association, known as the Association for the Protection of National Products, has been formed with the intention of protecting the country's products against foreign competition. It is to be hoped that in a short time the national industry, and especially the textile industry, will show signs of improvement. There are at present in Turkey 14 companies possessing spinning mills, for textiles, yarn and cloth. Among them only five, with a capital of £T2,150,000, realised in 1928 a profit of £T105,492. The others suffered losses. The silk factories at Brussa have a brilliant future. The knitting and stocking industries are making steady progress.

Turkey's trade has not yet sufficiently developed for the products of the present industrial establishments to satisfy the country's needs.

Turkish commercial shipping companies number 11, with a capital of £T3,460,000, four of which are engaged in the loading and unloading of merchandise. These companies have on the whole realised profits. Four transport and navigation companies, with a capital of £T235,000, have been wound up.

Mining and coal companies generally experienced losses in 1928 in comparison with preceding years. Among these companies the Eregli Coal Company, with a capital of £T15,000,000, realised profits amounting to £T9,067,780. The others met with losses. The Balıa Karaidin Mining Company, with a capital of 40,000,000 frs., which works several manganese mines, has suffered a loss of £T137,127. As a set-off to these losses this company is contemplating a large increase in its capital.

Agricultural and forestry companies number seven, with a capital of £T2,225,000. With the exception of three, these experienced losses on their working in 1928.

The position in regard to the various other commercial companies is as follows:—In 1928 among 41 companies, representing a capital of £T10,198,000, twenty realised a profit of £T502,304; seventeen with a capital of £T4,000,000 made losses, eleven with a capital of £T1,635,000 are winding up, and 4 have been re-constructed.

Local financial establishments number 40, of which 31, with a total capital of £T34,547,000 and 30,000,000 frs., have realised profits amounting to £T2,704,363 and 2,220,000 frs. A Bank, with a capital of £T1,500,000, has been obliged to go into liquidation. Two others have discontinued operations, and another has closed its accounts with losses.

Several commercial companies are in a state of liquidation. Since the new commercial code has come into force limited liability companies and co-operative societies have been formed and the number tends to increase. In 1927 nine limited liability companies with a capital of £T610,000, and in 1928 seventeen were established. There are at present 26 limited liability companies in Turkey.

Public utility companies, e.g., railways, electricity, telephone, water, etc., number 16. The most important are the Constantinople Tramways, with a capital of 27,000,000 Swiss frs., Constantinople Electricity Company with a capital of 35,000,000 Swiss frs., the Constantinople Dock Company with a capital of 23,000,000 frs., the Anatolian Railways with a capital of £T11,000,000, and the Smyrna-Kassaba Railway with a capital of 16,000,000 frs. The majority of these companies have realised profits, which, in the case of the Electricity Companies, amount to 1,888,642 frs. Seven other public utility companies are in process of formation.

To sum up, it may be stated that in 1928 172 companies, with a capital of £T91,140,499, three companies with a capital of 40,000,000 Swiss francs, and six others with a capital of 139,395,000 frs. were operating in Turkey. Among these companies, 93, representing a capital of £T46,377,499, three of 80,000,000 Swiss frs., and three of 78,000,000 frs. have realised respectively £T7,293,641, 3,496,712 Swiss frs., and 3,843,400 frs.

ROUMANIAN OIL.

The production of crude oil in Roumania for July amounted to 430,262 tons, as compared with 383,341 tons in June and with 361,538 tons in July, 1928. The Prahova district showed an increase of nearly 30,000 tons over the figures of a year ago (317,868 tons, as compared with 258,962 tons).

The total quantity of petroleum products exported from Roumania during June amounted to 247,557 tons, a decrease of 19,607 tons as compared with the exports during May, but an increase of 35,525 tons over the exports of June, 1928.

The total quantity of crude oil treated at Roumanian refineries during the first six months of the current year amounted to 2,157,952 tons, as compared with 1,904,116 tons for the corresponding period of 1928. During the half-year, 1,368,698 tons of oil products were exported, 751,500 tons were consumed in Roumania, and 560,310 tons were retained in stock.

Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

Road Dangers.

In view of the fact that road accidents directly attributable to motor vehicles are causing the death of, on an average, 100 persons per week on British roads, and in view of the further fact that careful motorists are being blamed, indiscriminately, by the general public for the misdoings of a small army of motor hooligans aided, unwittingly, by a smaller body of inexperienced drivers, it is high time that the motorists of the country put their house in order. If this appalling death-roll, this ceaseless succession of accident after accident is not stemmed, there is no doubt that public opinion will force unwilling authorities to act and we shall all suffer, we road-users, for the stupidity, criminal negligence and self-conceit of a crowd of newcomers to the road. Of the three causes mentioned, perhaps stupidity is the most prevalent; there are literally thousands of motorists on the road who are stupid in the extreme, and probably self-conceit comes next as a prolific cause of accident. There are very many thousands of motorists, a large proportion of them quite inexperienced, who are convinced that they know all there is to be known about driving; who are quite convinced that they look at their best when at a steering-wheel and who are absolutely obsessed with the idea that everyone they pass on the road is saying, "Just look at that fellow who has just passed! What nerve! What consummate skill! What a perfect command of his machine! What amazing speed! What a wonderful car!" As a matter of fact, nine times out of ten, they are saying something that has as its American equivalent: "Well, there's one born every minute!"

Whether the authorities will be able to deal with the criminally-negligent driver remains to be seen. They have not dealt with him so far and possibly never may. The inexperienced driver learns by degrees; the stupid either improves or is killed off, and the novice becomes more skilled. But it has occurred to me that something might be done by the Ministry of Transport that would have an immediately beneficial effect; something that could be put in operation almost immediately and to which no one, I think, could take exception.

We have already on the road two types of number plates. We have the white letters on a black ground signifying private ownership and we have the white on a red ground to show that a car is being driven by a trade house, either during repair or on trial. We could very easily supplement these by a third type bearing, say, white numbers on a bright blue ground. The special significance of this would be "Beginner."

Whenever anyone applied for registration numbers for a car or motor cycle, he would be given one of these white on blue plates unless he could show—with due regard to the truth—that he had owned and driven a vehicle of

similar kind before for at least six months. This white on blue plate would have to be shown on his car, in the usual number-plate position, for, say, six months before he could have it changed for an ordinary white on black plate.

The immediate advantage of this should be apparent. In the first place every other road-user would recognise the driver of a car so marked as a novice and would act accordingly when overtaking or passing him. Even lady drivers would take care to pass any car so marked with more than usual care and the driver himself would have more self-confidence during his initiation, in that he would know that every other driver would show him consideration. Indeed, he would have to show consideration or run the risk, if he crowded such a car too closely, of being pulled up for dangerous driving. Then again, all temptation to show off, that most deadly temptation that inevitably attacks the novice as soon as he knows his clutch pedal from his foot brake, would be removed and, further, if such a temptation did assail a driver, and break down his natural diffidence to such an extent that he let his car out "hell for leather" in the time-honoured beginner's way, any policeman, or anyone else for that matter, could get a conviction for dangerous driving. Let me commend this idea to the notice both of the police and the Ministry of Transport.

As for the other gentry, the negligent and the road-hog, I'm sorry to say it, but there is only one thing to be done and that is to put motor cycle police on the road. The sooner it is done, the better. As one who has driven on British roads since the days of the first Benz car—and some of my readers will know how long ago that is—I say deliberately that, although I wrote against the idea when it was first mooted in these columns and elsewhere, having faith in the good sense of motorists as a class, I am now firmly convinced that nothing will bring some motorists to their senses but drastic treatment, and that, as a means to that end, our roads should be patrolled by police, mounted on powerful motor cycles, with power to serve summonses on the spot, as is done in the United States, and that the institution of motor-cycle police should be accompanied with a rigorous enforcement of the 20-mile speed limit in certain areas.

Garages.

The question has been asked as to the kind of floor covering most suitable for private garages, and by that I take it is meant the kind of floor, for hardly anyone I know covers his garage floors with either carpet or lino: even Austin sevens are used to roughing it by now. So taking the question in its amended form, one can use vitreous tiling, cement, rubber, marble—this is specially

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recommended to those who want a really smart finish to match the Morris Minor—hard woods, cork, oxychloride cement and asphaltic composition. Tests have been made on these various substances and it has been shown that under normal conditions vitreous tiling, hard wood and cement were immune from indentation, whilst asphaltic composition had a tendency to cut up slightly after long use. Heat was shown not to affect marble, tiles or hard wood, but did affect asphalt, cork, and, to an almost inappreciable extent, oxychloride cement. Personally, I should ignore all tests, dig out the floor well, ram in a good thickness of hard core—taking care that when I ordered hard core I was supplied with old bricks, stones and broken cement and not with cinders and old tins—and on the top of that I should put about five inches of concrete made with three parts of clean sand and three parts of broken stone to each part of cement, and then, when that was almost dry, run half an inch of fine cement, made of one part of cement to three parts of clean sand, over the whole. When that was thoroughly dry and ready for use, which would be in about three weeks time, if ordinary cement were used, but in less than a week if rapid-hardening cement was employed, I should have a floor that would stand up to anything, be unaffected by heat, oil, petrol, weight of car or anything else and last my lifetime and two or three generations after!

By the way, it is an advantage to have what are technically called "coved" or rounded corners and edges when laying a garage floor. That means, having rounded corners and rounded edges to the skirtings, so that there are no angles or nooks to harbour dirt. A proprietary flooring about which I have heard some nice things is that of the British Magnesite Flooring Company, who make a material called Magbestic. This differs from other jointless compositions for flooring in that it has an intermediate system of reinforcement in the form of wire-netting laid between two coats of the material. The reinforcement becomes an integral part of the flooring, and after the top coat of the Magbestic composition has been laid, a finishing coat of the desired colour is applied. The wire network is laid on an underlay, and covered with an overlay, under the finishing coat, to make a perfect job. It is possible, of course, where small cars are concerned, to do without the reinforcement, but if heavy duty is likely, then have the reinforcement by all means.

Free Maintenance.

A little humour is a wholesome thing; the gift of humour is perhaps the most precious that can be bestowed upon us, and, although it is not so funny as George Robey or the American attitude towards foreign debts, a little episode that has occurred recently in Glasgow may cause a smile. It appears that a certain motor agent is very enthusiastic towards Talbot cars; he is agent for Talbots and, like every user of a Talbot, he feels there is no car like it. So he used to advertise to say that, if buyers bought a Talbot car from him, he would give free maintenance service for one year.

Left at that, the offer mattered little, surely. It was just a bit of advertising business at which the public might smile and which would be appreciated by the purchasers of Talbot cars. But that was all there was to it; it had not reached the level of fine advertising. Well, this gentleman's competitors felt that he had stolen a march on some of them; that he was not quite playing the game and that such tactics ought to be stopped. They would, surely, have been well advised had they left the matter alone, but they did not think so. They objected to

this method of advertising and objected pretty strongly. By so doing they gave our friend the Talbot-lover an opportunity at which he promptly jumped. He published an announcement in the *Glasgow Herald* to the effect that owing to the pressure of competitors he was reluctantly compelled to revise the terms of his free offer, but he would keep in condition any newly bought new Talbot for £2 for a year, thus driving home his offer, getting a grand opportunity of a telling advert., and, incidentally, convicting his competitors, in the eyes of the public, of having showed chagrin, not to say annoyance at his philanthropy.

THE MOTOR IN PERSIA.

In a report on motors in Persia, the American Consul at Teheran, Mr. Augustin W. Ferrin, points out that since the end of the War, when the era of the motor in Persia may be said to have commenced, there has been a consistent increase in the annual registrations. The estimated total of motor vehicles on January 1 last was 5,763, of which 3,862 were cars, 1,139 were lorries, 692 were motorcycles, and 70 were motor buses. In view of the existing conditions in Persia, Mr. Ferrin points out that the number of motor cars is notable, and it is interesting to note that practically all the motor cars now running in Persia have been imported in the past five years. The report continues:—

Roads are still poor, but much progress in highway construction was made in 1928 under the able direction of Colonel Alfred F. Morris, an American engineer employed by the Imperial Persian Government. The work is now under a Persian official of the Ministry of Public Works. The pacification of Persia during the past five years by Riza Shah Pahlavi, reducing the tribes to tax-paying submission and making travel safer than it has been for centuries, has improved economic conditions considerably, and the recent rapid introduction of various social reforms has converted many of the wealthy conservatives, at least partially, to western ways. Now that Bakhtiari chiefs and Arabistan sheiks are wearing European apparel in place of robes and turbans, their "sales resistance" to the motor car is visibly vanishing.

Camels and donkeys continue to dispute the right of way with the motor lorry (and may continue to do so for some time) for freight carriage where time is not a consideration. It is estimated that actual carrying charges of the caravan are about half those of motor lorries, but this advantage is partly neutralised by high interest rates on commercial loans. The time saved by lorries over camels, which travel only 25 miles in 24 hours, counts when the merchant is paying the bank 12 per cent. or more for accommodation. Consequently, even commodities not obviously "fast freight" are increasingly carried by motor vehicles. Petrol, particularly, has become a lorry traffic, though long strings of camels with a load of six 4-gallon iron cans of petrol or kerosene on each side of each animal's hump are still seen.

Motor buses, as such, are used chiefly in Teheran, where a Danish company operates 18 big Berliets in intramural and suburban service, with very keen competition from owner-operators of small buses and lorries converted into buses. This competition has reduced fares to ruinous rates, and now both the Danish company and the "jitneys" are threatened by a projected, but, so far, rather nebulous, electric tramway. The horse-drawn street cars and cabs are a diminishing factor. Outside of Teheran the bus is generally a lorry fitted with longitudinal wooden benches, used chiefly for travel between towns and almost always loaded to the limit or beyond, baggage and sometimes even passengers being piled up on the roof. Fares are low to attract the lower classes, but overcrowding seems to make the service profitable. Many of these inter-urban public vehicles are driven by Armenian owners.

Persians are notoriously fond of moving about, walking

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long distances, if necessary, rather than staying at home, and a means of travel at once expeditious and economical is bound to have increasing patronage. The ingrained passion for pilgrimage has greatly aided the progress of the passenger lorry. Now that pilgrims, for political reasons, are prohibited from going to Kerbala, which is in Iraq, they must, if possible, visit Meshed or at least Kum, and it is cheaper for them to do so in well-packed cars than by the protracted, if more picturesque, process of caravaning. Travelling by motor enables the Teheranis to worship at Meshed on 10 days' absence from business instead of two months as in the old way.

Persians in the larger cities have been prepared for the motor-cycle by much practice with ordinary bicycles, of which approximately 4,000 were registered in Teheran as at December 31, 1928. The ambition of every Persian bicycle rider is to have a self-propelled machine, but only a few are financially able to achieve it. The "push-bike" is still the vehicle of the proletariat. Military officers, at present in the ascendant, seem to be the best motor-cycle buyers, both personally and officially. Though horses still are much used in the army, the motor-cycle is proving its practicability as a mount for military messengers, and the young officers appear to prefer it to the Arab stallion for pleasure purposes.

Persia has not yet adopted taxicabs, perhaps because there are too many places in the cities where a car cannot go. Automobiles may be hired by the day or half day for travel between cities, but within the walls the 4-wheeled horse-drawn carriages remain the popular short-distance vehicles.

ADEN'S GROWING IMPORTANCE.

In a recent report the American Vice-Consul at Aden, Mr. Cloyce K. Huston, draws attention to the increasing importance of Aden as an entrepot and distributing centre for the surrounding region. He continues:—Into the port of Aden and into the Aden bazaar come hides and skins, coffee, and other raw materials from the whole of Southern Arabia, Abyssinia, and the African Somaliland coast; from Aden they go to the tanneries and factories and mills of Europe and America. From the manufacturing centres come textiles, oil products, automobiles, and innumerable other articles, which then are carried by small coastal steamers and "dhows" to Jibouti, Berbera, Massowah, Hodaïdah, and other ports in the district. The same is true of passengers, to a certain extent Government officials, commercial representatives, and other travellers more often than not come to Aden and then proceed by small steamers to their various destinations in the surrounding districts.

The remark is made frequently, especially by local shippers, that Aden is rapidly losing its position among the ports of this part of the world. It is claimed that more and more direct shipments are being made to and from neighbouring ports and that Aden is functioning less and less as a distributing and transshipment port. It is true that direct shipments to and from the various ports of the district are increasing. Skins that formerly came to Aden for transshipment to Italy are now taken direct from Massowah in Italian ships. Russian ships bring sugar direct to Hodaïdah and carry away skins and coffee. Scandinavian ships lie in the Jibouti harbour loading cargo for Europe that formerly would have entered into the Aden foreign trade records. When this point is mentioned to Aden Port Trust officials they deny the truth of such pessimistic reports; they point contentedly to the port records, which manifest substantial increases in the traffic of the port over recent years. The number of ships entering the harbour has increased from 1,204 of 3,058,000 tons in 1912-13 to 1,575 of 5,707,000 tons in 1927-28. It is probable that the truth lies somewhere between the two points of view. Direct shipments are increasing and shipping at the port of Aden is increasing. These two statements can be reconciled only by concluding that the total

amount of traffic for the entire area is increasing, part of it being accounted for in direct shipments and part of it entering into the stream of Aden traffic.

There are no docks or docking facilities for seagoing vessels in the Aden harbour. All cargo is handled with the aid of barges or lighters towed alongside by small tugs; from these it is discharged on the Port Trust wharves or those of the shipping companies concerned. Three or four local companies handle practically all the cargo loaded or discharged in the port of Aden; their charges include lighterage, wages for coolies, and all other expenses. There are 35 warehouses on the Maala Wharf belonging to the Port Trust, each capable of holding about 2,000 bags of rice or grain, or corresponding quantities of other merchandise. In addition, there are five private warehouses.

Water can be supplied to ships at the rate of about 100 tons per hour, but usually there are no more than 200 or 300 tons available at one time. Fuel oil is supplied by the agents of a large oil concern which maintains storage tanks at Aden, a stock of 8,000 or 10,000 tons normally being on hand. The oil is supplied through a pipe line running direct from the tank to the ships. Two steamship companies operating in and out of Aden keep their stocks of coal in the port, but two local agents maintain large stocks from which they supply the coal burners of other lines. About 20,000 tons ordinarily are available, and can be delivered at the rate of 150 tons per hour. There is a fleet of about 80 lighters available, each having a capacity of approximately 150 tons.

Extensive dredging operations are being carried out. The approach channel, which is 8,000 feet long by 600 feet wide, will be extended to 9,450 feet, and the mooring basin will be extended 800 feet toward the east and widened slightly toward the north. The whole of the original approach channel, mooring basin, and extension will be dredged to a depth of 32 feet 6 inches at Indian spring low water. In addition, four 35-foot berths will be provided.

CROP PROSPECTS IN TURKEY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, September 3.

Owing mainly to unfavourable atmospheric conditions this year's Anatolian harvest does not by any means promise to be a bumper one. In certain regions, in fact, the drought has once more been so severe that there is a great shortage of cereals. The more favoured and well-watered Cilician Plain has done well, both the cotton and grain crops being well above average. As against this, however, the plateau-lands to the north of the Taurus are in almost desperate straits, man and beast alike suffering from want of cereals and fodder.

The coastal area of the Black Sea, owing to a series of devastating cloud-bursts and floods, which have taken heavy toll of human life, has lost practically the whole of its hazel-nut crop.

AIRCRAFT'S ASSISTANCE TO SHIPPING.

The flying-boat, City of Athens, on the England-Egypt-India service recently had a somewhat unusual experience which provides another instance of aircraft assisting shipping (says the "Imperial Airways Gazette"). Flying south from Athens she passed, when ten miles south-west of St. Georgia, a sailing ship which was completely water logged, the hull being below the water whilst the sails and masts remained standing. The flying-boat flew low down around the ship to make certain that no survivors remained and immediately wirelessed to Athens the position of the wreck. Within twenty minutes Athens broadcast a warning to all shipping in the vicinity of the danger reported.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Surgical Instruments, Etc.—The Prisons Administration, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of surgical instruments and medical supplies. November 9. (D.O.T.)

Scientific Instruments and Clocks.—The Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of scientific instruments and clocks. September 30. (D.O.T.)

Steel Furniture.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of steel furniture required for the year 1929-1930. October 7.

Two Steel Water Tanks.—The Commercial Secretary at Cairo reports that the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior is calling for tenders, to be presented in Egypt by October 15, 1929, for the supply and erection of two steel water tanks on steel framework tower, complete with necessary piping and fittings, as well as an electric water-level indicator.

Electric Motors, Pumps, etc.—The Commercial Secretary at Cairo reports that the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior is calling for tenders, to be presented in Cairo by October 15, 1929, for the supply and installation of electric motors, pumps, mechanical filters and the sinking of an artesian well of 80 metres depth.

Electric Powers Stations.—The Commercial Secretary at Ramleh reports that the Ministry of the Interior, Municipalities and Local Commissions Section, is calling for tenders for the supply and erection of electrical power stations for the towns of Samannoud and Dessouk (Gharbiyah Province); also for the supply and erection of an electric power station with underground and overhead networks for the town of Deirout (Assiut Province). Tenders for the three undertakings to be presented by September 28, October 2 and September 30 respectively. (D.O.T.)

The Commercial Secretary at Cairo reports that the Ministry of the Interior, Municipalities and Local Commissions Section, is calling for tenders to be presented by October 10 for the supply and erection of an electric generating station for Tala. (D.O.T.)

Steel Furniture (Desks, Tables, etc.).—The Commercial Secretary at Cairo reports that the Department of Public Health, Cairo, are calling for tenders for the above. October 7. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Electric Bakehouse.—The Municipality of Smyrna invites tenders for the construction and equipment of a modern electric bakehouse. According to statements in articles which have appeared on the subject in the local Press the municipal authorities anticipate that the total cost of the building and installation will be between £150,000 and £160,000. The latest date for the receipt of tenders has not yet been announced officially, but the Acting British Consul-General at Smyrna is informed that an announcement on this point will be made shortly, and that closing date will, in all probability, be about the middle of September. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Leather Belting.—The Acting British Vice-Consul at Skoplye (Uskub), Yugoslavia, reports that a local dealer in motor car accessories desires to be placed in touch with United Kingdom exporters of leather belting for motors and mills. Firms desirous of offering belting of British manufacture can obtain further particulars of this call for tenders upon application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1. Reference number B.X. 5939 should be quoted.

The Ellerman liner City of Nagpur has been fitted with a box rudder, which, it will be recalled, is one of the features of the German steamer Bremen, the holder of the Atlantic record. The change in the City of Nagpur was effected while the vessel was lying in its Glasgow dock, without its being dry-docked.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Assyria for Bombay (Glasgow, September 17; Manchester, September 23; Birkenhead, September 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Stockwell for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 12); s.s. Mahseer for Calcutta (Glasgow, September 12; Birkenhead, September 19); s.s. Malakuta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 30).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 18); s.s. Staffordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 2).

British India Line.—S.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 21); s.s. Warfield for Bombay (London, September 21).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 5); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 19).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, September 13); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, September 13); s.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, September 27).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 14); s.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 28).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Roumelian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 14; Swansea, September 14); s.s. Gerano for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, September 14; Swansea, September 19); s.s. Detrol for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Swansea, September 14; Liverpool, September 19); s.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 28; Swansea, September 28). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek out-ports via Piræus or other convenient port.

BANK DIVIDENDS.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA.

At a meeting of the Court of Directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, held on September 4, it was decided to declare an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, payable on and after September 11. This rate has been maintained for interim dividends since 1920, when the capital was increased to the present amount of £3,000,000.

EASTERN BANK.

The Eastern Bank announces an interim dividend of 4s. a share, payable October 1, less tax, at 3s. 9d. in the £, after allowing for relief in respect of Indian taxation. This is the usual interim rate. The final payment has been of late years 5s. per share, making 9 per cent. on the paid-up capital of £1,000,000.

AN ANGLO-POLISH AMALGAMATION.

Arrangements have been made between Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox, Ltd., and a Polish firm, L. Zieleniewski and Fitzner-Gamper, of Cracow, for the formation of a joint company, to be known as the Babcock-Zieleniewski Polish Works. The new company will take over the Polish firm's boiler manufactory at Sosnowitz with a view to equipping it on a scale to enable it to manufacture the Babcock-Wilcox Water-tube Boiler. By this means it is expected that the Zieleniewski factory will be in a position to meet all the requirements, present and future, of the Polish market.

It is announced that the Presidente Wilson will shortly be transferred from the Cosulich Line to the Lloyd Triestino for the Bombay service. The Presidente Wilson, originally the Kaiser Franz Joseph I. of the Austrian Lloyd, has hitherto been used on Atlantic services, and, since her conversion to oil fuel, as a cruising ship. She has a speed of 19 knots.

"Fort" and standard Dunlop tyres will be the main features of the Dunlop Company's stand (No. 504) at Olympia this year. For the motorist who wants a durable cover at a low price, the new Dunlop Clipper tyre will be shown. There will also be examples of Dunlop wheels, such as the patent detachable and bolt detachable wire tyres, the usual steel artillery wheels and discs. An attractive display of Dunlop accessories, including pumps, repair outfits and jacks, will be staged.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS, UPPER DECK CABINS.

MODERATE FARES.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

1 ASSYRIA ...	Sept. 27	1 CALIFORNIA ...	Oct. 22
1 BRITANNIA ...	Oct. 11	1 ELYSIA ...	Nov. 12

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. 1 Calls Port Sudan.

† First and Third class passengers.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLES, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, Tuesday.

Business on the Stock Exchange has again been on a restricted scale during the past week. Uncertainty in regard to the monetary situation has been mainly responsible, and, although no change in Bank rate was made on Thursday, this uncertainty still persists, for it is clear that in the absence of a sudden change for the better in the gold and exchange position, Bank rate must be raised before very long, and until such an increase is made both the money and stock markets must continue to live in a state of suspense. Price changes on balance have been small, except in the case of one or two sections. Home rails rallied on the better showing of the traffic returns, and in the industrial section the announcement of a fusion between Lever Bros. and the Margarine Union served to maintain speculative interest in margarine issues. So far there is little sign of a return of public interest in the stock markets generally.

Margarine-Soap Merger.

The persistent rumours of negotiations between Lever Brothers, the outstanding soap concern, and the margarine combine had their basis in fact, and it was announced on Tuesday that a provisional agreement for securing complete co-operation between Levers and the Margarine Union had been signed. The details of the scheme will naturally take time to work out, and no further announcements will be expected for some months. The fusion should be beneficial to both parties. Although their main interests are different, Levers, through some of their 200 associates, trade in products which are also handled by the margarine concern, which in addition to its main product makes butter, condensed milk, soap, candles and bacon. An even greater community of interests is seen on the buying side, for both companies are large consumers

of vegetable oils and fats. In order to secure adequate supplies of these essential raw materials, Levers have for a long time owned or controlled very large sources of supply. Since the Margarine Union have interests in or agreements with several important retail distributing organisations, such as the Home and Colonial Stores, the new combine will embrace the whole trade from the primary raw materials to the ultimate consumer. The prospects for its shareholders should, therefore, be greatly improved by the fusion now announced.

Gas Companies.

To judge by several recent announcements of increased interim dividends, the gas industry in this country appears to be doing well. Among the companies whose shareholders have benefited in this way are the Liverpool Gas Company and the Southern and District Gas Company. Some pessimistic critics have held that the gas industry is moribund, and must inevitably decline in face of the progress of electrical supply concerns. Actually the two appear to be expanding together, and it is noteworthy that the consumption of gas has more than doubled this century. While, as an illuminant, electricity is probably the more popular—at any rate where it can be produced cheaply—there is still a big field for gas as fuel, both for heating and for power purposes. At present some 80 per cent. of the sales of gas is for fuel for one purpose or another. There is no reason to suppose that the use of gas will not increase side by side with that of electricity, and the prospects for shareholders in gas concerns will be sensibly improved, if the projected legislation for removing some of the obsolete regulations that hamper the industry is carried through. Among British gas companies' ordinary stocks, Gas Light and Coke yield £6 2s. per cent., Liverpool Gas 5 per cent. ordinary £6 8s. per cent., and Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead £6 3s. per cent. As regards prior charge stocks, Liverpool Gas 4 per cent. perpetual debentures return £5 13s. per cent.

The Rayon Industry.

The British rayon industry has made a substantial recovery from the depressed conditions of the later months of 1928 and the beginning of this year, and may now be said to be in a fairly healthy condition. A noticeable feature is the narrower margin between production and consumption. In the first six months of 1929, according to the Board of Trade returns, sales amounted to 25,811,000 lb., and production to 25,840,000 lb. This compares very favourably with the returns for the corresponding period of 1928, when sales were only 26,203,533 lb., against a total production of 27,060,000 lb. Moreover, a large proportion of last year's production was of very low grade yarn. Another feature which our present statistics do not adequately reveal is the increasing popularity of fabrics containing a high proportion of rayon, both in the home trade and in several important export markets. Exports of 100 per cent. rayon fabrics, in fact, reached a high record in July. On the other hand, as a result of the large stocks many firms are still carrying, prices have been lower this year, and profits will also show a reduction. Nevertheless, the outlook is promising, for the public's appreciation of rayon products is constantly growing. Few of the British rayon companies are, however, sufficiently well established to have an assured future, and the ordinary investor would be well advised to confine his attention in this industry to Courtaulds, Ltd. The ordinaries can now be bought to yield £5 3s. per cent., while the 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares return £5 6s. per cent.

INDIAN AFRICAN SERVICE

Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

RANGOON, CALCUTTA, and COLOMBO

To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
PORT ELIZABETH, MOSSEL BAY, and CAPE TOWN.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.

Wireless Telegraphy.

ORIENTAL AFRICAN SERVICE

Passenger and Freight Service from

HONG KONG, BANGKOK, SINGAPORE & MAURITIUS
To SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.

Wireless Telegraphy.

Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T.
Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn
& Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn
& Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.
Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson,
Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line,
Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co.,
Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros.
& Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.8

The Belgrade Municipality, it is announced, has concluded a loan of 26,000,000 Swiss francs with the Schweizer Bank, Basle. Of the total sum 21,000,000 francs will be devoted to redeeming former loans, and the balance is to be used for the construction of an electric light and power station.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | **RESERVE** - £610,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia: — **Chief Office in Persia—TEHERAN.**
 Abadan Bushire Kerman Pahlavi
 Ahwas Dizful Kermanshah Resht
 Barfash Dasdab Masjed-Saleiman Shiraz
 Birjand Hamadan Mashad Sultanabad
 Bander Abbas Isfahan Mohammerah Tabriz
 Barajird Kasvin Nasratabad (Seistan) Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia): — Bagdad, Basra, Kirkuk.
Branch in India: — Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

Head Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN.

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1839.

Capital Authorised - £1,000,000
Capital Paid up - £600,000
Reserve Fund - £250,000
Total Assets - £6,028,832

HEAD OFFICE:

25-31, MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

GREECE.

Central Office, Athens. 28 Branches and Agencies.

EGYPT.

Central Office, Alexandria. 10 Branches and Agencies.

CYPRUS.

Central Office, Nicosia. 4 Branches and Agencies.

Every form of International Banking Service.

THE BRITISH BANK FOR THE NEAR EAST

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

**Head Office: 73-76, KING WILLIAM STREET
 LONDON, E.C.4.**

Branch — 11, CALEA VICTORIEI BUCAREST.

Directors:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.

C. De CERJAT, Esq.

SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.

General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.

Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO.

A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £4,000,000	Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital £4,000,000	Reserve Fund £3,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden	Calcutta	Colembo	Labera	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe	Uganda
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
 The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on a its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Forms of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

Head Office — SOFIA — Founded in 1865

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, 522,000,000 leva

97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN BULGARIA.

The National Income.

The total national income of Bulgaria has been estimated by the Section of Economic Studies at the National Bank at 40 milliard leva, writes the British Consul-General at Sofia, in the course of a memorandum on the economic situation in Bulgaria, 1928-29, quoted by *The Board of Trade Journal*. Of this, about 21 per cent, reverts to the State in the form of taxes, etc., and from 1934 onwards the proportion will advance *pro rata* with the increased Reparation payments. The Ministry of Agriculture estimates the minimum annual revenue of an agriculturist (this class forming about 80 per cent. of the population) at 500 leva per head, a figure which speaks for itself and explains the low purchasing power of the country generally.

Agriculture in 1928.

For agriculture, 1928 was an unfortunate year. After exceptionally severe storms and floods, and an earthquake which wholly or partially destroyed or damaged many towns and villages in the Plovdiv region of Southern Bulgaria, it was finally crowned by an unprecedented drought. Apart from material losses sustained, human suffering has been considerable. But for the improvement in the yield per hectare of wheat, rye and barley the position would have been serious indeed. It can be ascribed in a very large measure to the more extensive use of modern implements, the imports of which in 1928 totalled 11,263 tons, as compared with 5,591 tons in 1927 and 4,123 tons in 1926. This year perhaps no less than 30 per cent. of the winter sowings were ruined by the frosts of last winter, and the lands have, in most cases, been re-sown with spring varieties, particularly barley. It is hoped that the maize crop will assist towards balancing the losses on other cereals.

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to display conspicuous energy towards the improvement of agricultural methods, since it is universally realised that increased production is the one and only solution of the economic problem confronting the country. Import duties on many items used in agriculture have been waived, and large quantities of ploughs, harrows, seeders, cultivators, etc., have been imported on the Ministry's behalf. During 1928 implements to the value of 100,000,000 leva were purchased, and further purchases to a similar amount are contemplated this year. These implements are distributed to the agriculturists, if necessary on credit terms, at a rebate of 15 per cent. on their cost price. If distributed through a co-operative organisation the rebate is 20 per cent.

Encouraged by the Local Industry Encouragement Law and strengthened by tariff protection, local industry is making progress. At the end of 1927 there were 1,031 "privileged" undertakings (mining 5, metallurgical 122, ceramic 118, chemical 92, foodstuffs and beverages 383, textiles 132, timber and woodworking 50, tanning 54, paper-making 33, electrical 42) employing about 23,000 workpeople and 83,000 horse-power, the capital aggregating 4,545,000,000 leva. There was a considerable increase in the number of undertakings, but actual figures are not yet available. As an indication of this, the number of workpeople employed during March, April and May of this year averaged 73,590, as compared with a monthly average of 58,540 during a similar period last year. In the textile industries alone the monthly average during the first three

months of the year was 13,280 workpeople, or 1,700 over the 1928 figures.

Foreign Trade.

The value of exports in 1928 was 6,233,000,000 leva, and of imports 7,041 million leva, as compared with 6,628 million leva and 6,129 million leva respectively in 1927. The deficit was, therefore, 808 million leva, as against a surplus of 499 million leva in the previous year. For the first four months of 1929 an adverse balance of 378 million leva was shown, as compared with a deficit of 375 millions for the corresponding period of last year.

Among the imports which showed a notable increase over the previous year are: metals and metal products (12.7 per cent. of the total), 134 million leva, including raw iron, 60 million leva; timber and its products, 60 million leva; textiles (37.5 per cent. of the total), 180 million leva, chiefly composed of cotton and woollen yarns, 137 million leva, and raw cotton, 44 million leva; rolling stock and motor-cars, 93 million leva, motor-cars accounting for about 60 million leva; machinery and implements (15 per cent. of the total), 310 million leva, the bulk consisting of agricultural machinery and implements, but also engines, 54 million leva, and textile machinery, 44 million leva, while there was an increase in the value of sewing machines.

The following table illustrates the positions occupied by the various competing countries:—

Source of Imports.	1928.		1927.	
	Mill. leva.	Per cent.	Mill. leva.	Per cent.
Germany...	1,493.6	21.2	1,289.5	21.0
Italy ...	1,070.5	15.2	893.8	14.5
Czechoslovakia ...	756.9	10.7	600.1	9.8
Great Britain ...	732.5	10.4	736.4	12.0
Austria ...	567.1	8.0	502.4	8.2
France ...	540.2	7.7	557.0	6.6

The increase in the Customs duties in March, 1926, and then the raising of the co-efficient from 15 to 20 paper leva for one gold leva in July last, which was equivalent to an increase of 33½ per cent. on practically all imported commodities, naturally brought down the volume of manufactured goods and sent up the volume of raw and auxiliary materials for local industrial needs. The object underlying these increases was undoubtedly a desire to give fresh impetus to home production.

Bulgaria's principal customers for her exports were:—Germany, who took 28 per cent. of the total in 1928, as against 23 per cent. in 1927; Austria, who took 14.5 per cent., against 16.5 per cent.; Italy, 11.0 per cent., against 7.3 per cent.; Greece, 8.1 per cent., against 14.8 per cent.; France, 5 per cent., against 5.8 per cent.; Belgium, 4.2 per cent., against 4.8 per cent.; Poland, 4.6 per cent.; and Turkey, 4.7 per cent., against 2.6 per cent.

Trade with Great Britain.

Great Britain, exporting to Bulgaria goods to the value of 732.5 million leva (say, £1,000,000) in 1928, imported Bulgarian produce to the value of 21 million leva (say, £180,000). A greater measure of reciprocity would be gratifying and helpful, but, apparently, since the War, Bulgaria has been able to find better prices on the Continent. The major portion of British trade with Bulgaria (say, 67 per cent.) is in textiles, including raw and semi-finished materials for local industries. The development of these has completely excluded many items and considerably reduced the volume of others.

Great Britain should endeavour as far as possible to

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replace its lost trade in piece-goods by cotton and woollen yarns required by local industries. We are far behind Belgium, Italy, France, and Czechoslovakia as regards the supply of woollen yarns, mainly for the reason that prices of British-made yarns are higher, although of better grade. There is little doubt but that Bulgarian industries will be employing higher grade yarns as time advances. One of two British firms, in order to keep in touch with the market, are supplying Belgian and other yarns.

Cotton and Woollen Piece-Goods.—There is room for competition in cotton prints, calicos, poplins, etc., and also in the higher grades of woollen piece-goods. In the latter home production has excluded cloths weighing over 500 grammes to the square metre. In cloths, 250 to 500 gr., Great Britain has about 24 per cent. of the trade, as against Germany's 27 per cent. and Czechoslovakia's 25 per cent. Great Britain's share in woollen piece-goods of up to 250 gr. is only 1.1 per cent., Germany and France taking 77 per cent. between them.

Industrial Machinery.—In spite of the increased demand the United Kingdom's share in this trade is relatively small. Great Britain has about 10 per cent. in internal-combustion engines, about 15 per cent. in textile machinery, as against Germany's 60 per cent., and a very small share indeed in other classes.

Agricultural Machinery and Implements.—Britain's share in threshing machines is about 16 per cent., as against Hungary's 48 per cent. and Germany's 15 per cent. The British share in other classes of machinery and implements is practically nil, with the exception of oil tractor ploughs, of which it has 3 per cent. There is good trade to be done in ploughs, but of the types already established.

Chemicals, particularly heavy, could find a market. In tanning materials there is room for improvement, the United Kingdom's share in extracts being under 7 per cent. For iron and steel there will be a good and growing market, as soon as British prices are competitive.

Trade in the following lines could be secured:—Linseed oil; nut edible oils; palm and coconut and castor oils; essential oils and essences; cutlery of the cheaper grades and razors; horseshoe nails; lead in ingots, pipes and sheets; zinc in sheets; copper in ingots, sheets, bottoms, bars, etc.; hides; bicycles, motor cycles and gramophones.

The need is keenly felt for a British bank. Until this is established, or until some British bank acquires a controlling interest in a completely neutral (Bulgarian, for instance) bank, British trade must continue to labour under a distinct disadvantage. The trade interests of our competitors are adequately cared for by banks of their own nationality.

CYPRUS CROP REPORT.

An official report on Cyprus crops for the month of August gives the following details:—

Wheat.—Threshing is nearing completion and most of the grain is stored. On the whole the crop has proved satisfactory. During last month prices have fluctuated. Adverse crop reports from certain wheat-producing countries have affected the prices of imported flour, which have been reflected in the local price of wheat, which has advanced over 1s. per bushel. Latest prices, 6s. to 7s. per bushel. There are demands from Turkey and Greece for seed wheat, which will tend to raise local prices.

Barley.—Threshing is practically completed. The crop has been very satisfactory throughout the Island. Export demand is poor and prices are most controlled by local demand. Prices from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 7d. per bushel, a slight improvement on last month.

Oats.—Crop poor; price 2s. 7d. per bushel.

Potatoes.—Exports to Greece continue. Planting of winter crop is in progress, and it is anticipated that the area devoted to winter potatoes will not be less than last year. Price £6 10s. per ton.

Cotton.—Crop prospects are good for irrigated and

early sown unirrigated cotton. Late sown cotton has been adversely affected by hot dry weather.

Oranges.—The prospects of the coming season for citrus fruits are not very favourable owing to "June drop" continuing later than usual.

Pomegranates.—The crop is not expected to be prolific. Trees have again suffered from the *acarid* pest.

Carobs.—Harvesting has been completed; the crop is below that of last year. Price £5 10s. per ton.

Tobacco.—Harvesting of leaf is still in progress, and the crop is good. Price of cigarette leaf between 7d. and 8½d. per lb., fumigated leaf 4d. per lb. Fumigation is now in progress.

Hazel Nuts.—Harvesting is now completed, and the crop is stated to be considerably below the average production.

Almonds.—Collection is now in full swing, and according to reports the crop is a heavy one and the quality of nuts above the average.

Walnuts.—Collection has begun, and the crop is expected to be exceptionally good.

Melons.—Both sweet and water melons have suffered badly from aphid, which attacked the plants towards the end of the season and caused considerable losses in fruit.

Cumin.—Good demand; price £60 per ton, upward tendency.

Aniseed.—Good demand; price £18 per ton, unsteady.

Olives.—General prospects fair. Considerable damage reported by olive fly and other pests.

Grapes.—The grapes continue to have a good and healthy appearance in general. Sunburn, however, from excessive drought and hot winds has caused certain damage in vines planted in moist deep soils. The late rains which fell in the greater part of the vine districts will help the ripening and improve the quality. The crop is expected to be 25 to 30 per cent. less than that of last year. The export of grapes from Limassol to Egypt began from the first fortnight of August. Price ¾d. per lb.

Wines.—Red dry wine, 22s. to 25s. per load; Raisins, 1s. 3d. per stone; Zivania, 11d. per quart.

BALKAN LABOUR IN FRANCE.

Shortage of labour in France recently led a French organisation to investigate the position in Roumania with regard to the introduction of Roumanian labour into France. Apart, however, from a preliminary inquiry, it is understood that no definite steps in the matter have yet been taken. In this connexion it may be pointed out that superfluous labour in Yugoslavia has for some time past found a market in France. The labourers come for the most part from the districts of Maribor and Celje, in Slovenia. A special train containing 300 of these recently left Maribor, and it is stated that there are already 4,000 Yugoslav unemployed for whom work has thus been found in France. The men are personally selected by a representative of a French organization, and the necessary arrangements for their temporary emigration are then made with the Yugoslav authorities.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12 10.
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.86
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.17
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32—17½
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.89
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	817½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.80
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32 - 17½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1.00
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 84 21/32—23 32.
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123.90
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	163½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.72
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	673
Teheran	Krans to £	48	55½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.45
Warsaw	Zlotv to £	43.38	43 3/16—7 16

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 4:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Increasing activity has been witnessed in this market throughout the past week, more trade support has been in evidence, and this contract with a re-awakening of speculative interest has resulted in the market developing a broader tendency. Just after our last report values reached about twenty points on a moderate amount of profit-taking, however, good Alexandria reports and firmer American advices quickly re-established the level, and since a gradual rise has been in progress. At the time of writing Novembers stand at 16.95d., or a recovery of apparently 175 points from the low level reached in the early days of last month. Further advances will probably meet greater resistance and bring out speculatively-held cotton. However, with sentiment becoming increasingly "bullish," operations on the short side are not advisable till a clearer perspective of next season's supplies can be obtained. Crop reports from Egypt are rather conflicting, some contending that more than average damage has been sustained, whilst more conservative sources place the deterioration as normal. It is generally admitted that the crop is about a fortnight behind, and this in itself warrants a certain amount of apprehension, as the later picking commences the greater possibility of a cut in yield and quality, especially from fogs. Trade reports on the whole show a moderate measure of improvement, and this has had to move actively in both c.i.f. and spot cottons. In addition quite a fair amount of "fixing" has been noticeable during the past few days.

Little change has taken place in differences between the various deliveries, although Novembers and Januaries have closed in slightly, due to the greater part of the covering against spot sales and calls falling in the last-named position.

Alexandria still commands a heavy premium over the local contract, and provided that the demand fulfils the promise of the past few days we anticipate a gradual narrowing of the present parity before the new crop starts to move. Values since our last report have improved 42 to 46 points for near and 47 to 42 points for more distant positions.

Upper Contract.—The turn round in sentiment commented upon by us last week has since been followed by a further sharp recovery in prices. Some outside buying has been in evidence, but the more important purchases have been made for Alexandria account, one firm alone earlier in the week taking about 4,000 bales, probably reversing an old straddle against purchases of Sakels. No important crop news has come to hand, and the following cable received earlier in the week allays, to a certain extent, anxiety due to the high Nile: "Damage high flood so far negligible possibility inundation which inherent to high floods as present year exist, but no immediate danger." Trade interest appears to be recovering, and a satisfactory demand for cotton out of the local stock has been expressed; new crop business, however, is slow in developing. The future course of our contract depends largely on the action of the American markets and in this account a clearer view of the position will be obtainable after next Monday's Bureau report.

Egyptian Spot.

The demand has had a broadening tendency throughout the past week, and trade reports are beginning to show a greater measure of trade activity. Values continue to have an advancing tendency, due to further pessimistic crop advices, but authoritative sources still maintain that so far only average deterioration has occurred; it is acknowledged, however, that conditions are backward, and on this account increasing nervousness and periodical scares are probable during the next few weeks.

Sakels are beginning to attract a healthier inquiry, and with old crop stocks restricted premiums are hardening rapidly, especially for the medium grades. Only occasional sales in cotton grading over Good have been made.

Uppers continue to enlist a good proportion of the local sales, with the demand still mainly centring on the G.F. to St. F.G.F. qualities. The basis for all grades shows a gradually hardening tendency, and desirable lots are becoming increasingly difficult to pick up.

Pilion has only been occasionally in request, but in isolated cases full prices are being paid for choice lots. The selection all round is poor.

Nahda and White continue to attract little attention from buyers, and stocks held here are restricted to a few lots of each variety.

Sudan Sakel is attracting increasing interest from spinners, and anticipations of a material expansion in the off-take appear justified in view of the present restricted selection of Egyptian Sakels. The lower grades in particular should meet with a good demand, and we would remind buyers that supplies of these this season are below the average of past years.

Tokar Sakel.—The top grades have again been neglected, but one or two inquiries have been made for the lower qualities without business resulting to date.

C.i.f. business again shows a slight improvement both for prompt and forward shipments. Forwardings to the trade last week amount to 6,457 bales Egyptian and 1,772 bales Sudan. Estimated sales of the week 3,100 bales Egyptian and 750 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel are advanced 65 points, and those of Upper and Pilion +8 and 45 points respectively. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 17.70d., F.G.F. Upper to-day 12.08d., F.G.F. Pilion to-day 13.15d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended August 29 state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active, the tone has been firm and prices have registered a fairly appreciable advance. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 33.29 dollars, 1.24 dollars up; January, 33.65 dollars, 1.20 dollars up; March, 34.14 dollars, 1.24 dollars up; May, 34.50 dollars. Ashmouni: October, 21.39 dollars, 0.87 dollars up; December, 21.82 dollars, 0.83 dollars up; February, 22.26 dollars, 0.84 dollars up; April, 22.65 dollars, 0.70 dollars up; June, 23.06 dollars, 0.83 dollars up.

Sakel.—Contrary to the general opinion that the market would for some time to come remain rather quiet, we have had during the week under review a succession of very active and continually rising markets. This unexpected change in the situation has been the result of unfavourable reports from up-country on the progress of the crop, reports which have been naturally interpreted in the most pessimistic manner by local long operators. Heavy speculative buying followed, a good proportion being for account of a clique whose financial means are very weak.

The facts that the crop is backward, and that in case of careless use the actual superabundance of water might cause some damage, are the foundation for these unfavourable reports. In the meantime it must be noted that the condition of the plant at the moment is rather satisfactory, probably slightly more so than at this time last year, so it would appear that the pessimism of operators on the subject of the final out-turn is not based on any definite facts, but rather on possible future damage.

Spinners continue to persevere in their indifferent attitude, and the trade interest in the market has been insignificant, merely consisting of a few hedge sales against fixations of up-country purchases.

It is our opinion that the recent rise, not being based on any expansion in the trade demand nor on real damage to the crop, can only be maintained with difficulty.

The Government offered for sale on Wednesday, August 28, 1,218 bales Sakel, of which 318 bales found buyers.

The Sakel/Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,100 points against 1,153 points last week and 1,359 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—In this market also sentiment has been very bullish for the same reason as in the Sakel market, i.e., the circulation of unfavourable reports on the crop progress. These reports are true only to a very slight degree; the crop is merely slightly backward. Apart from this, everything seems to be very satisfactory.

Hedging operations against spot cotton and against fixations of up-country purchases have been fairly numerous, but these sales were easily absorbed by speculative purchases and some trade buying against sales to spinners.

We maintain our opinion that the Ashmouni market will continue to follow, for the time being, very closely the New York market.

The Ashmouni/American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 260 points against 222 points last week and 427 points at this time last year.

Against the third August tender, dockets for 2,000 kantars were issued, bringing the total since the beginning of the month up to 6,500 kantars.

The week's receipts amount to 2,000 kantars against exports 112,355 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 1,260,218 kantars.

The official figures of arrivals and exports for the period September 1, 1928, to August 21, 1929, are as follows:—

Arrivals: Sakellaridis, 2,524,566 kantars; Ashmouni and Zagora, 4,560,454 kantars; Pilion, 419,032 kantars; Various, 317,941 kantars; Scarto, 137,650 kantars. Total, 7,959,643 kantars.

Exports: Sakellaridis, 2,532 kantars; Ashmouni and Zagora, 4,611,639 kantars; Pilion, 367,026 kantars; Various, 223,612 kantars. Total, 7,734,443 kantars.

Spot.—We have had a very moderate market this week, new crop cottons only coming on to the market towards the end of the week. Total sales amount to about 2,050 bales, of which we estimate Sakellaridis 1,000 bales, Ashmouni and Zagora 1,720 bales, Pilion 130 bales and other varieties 100 bales.

Sakellaridis: Here the greater demand has been for cotton grading Good and Good about. There has been a small inquiry for medium grade cotton, but owing to its scarcity very little business was put through. The basis is unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora: The strong demand for Fully Good Fair and Fully Good Fair Good still exists, and good premiums were paid. The bulk of the business done, however, has been in Good and Good Strict, as these are the only grades being offered freely on the market, holders wishing to clear their stocks before new crop arrivals.

Pilion: A few lots have changed hands at last week's premiums.

Other Varieties: Here there has been a small inquiry for White and Nahda. A small lot of a new growth, Giza 3, was shown on the market, and bought by several export houses at a very good premium on Uppers.

Crop 1929.—The temperature in Lower Egypt has continued favourable for the opening of the bolls, but the crop is still backward about ten days. Some fogs have been reported, but have not caused any damage. In addition, the leaf worm has reappeared on a small scale in certain districts of the North. The pink boll worm attack has increased slightly and the proportion of attacked bolls varies be-

tween 5 per cent. and 15 per cent., which is slightly less than at the same time last year.

In Upper Egypt picking is in full swing, and arrivals at the ginning factories are increasing daily.

There have been complaints of attacks by the "Nadoua Assalia" pest; the top bolls have been those which have principally suffered.

This year's high river level, together with the crop delay of about a week, are causing some uneasiness to the southern growers. The rumours that vast areas have been flooded are, however, without foundation, and we understand that all necessary precautions have been taken to prevent the loss of crops.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended August 10 amount to Rs.12,25,273, making a total of Rs.2,44,57,718 for the period from April 1, as compared with Rs.11,09,010 and Rs.2,21,79,903 for the corresponding periods in 1928.

Imperial and International Communications, Ltd., announce that the purchase of the Imperial Cables has been completed and the lease of the Beam Wireless Stations taken up by the company. The other necessary agreements in connexion with the cable-wireless merger have been exchanged with the Government, and it is anticipated that the Imperial Cable and Beam Wireless Services will be operated by the Communications Company at an early date. These arrangements are in accordance with the recommendations of the Imperial Wireless and Cable Conference for the unification of the Telegraph Services of the British Empire.

The Board of Directors of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York declared a dividend on September 4 of 5 per cent. for the quarter ending September 30.

The Yugoslav Ministry of Finance is reported to have called upon all Departments of State to effect in their new estimates a reduction of at least 15 per cent. on the amounts in last year's Budget.

Steaua Romana (British), Limited, are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for the month of August was 83,480 tons.

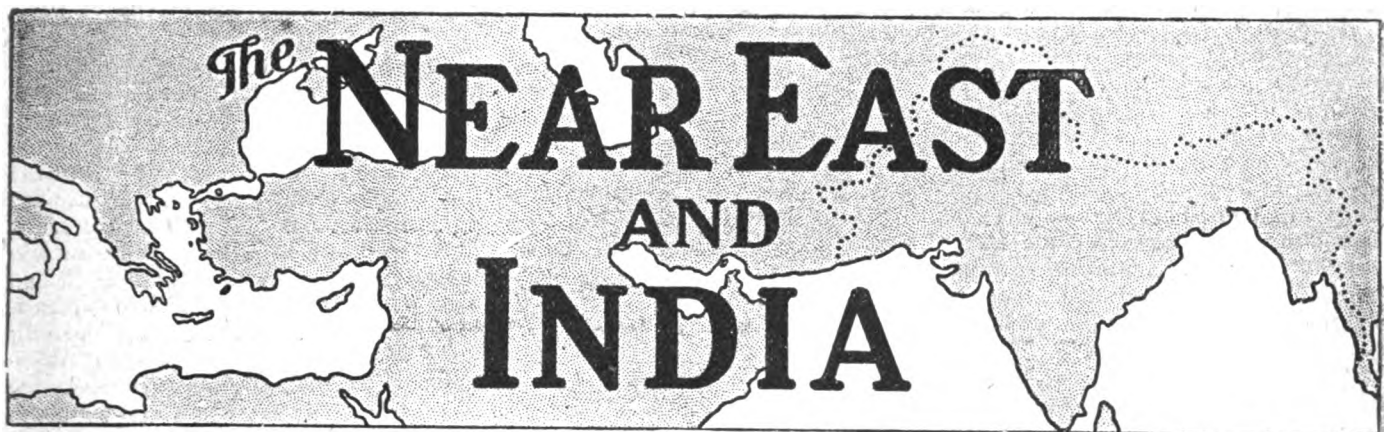
According to a report from Berlin, the Roumanian State Railways have concluded an agreement with the Allgemeine Electricitaets-Gesellschaft for the delivery of a hundred locomotives. Tenders were received from 24 different firms of seven different nationalities.

The Czechoslovak Government will be represented at the forthcoming Ideal Holidays Exhibition by an exhibit displaying some of the attractive features of the State, its spas, winter sports centres and industries.

The P. and O. Barrapool is the last of five sister ships—the others being Ballarat, Balranald, Baradine and Bendigo—that the company has had overhauled, reconditioned and converted for burning oil fuel. They are to be used on the London to Australia route via the Suez Canal.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Sept. 9	Railways.		Prices on Sept. 9	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Aug. 21.
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	...	79½	Assam-Bengal	...	93½	3½ Government Paper	...	68½
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890	...	69	Bengal Doonars	...	182½	Banks	...	1,400
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	...	87	Bengal Nagpur	...	91½	Imperial Bank of India	...	99½
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94	...	80½	Nizams Gtd.	...	43 16	Bank of India	...	18½
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1917	...	28½	Ottoman (Smy. L. Aid)	...	236	Central Bank of India	...	...
Do. 7 p.c.	...	82	Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb.	...	59	Coal	...	5 1/4
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	...	69	Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb.	...	58	Baraboni	...	162½
Do. 5 p.c. 1884	...	69	Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds.	...	62	Bengal	...	15
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	...	52½	Southern Punjab	...	190½d	Burrakur	...	23½
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	...	69	South Indian	...	115½	East Indian	...	24½
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	...	69	Rubber.	...	...	Equitable	...	35
Do. 4 p.c. Rails. Loan, 1902	...	56	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord.	...	9 3	Pench Valley	...	42½
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	...	58½	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	...	19 1/2	Raneengunge	...	61
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (1. on issue)	...	72½d	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	...	26 3	Standard	...	...
Do. 7 p.c. 1924	...	100½	Hewagum Rubber Co.	...	17 1/2	Cotton.	...	...
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	...	86½	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	...	1 9	Bengal Nagpur	...	71½
Palestine 5 p.c.	...	100½	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	...	35 9	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	...	173
Persia 5 p.c. 1911	...	83½	Shipping.	...	...	Bowreah	...	180
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext.	...	67	Anchor 5½ p.c. Pri.	...	8½	Buckingham and Carnatic	...	14
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	...	44½	Cunard	...	25 9	Cawnpore Textiles	...	128½
Do. 7 p.c.	...	79½	Furness Withy	...	39 1/2	Century	...	476½
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	...	106	Khedivial Mail Ord.	...	59 1/2	Central India	...	91
India 3½ p.c.	...	94½	P. and O. Deferred	...	...	Elgin	...	77½
Do. 3 p.c.	...	55 1/2	Tea.	...	...	Khatau Makanji	...	542
Do. 5½ p.c.	...	98½	Assam Co.	...	22	Muir	...	161
Do. 4½ p.c.	...	85	Bengal United Tea Ord.	...	1½	New Ring	...	135
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	...	19	Bramapootra	...	33	Phoenix	...	407½
Banks.	...	...	British Indian Tea Ord.	...	3½	Svadeshi	...	...
Agri. Bank of Egypt	...	77 1/16	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord.	...	1½	Jute.	...	569
Bank of British West Africa	...	43 1/16	Carolina	...	3½	Alliance	...	294
Bank of Roumania	...	80 1/2	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	...	54	Barnagore	...	50
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf.	...	28 1/2	Consolidated Estates	...	213 1/16	Budge Budge	...	40½
Chartered Bank of India	...	204	Darjeeling Co.	...	3	Clive	...	55½
Eastern	...	613 1/16	Dimhula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	...	3	Dalhousie	...	175
Hambros	...	10 1/16	Doonars Tea Ord.	...	31 1/32	Delta	...	955
Ionian Bank	...	611 1/16	Doollogram Tea	...	17 1/2	Fort Gloster	...	160
Imperial Bank of Persia	...	113 1/16	Doom Dooma	...	315 1/16	Gourepore	...	58
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	...	164	East Assam	...	4½	Howrah	...	67½
Lloyds	...	63 1/2	Empire of Ind.	...	25 1/16	Kamarhaty	...	48
Mercantile Bank of India A	...	32½	Halem Tea	...	1½	Kanknarrah	...	104d
Do. B	...	33½	Imperial Ind.	...	21 1/32	Khaddah	...	1,045
National Bank of Egypt	...	32½	Jhanzie Tea Association	...	2½	Kinnison	...	31½
National Bank of India	...	49½	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	...	311 1/16	National	...	479½
Ottoman Bank	...	11½c	Jorehaut	...	3½	Standard	...	73½
P. and O. Bank Corporation	...	84	Lanka Plantations Ord.	...	2	Miscellaneous	...	...
Westminster	...	75 9	Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	...	17 1/2d	British India Corporation	...	21
Land.	...	...	New Dimhula	...	7	Benzal Paper Mills	...	40½
Kassala Cotton	...	8 1/2	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	...	5½	Bengal Paper Mills	...	126
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates	...	5 9	Nedeeem	...	2½	Bengal Timber Trading	...	187
Sudan Plantations	...	327 3/32	Ouvah	...	3½	Burn and Co.	...	16½
Mines.	...	...	Pabbajan	...	54	Cawnpore Sugar	...	12
Salaghat Gold Mining	...	5 1/2	Standard	...	515 1/16	Champaran Sugar	...	92
Burma Corp.	...	183	Scottish Assam	...	23 3/32	Howrah Oil Mills	...	...
Champion Reef Gold	...	8 1/2	Scottish Tea and Lands	...	37 1/16	ALEXANDRIA	...	...
Mysore	...	12 1/2	Upper Assam	...	215 3/32	Prices on Aug. 30, supplied by G.L.	...	...
Nendydrag	...	16 1/2	Insurance.	...	...	Mortg. Alexandria & Cairo.	...	...
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	...	7 9	General Accident Fire and Life (25, £1½ paid)	...	15½	Agricultural Bank of Egypt	...	277 1/16
Oil.	...	...	London & Lancs (25, £1 paid)	...	29	Assoc. Cotton Ginners	...	214
Angle-Egyptian B	...	2½	Royal Exchange (£1)	...	6½	Bahera Ord.	...	1,570 1/2
Angle-Persian Ord.	...	4 11 3/32	Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid)	...	39½	Ciments d'Egypte	...	182 1/2
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf.	...	26 3	Miscellaneous.	...	...	Comp. Fin. & Com. d'Egypte	...	116
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf.	...	28 9½d	Alexandria Water Co.	...	14½	Credit Foncier Egyptien	...	883
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	...	96½	Associated Cotton Ginners	...	15 1/2	Fondateur	...	1,510
Brit. Burmah	...	6 9	Dunlop Rubber	...	18 1/2	Crown Brewery Priv.	...	1,519
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	...	49 1/32	Egyptian Hotels	...	7	Filature Nationale d'Egypte	...	2,611 1/16
Do. 8½ Cum Pref.	...	26 9	Do. Markets Ord.	...	25 1/2	Frigerisque d'Egypte	...	4,158
Hamilton's Oil Concessions	...	-3	Do. Salt and Soda	...	57 1/2	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des	...	1,164
Phoenix Oil and Transport f.p.)	...	11 6	Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref.	...	84	Land Bank of Egypt Actions	...	2,225
Do. (11/2)	...	7 1/2	Oriental Telephone	...	60	Parts de Fond	...	1,190
Shell Transport	...	429 1/2	Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord.	...	17 3	Menzaleh Canal Navigation	...	...
Steaua Romana	...	10 9	Waring & Gillow	...	25 1/2		...	...



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1929.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	297	INDIAN NOTES	299	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLES—		Notes and News	315
Position of Iraq	300	Some Tribes of the Southern		The Ports of Bulgaria	316
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Sudan—I.	312	The Egyptian Postal	
Egypt	301	Sir Gilbert Clayton	313	Administration	317
Turkey	302	PERSONAL AND GENERAL	309	Engineering Topics	319
Greece	303	BOOK REVIEWS	311	The Week's Finance	321
Roumania	304	THE WEEK AT HOME	314	Economic Conditions in Bulgaria	323
Calcutta	305			Economic Conditions in Roumania	325
				Cotton and Cotton Goods	327

Notes of the Week.

Egypt and the Proffered Treaty.

Those who have followed the course of events in Egypt since the publication of the proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, will not be surprised to learn that some time must still elapse before the country is able to pass its verdict on those proposals. It was not unreasonable on the part of the British Government to indicate that it expected to arrive at a settlement with the Egyptian nation, rather than with any particular party, and it was natural to imagine that any elections to be held in Egypt would be, in the words of the *Daily Herald*, "not merely the choosing of a Parliament," but "the considered verdict of the nation upon its future position and status." This view, however, is now shown not to have taken into consideration the mentality of the Wafd's leaders, who have stipulated that the elections to be held shall be precisely what the British Labour organ considered that they must not be, "merely the choosing of a Parliament," without any reference to the proposed Anglo-Egyptian treaty. Accordingly, the following situation has been created: the British Government, influenced by the claim of the Wafd to represent the great bulk of the nation, warned Mahmoud Pasha that the proposed treaty must be accepted by the Egyptian people, under the impression that a general election would enable the people to record its view of the proposals. The Wafd, however, by imposing silence upon its handful of articulate followers, has shown that the great mass of the Egyptian people is inarticulate as well as illiterate, and that consequently the submission of the treaty to the Egyptian people through the medium of a general election would not mean what the British Government imagined that it would mean when it imposed the condition. The question, therefore, arises whether the course of make-believe is to be persisted in or whether facts will be faced and the pretence of bracketing an Egyptian electorate with a British electorate and of crediting the Wafd leaders with British ideas of liberalism and constitutionalism will be abandoned. Elections held during the next few weeks must be, on the Wafd's own showing, a farce from the British point of view. Parlia-

ment would not have been elected on the basis of the people's attitude towards the treaty, but at the Wafd's dictation. The treaty would, therefore, be rejected or accepted according to the fancy of the Wafd's leaders, and the verdict of the people would be more effectually ignored than under the most extreme form of despotism.

A Referendum the Solution.

As was pointed out in these pages last week, the only way of allowing the Egyptian people to pass judgment on the proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian treaty would seem, in the circumstances, to be by means of a Referendum. Insistence by Great Britain upon elections constitutes unmistakable interference in Egyptian domestic affairs, because it re-imposes parliamentary institutions upon Egypt at a time when the nation as a whole, which has no understanding of the proper way of working such institutions, has clearly shown that it is not sorry to be rid of them. It is not contended that Egypt can dispense indefinitely with Parliament; on the contrary, it is well that she should have one, but it must be a parliament in the accepted sense of the word and not the parody of one that was previously imposed upon the country. Save in the eyes of those who make a fetish of parliamentary institutions, regardless of the fact that they can be used as an instrument of undisguised tyranny, the present Egyptian Government appeared to have acted reasonably in terminating the abuse by the Wafd of constitutionalism to serve its own ends, and the attempt to train the nation for a short space in the rudiments of self-government was being watched with interest and with no little sympathy. The interruption of that attempt before it has gained its ends is not likely to advance the interests of Egypt, and Mahmoud Pasha has good reason to regret the dilemma in which he has been involuntarily placed. The holding of elections bids fair to undo at one stroke all the good that Egypt has gained from one year's suspension of parliamentary institutions, while it affords no guarantee that the proposed treaty will be accepted or even considered on its merits. He is well advised, therefore, to take his time before deciding how the opinion of the

Egyptian people can be taken on the treaty. By getting into close touch with them he can make sure that his own views are known to the electorate; but it may be doubted whether he has the machinery to counteract the terrorism of the Wafd, when once the flood-gates of an electoral campaign have been opened. The Wafd hopes by its tactics to defeat both Mahmoud Pasha and Great Britain; it will not dare to reject the treaty, but it counts on coming into power again through the British insistence on a general election and thereafter being in a position to flout Great Britain as it flouted her before.

The Sudan and Egypt.

If on receipt of the first telegraphic summaries of the proposed terms for an Anglo-Egyptian treaty, reinforced, as they were, by anxious comments on the part of certain London newspapers, public opinion in the Sudan was left wondering what the future might have in store for the country, it would appear to have lost little time in recovering its equanimity. The Condominium worked well enough in the past, until the misguided attempt was made to transplant Egyptian politics into the country. The conspicuous failure of that attempt affords sufficient security against its renewal, and all that the proposed treaty sets out to do is to record an "as you were" for the Sudan. There will be no treaty, unless Egypt is satisfied with this arrangement, and the very essence of the agreement is that she accepts all that it implies. Trade, and not politics, is after all the main concern of the Sudan. The Egyptians' major interest in it is centred in their water supply, and not in claiming blood-relationship with Shilluks, Dinkas, Nuers and Fuzzy-Wuzzis; still less do they desire, when they have occasion to consider the matter dispassionately, to embark on the thankless task of taking over from the British the administration of the numerous races at a time when these will be tempted to maintain that, if there is to be any change in the Sudan, the sacred principles of independence and self-government must be applied, as in Egypt.

Brigands in Greece.

Brigandage dies hard in the Balkans, but it is almost in Greece alone that the evil lingers in the form of a recognised profession untinged by political factors. Economic conditions are more often than not a contributory cause, and this circumstance may account for a recrudescence in recent years. The latest incident, the capture of some of the members of a large party near Trikkala—a town of over twenty thousand inhabitants—is attributed to a well-known brigand, who has been a thorn in the side of the Greek authorities for many years. He was arrested in 1921, but escaped from Salonika prison and fled to Yugoslavia. His return to Greece and his subsequent exploits suggest that, as in most cases of successful brigandage, he has by terrorism or from sympathy secured the connivance of villagers, and it rests with the authorities to convince the latter that their duty, as well as their interest, calls for their active co-operation in ridding the country of these anachronisms.

Abyssinia.

It is to be hoped that the simultaneous appointment of Abyssinian Ministers to London, Paris, Berlin and Rome implies that the old policy of aloofness is to be discontinued in future at Addis Ababa, and that the Abyssinian Government will be as anxious to report abroad the progress that the country is making as many people will be to hear of that progress. The question of slavery is still one that exercises the mind of the Government. The problem of freeing all the slaves in the land is not as simple as it appears at a distance. Abyssinia's capacity to absorb freed slaves to any large extent in useful employment is limited, as is also the capacity of many of the slaves for other than slave work. A school for freed slaves has been in existence for a few years in Addis

Ababa, and it would be interesting to have a faithful account of the experience gained from this source. Unfortunately one result of the freeing of slaves has been noted in the increase of petty crime—a clear indication that the grant of freedom has not been correlated with the provision of suitable employment. Abyssinia's primary need is necessarily education, and the steps to provide it can only be slow. A recent advance that has been made is the opening of schools outside the capital, some indeed in the western provinces. It will be by a judicious blending of the furthering of education and the gradual opening up of the country by means of communications that Abyssinia will most successfully work out her own salvation. There will always be a temptation to set store on the outward trappings of civilisation, and remarks made last week by our Addis Ababa Correspondent suggest that a pitfall of this nature has been found in the passport system. On behalf of the Abyssinians, however, it may be pointed out that unfettered ingress into their country has not been without its drawbacks to them, and one result of the tightening up of the passport system has been to enable them to rid the country of certain Bolshevik agents or sympathisers. Ability to use the passport system as a means of defence without making it an instrument of offence will provide a test of Abyssinian statecraft and administrative efficiency.

The Palestine Commission.

Given its terms of reference, the Commission of Inquiry which is to investigate the disturbances in Palestine has been admirably composed. Those terms are, according to the second statement, issued by the Colonial Office on September 14:—"to inquire into the immediate causes which led to the recent outbreak in Palestine, and to make recommendations as to the steps necessary to avoid a recurrence." These terms will include, presumably, the earlier statement by the Colonial Office, made on September 3, an inquiry into whether the outbreak might be regarded as having been preconcerted or due to organised action. All the members of the Commission are men with excellent records of intellectual ability, and no stones can be thrown from either side on the score of probable partiality in any single member. At the moment we can recall no published statements by any of the four men on the question of Palestine and Zionism; we hope, indeed, that they have made none. If there were grounds for the slightest suspicion of prejudice or of pre-judgment in the Commission, half the value of its recommendations would be destroyed. Both Arabs and Jews will, it may be taken for granted, be disappointed by the recommendations of this Commission, if only because "major policy" is not to be considered by it. But if it settled the question of the Wailing Wall alone—recommendations on which will, of course, have to be one of its features, if not its capital feature—it would do an immense amount of good. For the fact remains that, though Arabs were, apparently, increasingly fretting at the implications of the Balfour Declaration, and Jews at the slowness of the British Government in implementing that Declaration, it was the Wailing Wall which supplied the spark to the fuel. Without the Wall, in short, which was transformed into the symbol of Arab and Jewish pretensions, there would have been no outbreak in Palestine.

The Palestine Police.

Quite obviously it was a very wise move on the part of the British authorities to recruit and to send to Palestine more British police. The reason for this step, however, appears in part to have been misinterpreted. As soon as the outbreak began stories were set in circulation by Jewish agencies of the desertion of the Arab members of the Palestine Police Force. The impression was allowed to develop that, because so many members of that Force were Muslims, the slaughter of Jews was looked upon unheedingly. This was, we believe, a libel. No official confirmation of the charge of disloyalty on the part of the

Palestine Police has yet been produced, and in later statements we find even Zionists modifying the first bad impressions. The point is one well worth making, if only on account of the demand made by certain Jews for an increase in the number of Jewish members in the Police Force. Upon the demand in itself we have nothing to say, except that we would trust Lord Plumer, who had the last word upon its composition. But the motive in reiterating the demand so loudly at the present time is patent. Since Arab policemen must inevitably sympathise with Arab rioters against the Jews, there must be Jewish policemen armed with an anti-Arab complex. To allow such a preposterous argument to succeed would be incredible. Its realisation alone would completely mar the prospects of a united nation in Palestine, of a single Palestinian nationality, composed of Arab and Jew. But here we are not so much concerned with that problem as to deal with the charge of grave partiality made against a British-trained Police Force. We remember, for instance, the Police Force in Mesopotamia during the Rebellion of 1920: it remained absolutely loyal to the cause of order. And the Palestine Police Force will similarly, we fancy, emerge from the scrutiny of the Commission with far more credit than is now commonly given to it. Individual incidents of conduct unworthy of a policeman there may have been, but the impartial critic will wait for further evidence before committing himself to the generalisation that the Palestine Police Force has been a failure.

The Mandate for the Holy Land.

Inevitably the disturbances in Palestine have raised the question whether Great Britain ought any longer to retain the Mandate for Palestine. Those who assert that the time has come for her to drop it belong to two classes: (1) those who have consistently deprecated all British commitments in the Middle East; and (2) those who wish to see the Palestine Mandate in hands other than those of Great Britain. Of the first category it is sufficient to say that its prestige, never very considerable, is not increasing; but of the second it is worth recording that Poland must now, after the riots in Palestine, be added to Italy as an aspirant to the rôle of tutor in Palestine. This new Polish desire has not, of course, been officially expressed, but it appears to be very generally shared, both by Poles and by Jews in Poland. Elsewhere there has been a demand for Jewish self-government in Palestine. Much in these proposals is wild talk, the outcome either of jealousy or disillusionment, but it does provide evidence of the very wide repercussions which follow action in Palestine. That Great Britain will retain the Mandate has been stated unequivocally, however; and those who would counsel her handing over the reins are doomed to certain disappointment. It may be admitted that Great Britain, though her knowledge of the Islamic world is unequalled, knows little enough of the mentality of the East European Jew who has supplied the bulk of the immigrants to Palestine, but to suggest that any other nation is better equipped to administer the Holy Land, with its conflicting aspirations, rights, and claims, is absurd. Under any other Power than Great Britain, Palestine, with neighbouring countries, would probably be ablaze within a month.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Simon Commission.

When they resume their sittings on Tuesday next, after the summer vacation, the members of the Statutory Commission will enter upon what will be, presumably, the last stage of the great task which has been laid upon them. They have now been at work for about a year and a half, during which time they have paid two visits to India and have thus been enabled to obtain first-hand knowledge of the conditions prevailing there. They have examined a host of witnesses, and have recorded a vast mass of evidence. In addition, they have had the advantage of

joint free conferences with the Committees appointed by the Central and Provincial Legislatures. The reports of the Provincial Committees, some of which are summarised on another page of this issue, are now before the Commissioners; and it is expected that the report of the Central Indian Committee will be ready in a few weeks. It is true that the extreme section of the Nationalist, or Congress, party in India decided to boycott the Commission. But the drafting and publishing of the document which has since become known as the Nehru report, and in which a new Indian Constitution is outlined, showed that even these extremists really recognised the Commission. In fact, it may be, we think, confidently assumed that the Commissioners must have become acquainted with every phase of opinion regarding the questions that they are investigating. Their inquiries have been so exhaustive in character, and have been so prolonged, that we should be surprised to hear of any race, or community, or sect of whose views on constitutional progress they have not acquired some knowledge. They will now enter upon the most difficult and onerous part of their undertaking, namely, the formulation of their proposals. It is expected that they will be engaged on this task until the beginning of the new year. Rumours are still current on the point whether their findings will, or will not, be unanimous. There is also, naturally, much speculation as to the nature of their main proposals. In India it seems to be taken more or less for granted that a not inconsiderable advance in the direction of responsible Government will be recommended, certainly as regards the provinces. Even after the presentation of the report to the Government there will necessarily be considerable delay before any legislation can be undertaken by Parliament. For in accordance with the decision arrived at when the Commission was constituted the Government, after receiving the report, will present proposals to Parliament, and these will be examined by a Committee of both Houses. With this Committee delegates appointed by the Indian Central Legislature will sit. It is unlikely, therefore, that any proposals which may be agreed upon can assume legislative shape until somewhere near the end of next year.

THE ROSS INSTITUTE.

Dr. John Gordon Thomson, director of the Department of Protozoology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has resigned the position, and has been appointed Principal of the Department of Parasitology at the Ross Institute for Tropical Diseases, London. Dr. Thomson served in Egypt during the War, specialising in pathology and protozoology at the Military Hospitals in Alexandria. Returning to London in 1918, he was appointed Officer in Charge of the Malarial Research Laboratory at the War Office.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1929.

THE POSITION OF IRAQ.

The tragic death last week of the High Commissioner of Iraq, Sir Gilbert Clayton, cast a shadow over the whole of King Faisal's dominion. For the late High Commissioner has been cut off at the crowning-point of his Arabian life, just at the moment when he was moulding the opportunity, or seizing the occasion, of realising in Iraq those ideals of Anglo-Arab relations which he consistently upheld. Neither foolish enthusiasm nor jaded cynicism inspired his outlook on the affairs of Arabia; and there are reasons for thinking that the time was peculiarly ripe in Arabia for the exercise of his essential liberalism. Not that Sir Gilbert Clayton had any preconceived notions upon what was expedient for Iraq. His invariable method was to investigate, to test, and then to practise. In Iraq, unfortunately, only the preliminary stages of his method had been accomplished. Upon the burning problems of the day in Baghdad he had publicly expressed no opinion, and expectant Iraqis as well as observant Englishmen were awaiting a pronouncement by him with something more than usual keenness. It will be sufficient, however, if we indicate that Sir Gilbert Clayton's opinions may to some extent be early reflected in the attitude of the British Government, whose curious habit of appearing to strain at financial gnats when swallowing camels has in the past caused dismay even to the staunchest supporters of the British alliance among the Iraqis. We feel confident, in fact, that the negotiations which have been proceeding between London and Baghdad will ensure that no abrupt *impasse* is created in Iraq's internal political situation. In the shaping of such a smooth future it must be assumed that the late High Commissioner's hand played no unimportant part, and it is a cruel fate that he should have been denied even the first-fruits of his carefully conciliatory policy. Unquestionably his prestige in Iraq—already considerable from his long-standing friendship with King Faisal—was steadily increasing throughout the country, and there is abundant evidence that his beneficent influence was extending far beyond Palace-Residency relations. In this connexion it may be well to remember that the late High Commissioner went to Iraq, so to speak, as a new broom. He represented, and could be made out to represent, none of the traditions of India which Iraqis, with or without justification, have had the opportunity of ascribing to former High Commissioners: his record of dealing, on an equal footing, with Arabs and Egyptians was known and respected. But from being a distant name he had the chance, in Iraq, of becoming a revered guest, and the consequences of the sad fact that that opportunity has been denied him are incalculable. For it is to be doubted whether any living man had in so great a degree as the late High Commissioner a knowledge of all the aspects of the political problems of Arabia. Iraqis, Syrians, Trans-Jordanians, Palestinians, Wahhabis, Yamanis—he knew them all. Nor was there any indication that, in taking up the particular task in Iraq, he was likely to forget that not irrelevant problems existed elsewhere in Arabia. His

prospective, like his knowledge, was comprehensive; so that his untimely end may be regarded as nothing less than a tragedy by and to those Arabs who could look outside their own "national" boundaries.

The most obvious question to ask concerning the present position of Iraq, now that Sir Gilbert Clayton is no more, is: how will the Wahhabis behave towards their neighbours? For, as is well known, one of the happiest coincidences of the appointment to Baghdad of the late High Commissioner was the fact that his personal relations with King Ibn Saoud were so excellent: though the two diplomatists disagreed upon the problem of the Iraqi-Najd frontier, they disagreed as friends, and, so far as King Ibn Saoud was concerned, there was little danger of any violence on that frontier. But the very happiness of this aspect of Sir Gilbert's appointment as High Commissioner in fact revealed the difficulty of the situation: that peace should depend in so large a measure upon a personal relation. That feature was in essence a misfortune; for tranquillity on such a question as a frontier should be secured by law or by mutual agreement and should not be at the mercy of blind chance. This problem of Najd is not, however, quite so serious as the death of Sir Gilbert Clayton might appear to make it. For, although King Ibn Saoud has been entirely friendly and loyal to his words, there is indisputable evidence now that certain tribes in Najd are out against him. This fact is at the base of the Wahhabi problem, and must be recognised, if correct conclusions are to be drawn. So rebellious are some of the Najdis, in fact, that the Mutair actually asked for the support (which was, naturally, curtly refused) of Iraqis against King Ibn Saoud. At the moment, indeed, the problem in Central Arabia is rather one of the relations between King Ibn Saoud and the Hijazis, on the one hand, and certain Najdi tribes, on the other, rather than between Iraq and Najd. So much publicity has been given to the matter of the disputed "forts," that the subsequent antagonism to their King of the adherents of and collaborators with Faisal al Duwish has largely been overlooked. What turns the affair may take in the future, it is impossible to guess, but it is certain that present anxiety in Iraq arises more from the nature of the Wahhabi King's control over his Najdi tribes than from their hostility to Iraq. Even so, however, it is lamentable to think that whosoever may be appointed to succeed Sir Gilbert Clayton in Iraq must of necessity lack those close relations with King Ibn Saoud which, quite apart from the question of the Iraqi-Najd frontier, gave high promise of a period of peaceful progress throughout Arabia.

From the internal point of view, the future of Iraq is obscure but untroubled. It is a remarkable testimony to the common-sense of Arab leaders and to the stability of the situation that the sight of Baghdad without a Cabinet (for the Cabinet of Taufiq Beg Suwaidi is waiting only for the formation by Sir Abdul Muhsin of a new Cabinet), without a Counsellor to the Residency, and with only an Acting High Commissioner, should result in no political agitations. Partly this fact is due to the prestige of the late High Commissioner and to the personal esteem in which he was held by many leading Iraqis, and partly, possibly, to the report that Great Britain is about to make such concessions as will placate Sir Abdul Muhsin and his supporters. Of these last negotiations nothing is publicly known, but there appears to exist a general confidence that the anomalous situation which had been allowed to arise in Baghdad will shortly be ended. It is profoundly to be hoped that agreement may at last be reached. Too long, much too long, have certain questions, particularly financial questions, been permitted to remain without a solution, but if, in the next few weeks, Sir Abdul Muhsin can return to power on such terms as will fully satisfy Iraqi *amour propre*, there is little reason to think that all may not go so smoothly in Iraq as to end in the consummation of King Faisal's State being enrolled, in 1932, among the members of the League of Nations.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, September 6.

The High Commissioner.

Sir Percy Loraine, the new High Commissioner, arrived on September 2, by the Sitmar steamship *Esperia*. He was greeted on board by Sir Reginald Hoare, Counsellor, and Mr. Grafftey Smith, Acting Oriental Secretary at the Residency, and, on landing at the Arsenal Quay, he was welcomed by Said Zulfikar Pasha, Grand Chamberlain, on behalf of H.M. King Fuad, Ahmed Khashaba Pasha, Minister for Justice on behalf of the Prime Minister, Lutfy Sayed Bey, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs (the Minister, Hafez Afifi Pasha, himself travelled by the same steamer as Sir Percy), Hussein Sabri Pasha, Governor of the city, Mr. Heathcote Smith, British Consul-General, and the senior British officials, such as Mr. Cecil Campbell, Acting Financial Adviser, Mr. Besley, Acting Judicial Adviser, Mr. Graves, Acting Director General of the European Department, Rear-Admiral Tomlin, Director-General of Ports and Lights, and Mr. Ryder, Acting Sudan Agent. The High Commissioner inspected the guard of honour, provided by the Durham Light Infantry, and shook hands with the British residents present, each of whom was introduced to him by name by the Consul General. The gathering of British residents was remarkably large for the season of the year, and it is interesting to note that Sir Percy made an excellent impression on them all. Noteworthy absentees from the reception were the Diplomatic Corps. Present in a body when Lord Lloyd, the last High Commissioner, first arrived, they were duly invited to Monday's ceremony, but they abstained, and the incident in the existing peculiar circumstances has not unnaturally caused considerable comment.

Shortly after Sir Percy Loraine had reached the Residency, Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha called upon him, and the High Commissioner returned the courtesy the same afternoon at the Government offices at Bulkeley. Next day he had an audience of the King at Montaza, and the same evening the Prime Minister dined at the Residency. Although this might have been an ideal occasion for a preliminary talk on the question of the hour—the treaty and the manner in which the opinion of the nation is to be obtained on the terms—I am in a position to state that up to the time of posting this letter there has been no conversation whatever on the subject between the High Commissioner and the Prime Minister. The problem of how to submit the treaty to the nation under conditions meeting the requirements of the British Government and at the same time assuring the most satisfactory results, in regard to the acceptance of its terms and to the subsequent state of affairs in the country, is still as far from solution as ever.

The Wafd's Attitude.

The situation is indeed a most involved one, the like of which has never before been experienced in this country,

land of confused issues that it is. There seems to be fairly general agreement that the terms are such as Egypt could never expect to improve upon. Even the Wafd tacitly admits that, since, if there had been anything worthy of criticism, it would surely have expressed its view instead of steadfastly refusing to give any opinion whatever on its merits. But how to get that view put on record by a satisfactory representative body in the country is what is baffling everyone, Palace, Residency and Cabinet.

The British and foreign communities, as well as the more responsible-minded Egyptian, agree that it would be fatal to the execution of the treaty and the state of public security in the country if the Wafd were to be allowed to get back into office as a result of the course followed to secure the opinion of the nation on the acceptability of the treaty. That they are perfectly right in their view was proved by what happened at and after the meeting which the Wafd held on August 31, as a counterblast to that at which the Prime Minister was to address his supporters here.

While Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha confined himself to dealing with the treaty and refrained from any references to the opposition, Nahas Pasha surpassed himself—and that is saying a great deal—in his abuse of the Premier to which his whole speech was devoted. Interruptions from the audience saying that they knew his opinion of the Premier, but that they wanted to know his opinion of the treaty, elicited no reply except a gesture from Nukrashy Effendi, one of the "heroes" of the Political Murders Trial and always associated with extremist tactics, who caused them to be expelled forcibly from the meeting. When refused permission in the past to hold meetings, the Wafd has always protested at what it termed Government interference with liberty of opinion and speech. In preventing these questions being asked at its meeting it does not appear to realise that it is itself doing exactly what it accuses the Government of having done in the past.

At the same meeting a well-known Wafdist rose and delivered an impassioned attack on *Al Ahram* for its attitude, which has seriously displeased the Wafd. The attack was received with uproarious applause, and the audience was so excited thereby that a band forthwith made off for the offices of the paper where they behaved in a disgraceful manner and had to be driven away by the police. Such was the result of the first public meeting the Wafd has been allowed to hold for over a year, and one must say that its result has fully justified the fears of the communities and has confirmed the argument of the authorities that any licence accorded to the Wafd under the Nahas-Makran-Nukrashy triumvirate risks being followed by disorder.

Labour M.P.s in Egypt.

Two members of the Labour Party, Messrs. John Hayes and Ben Smith, are at present in the country. The object

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TURKEY

Sir George Clerk, accompanied by Mr. Grew, U.S.

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Ambassador, and attended by Colonel Woods, British Commercial Secretary, recently paid a visit to the south-eastern littoral of the Black Sea, travelling by the s.s. *Izmir*, of the Turkish National Steam Navigation Company. The journey was effected under the most comfortable conditions, the party being hospitably entertained by the local authorities at every port of call.

A flying visit was paid to Amassia, situated between Samsoun and Sivas, and renowned for its apple orchards, and a further excursion was made by car to the famous Zyghana Pass on the Trebizond-Erzzeroum road. It was from the summit of this precipitous pass that the remnants of Alexander's legions beheld the waters of the Black Sea amidst shouts of *Thalassa, Thalassa*. From Zyghana the road descends by hair-pin bends amidst pine-clad slopes through "Djevizlik" (The Walnut Grove) to Trebizond.

Execution of Judgment Summonses.

The recovery in Turkey of monies owing by a recalcitrant debtor has hitherto been a slow process, attended by interminable judicial formalities, and calling for the exercise of much patience on the part of the suing creditor.

A recent Ordinance of the Ministry of Justice (ratified by the House of Assembly) based on the Swiss Code, puts an entirely new complexion on this matter of procedure which is of importance to both native and foreign mercantile communities and merchants alike.

In future a creditor need do no more than apply directly to the Sheriff's Officer without the formality of either a judgment-summons or a bill of exchange bearing the acceptance of the defaulting debtor. The Sheriff's Officer, after calling upon the debtor to satisfy the claim of the creditor, will proceed to levy distraint on the debtor's movable property and then upon his landed estate. In the event of an economic crisis, however, such as that through which this market is passing at the present time, a first delay of six months, renewable periodically, may be granted to the debtor at the Sheriff's Officer's sole discretion.

The intervention of the judicial bench is thus entirely dispensed with, the underlying idea being to facilitate an accommodation between potential litigants, and thus to save time and money. Imprisonment for debt is abolished, all debtors now in jail being released four months after the Ordinance comes into force. The onus of discovery of the debtor's worldly possessions rests with the creditor, the Executive Officer intervening only when and as such property is duly located.

Foreign Commercial Enterprise.

At a juncture when international competition for the capture of foreign commercial markets has reached an acute stage, it is interesting to record the activity which is being displayed by certain manufacturing countries which, for one reason or another, but mainly for lack of transport facilities, were at one time almost strangers to the Turkish market.

Russia, Poland and Japan have each, in turn, cast their eye on Turkey as a potential dumping ground for their superfluous wares. Russia started with a successful floating exhibition in 1924, she was followed by Poland in 1926, who, more ambitious than her easterly neighbour, sought for and obtained permission to erect a number of temporary buildings on the site of the old British Naval Base at Tophane, where accommodation enough was found to house a number of railway engines and freight-trucks.

Japan has now followed suit with an Exhibition which is to remain open to the public for three years. The Japanese exhibits, which are housed in a building situate at the Galata bridgehead—a central and commanding position—comprises textiles, jewellery, household utensils, electric appliances, and ornaments of ivory and mother-of-pearl.

GREECE.

Athens, September 6.

Fire Insurance.

Fires at the Piræus are almost daily occurrences; an especially serious one, however, on August 16, which destroyed a whole block of buildings, mostly warehouses, and did damage estimated at more than half a million pounds, has drawn attention to the fact that the local fire engines are quite inadequate, while the engines from Athens took two hours to arrive after being summoned. It is small wonder that the numerous foreign insurance companies have decided to raise their premiums 50 per cent. until such time as the town is properly equipped with means for coping with outbreaks of fire. The present writer has only once seen the Athens fire engine in use, and that was some years ago: but what especially struck him on that occasion was the fact that the hose was so full of holes that not much of the water reached the nozzle. But things may be better now. In connexion with civic needs, the recent arrival of five new water-carts, ordered by the late Mayor of Athens, is an event of some importance, and should be remembered to his credit. Speaking of Mayors, one notes that the Liberals of Salonika have at last been able to agree on a candidate for the second election; the first, it will be remembered, was cancelled, as the elected candidate did not get the required percentage of votes.

Political Activity.

In spite of the absence of M. Venizelos and of his deputy, M. Michalacopoulos, there is great activity among members of the Government, and Ministers are running to and fro, acquainting themselves with the work of their respective Departments in preparation for the forthcoming session—a very healthy sign of the times and promising for the future.

The Condition of Salonika.

M. Papas, who replaced M. Chrestomanos as Minister of Health, when the latter made his regrettable decision to stand as candidate for the Mavoralty of Athens, has been examining the condition of Salonika from the point of view of hygiene, and has received what, to those who know it better, seem unduly favourable impressions of it. As a corrective to his rosy description of those impressions appeared a letter in the Press the following day from a Salonika resident, which put the matter in a truer light and pointed out some of the city's more glaring deficiencies. Apart from primary and essential requirements like drains and hospitals, what Salonika mostly needs is open spaces and parks; also bathing-places which can be reached by the ordinary citizen. It is regrettable that, with the re-erection of the city, so little provision should have been made for such needs, and that the only open spaces should be the streets. One fears that the Minister was so hospitably entertained by his hosts that he had not the heart to comment unfavourably on their city. This happens, of course, all over the world, but perhaps more so in Greece, where the desire to create a favourable impression on visitors, whether foreigners or not, amounts to a passion. A case in point is the reception of M. Herriot. From the moment when he crossed the frontier at Ghevgheli to the moment of his departure from the Piræus he has been sedulously escorted everywhere and loaded with attentions. Opportunity for independent observation has been denied him, and the result is that instead of a little wholesome criticism, he has felt obliged in the interest of politeness to express the fulsome platitudes which were expected of him, and which might equally well have been unloaded without visiting the country at all.

Ministerial Tours.

Other Ministers who have been touring the country are M. Spyrides, Minister of Agriculture, who has been studying at first hand the numerous and thorny problems that demand solution in Thrace and Macedonia, regions

which have suffered terribly from floods during the year; M. Karapanayiotis, Minister of Communications, who has also been in Macedonia, visiting the railway which is being made between Verria and Kalabaka, and the drainage works of the Foundation Company in the Vardar valley. With the latter he expressed himself satisfied, admitting that the State was not free from blame for delay in the progress of this important work; with the former he expressed himself not satisfied, attributing the delay partly to the Company and partly to the deficiency of the supply of trained personnel on the part of the State. The necessity of the terms of their contracts of attaching innumerable half-trained engineers, etc., to their staffs, who are merely hindrances, is, in fact, one of the principal obstacles to the execution of any work undertaken by foreign concerns in this country, and M. Karapanayiotis is to be congratulated on exposing it.

M. Argyropoulos, Minister of the Interior, has also been visiting various districts. His Department is engaged in preparing a new scheme of administration, of which the leading idea is to replace the existing division into Nomes and Eparchies by the creation of 16 new administrative areas with 66 sub-divisions. Three of the larger units, Corcyra (Corfu), Samos, and the Cyclades, will be known as "independent" areas. The scheme envisages an experiment in decentralisation of which the administrative units will be 66 sub-divisions.

The School at Spetsae.

The School at Spetsae will shortly enter upon its third year of life. It is gratifying to know that the headmaster, Mr. Sloman, is remaining, and that the Committee has been reorganised. Mr. Sloman is to have, it seems, a former Master of Robert College as co-director. It is to be hoped that the experiment will prove a success.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, August 30.

The Work of Parliament.

Parliament closed for the summer vacation at the end of July after having triumphantly passed the new Administration Law, which the Government will at once begin to bring into force. The Liberal Party, however, still considers that the new measures are diametrically opposed to its traditional theories, which are based upon the principle of absolute centralisation. It is, accordingly, carrying on a violent Press campaign against the Law, pointing out the baneful consequences which it is likely to bring in its train. The partisans of General Averescu have ranged themselves on the side of the Liberals, and their Press echoes the same objections to the Law, while both parties propose to take more active measures to oppose the Law as soon as the autumn session opens.

M. Duca still shows his aversion from his Party's campaign of opposition and considers that it would be better to allow the Government of M. Maniu to try the experiment of their innovations. M. Lupu sits on the fence.

In the meantime the National-Peasant Government is strengthening its position and gaining in popularity, in spite of the new taxation that it was obliged to impose owing to the precarious financial situation inherited from its predecessors. The crisis, which has been acute, shows daily signs of alleviation, thanks to the wise and radical measures of economy, which have been gently but firmly applied.

M. Mihal Popovici, Minister of Finance, has published a Bulletin of Financial Information, giving figures that are distinctly reassuring for the future. M. Popovici says:

"Roumania has just passed through the most serious economic crisis in her history. This was brought about not only by the combination of circumstances and difficulties caused by the War, but also, and in greater measure, by the erroneous economic policy hitherto adopted by suc-

cessive Governments. The present Government, abandoning the narrow and retrograde "nationalistic" policy of its predecessors, has re-established contact with the economic tendencies of the modern world by means of a series of judicious laws, which, taken together, cannot fail to open up new outlets and give a fresh impetus towards happy prosperity to the national economy as soon as normal conditions have set in. Before long stabilisation will have proved the wisdom of the wider view which characterises this policy."

Economic Reconstruction.

The harvest promises to be very abundant this year. As regards wheat, it is not yet known what quantity there will be for export, but the requirements of the home market are already abundantly assured. As to other cereals, there will be a large surplus for export both of maize and of barley, of which the value is estimated approximately at 20 milliard lei.

The revised Import Tariff, which was passed by Parliament just before it rose and came into force on August 1, is also expected to contribute to a general improvement of trade. In fact it is long since the agricultural prospects appeared in so favourable a light from the economic point of view. It is, therefore, confidently hoped that the autumn will bring relief from the great strain to which the trade and finances of the country have recently been subjected, more especially as the advances of foreign capital already obtained are beginning to have a favourable effect.

The Agrarian Bank of Roumania, a new institution established under the auspices of the present Government for the express purpose of coming to the aid of agriculture (one of the governing principles of the Government's policy) has now received legal sanction by vote of Parliament, and its subscription list is already well covered. A large proportion of its capital comes from French and German sources.

An Arghesh-Bucharest Canal.

Another Law passed last session is that sanctioning the construction of a canal connecting Bucharest with the Arghesh and with the Danube, which would make Bucharest a port. The capital for this enterprise will be partly Roumanian and partly subscribed by a group of Dutch and English banks. A great future is predicted for the canal, in view of the enormous advantages to be obtained.

The Railway Administration.

The question of transport is another of the vital matters to which the Government has given its serious consideration, and active measures have already been taken to start a road-repairing scheme on a large scale, while the Railway Administration is carrying out a wide-reaching system of improvements both in internal administration and by the purchase of rolling stock and material of all kinds. Efforts are being made to finish some of the new lines already begun, to form connecting links between the provinces united to Roumania since the War, and, with a view to economy and efficiency, radical modifications are being made in the staff of the central Railway Offices.

The Lupeni Strike.

In Roumania as in other countries the opening day of August passed without notable incident. During the first week of the month, however, a large number of the miners in the Lupeni Coal Mine came out on strike, and attempted to destroy the pumping station. The situation was so critical that a police force had to be called in to defend the mine, and, as the miners would not listen to reason the police were obliged to have recourse to arms. A struggle ensued in which ten men were killed and twenty wounded. Order was restored, however, within half an hour. A judicial inquiry was made into the cause of this outbreak, and it appears to have been due to a difference between the miners and their employers, whom the former accused of not having kept certain engagements. This-

difference was exploited by certain outside agitators who excited the miners to revolt. The incident was not due to Communist influence, and was purely a local matter.

The Anniversary of Marashesht.

On August 7 was celebrated with solemn ceremony the anniversary of the victory of Marashesht, Roumania's Verdun, where Roumanian troops wrote one of the most glorious and blood-stained pages in the annals of the country's history. Though terribly outnumbered, the Roumanian soldiers fought with indomitable courage and grit against the repeated furious assaults of the superior forces of Mackensen, on whom they inflicted heavy losses, obliging them to retreat and thus saving Moldavia from the German invasion. Religious services were held in all the Churches of Roumania; military parades were held, and thousands of pilgrims and the heads of the Government and of the Army visited the battlefield to do pious homage to the thousands of Roumanian dead there buried, who fell in defence of their country. Prince Nicholas, as Regent of Roumania, was also present at the Marashesht ceremony.

The Summer Exodus.

Queen Marie of Roumania has taken up her residence at Sinaia, on her return from Bled, where she visited her daughter, the Queen of Yugoslavia. King Michael has gone to Mammaia on the Black Sea (near Constantza) with his mother, the Princess Helen.

In Bucharest the thermometer daily registers from 38 to 40 degrees Celsius (100 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit) and consequently everyone who can is taking refuge in the mountains or at the sea coast.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 29.

Indian Finance.

There was a puzzling contradiction in the statement made recently by Mr. Faizulla Gangjee to Sir George Schuster, Finance Member, in Calcutta. As I could not throw any light on it immediately, I said nothing. I have had some talk this week with a leading Nationalist, and now I have some light to throw on the matter. The contradiction was in the following: "We need not repeat here what has already been made clear on the floor of the Assembly, i.e., that the taxable capacity of the country has reached a limit beyond which it is impossible to go, and we wish to make it further clear that it will be impossible for the Government to get general consent for any proposal for new taxation unless the same is indispensable and calculated to promote the interest of the country." That was to say, first, that further taxation is impossible; secondly, that the country would agree to new taxation (then new taxation is possible?), if there was no help for it, and if the money was to be spent to promote the country's interest. That is an obvious contradiction. What I have now learnt is that the opinion is held by Mr. Gangjee that the raising of new taxation by the Government as now constituted is impossible. The country would never tolerate that at the hands of a Government so unpopular. I was for a moment in doubt whether I might not write "so detested." It would more than tolerate it at the hands of a Government that was representative of and trusted by the people. There is sense in that.

A Popular Government's Finance.

I asked my friend to tell me a little more of the financial policy of a Government of India representative of the Indian peoples. There would certainly be new taxation, he said. The Provincial Governments must be given a larger share of the revenue raised in the Provinces; for they must spend much more on such things as education, health services, agricultural and industrial research. There would be a greater deficit in consequence in the

Central Government's budget than could be met by retrenchment. They would count, of course, on retrenching. The head under which they counted on retrenching most was that of the army. They would save by having less British troops to pay for. All that saving would not be a clear saving, i.e., a saving available to meet the revenue lost to the Provinces; for they would increase the Indian Army. My interlocutor thought the British garrison might be reduced—not of course immediately, but say in the course of ten years—from 80,000 to 40,000. The country would cheerfully bear new taxation, if it was imposed by a trusted, popular Government. A Government representative of the people would be a popular one. Perhaps; but it is true that there have been Governments in France that were, in a sense, more representative of the people than the new Government of India can ever be, whose greatest difficulty arose from the fact that the existing taxes were unpopular.

The Unpopular Government.

What makes the present Government of India so unpopular? That was another question I asked. Some of the members of it are actually Indians. The Secretariat is composed, below the rank of Secretary, and not a few of the Secretaries are Indians, almost entirely of Indians. Why should that Government be so unpopular? First, there are enough Britons for the Government to appear in the general mind of the country as wholly British. Men will say: "We are governed by foreigners." Then there is a general dissatisfaction, largely fed by the unemployment among the *intelligentsia*, and in the "mist" of that atmosphere of dissatisfaction every ill thing appears hugely magnified. The news of the blow that Lala Lajpat Rai received on the day the Statutory Commission entered Lahore, followed not so long afterwards by the news of his death—those things have worked upon the popular imagination until its feeling against the Government is bitterness. The Government is not just unpopular; it is detested, and men are ready to destroy it violently. I myself see in all that the working of that love in Indians of the excitement of hysteria of which I have written. The Indians naturally do not see themselves in any such light.

The Presidentship of the Congress.

Another puzzle, if not a contradiction, was why Mr. Gandhi, declining the presidentship of the Congress himself, should have recommended, not Mr. Vallabhai Patel, who received five votes as against his ten, but Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who received only three. That is Mr. Gandhi's clever "diplomacy," we are told. The British Government were shown the Gandhi whips last December: next December they will be shown the Jawaharlal scorpions. Or to put it another way, it is as if Mr. Gandhi had said: "I have showed you how far I myself am ready to go, if you do not pledge Great Britain to accord India a sufficient measure of self-government, and if you do not do that this year. You had better be quick about things; for see, after December 31 the man you will have to deal with will no longer be the relatively pacific Gandhi, but the fire-eating Jawaharlal." Indians watching events, men of long and wide experience of public affairs, will say: "He is a clever man is Mr. Gandhi," and they are proud of their leader. Mr. Gandhi, one can see oneself, is certainly the leader they have most right to be proud of.

A Round Table Conference.

The opinion still holds, that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, but he must not defer acting much longer, has it in his hands to avert the threatened crisis at the end of this year: the using of the Jawaharlal scorpions. Let him but once have issued invitations in his own name to the leading Indian politicians to a Round Table Conference in London, be it a Conference in the spring or in the summer, and all those leaders will be ready to stay their hands. To some it is grievous that Mr. MacDonald should not issue the invitations at once. Why doesn't he? they ask.

The answer is that he "must save Sir John Simon's face;" that Sir John, if he thought he had been treated by the Prime Minister with less than the deference due, would take steps to have the present British Cabinet turned out of office. That may be: it is more likely that the Prime Minister is still consulting those who will tell him how many Indian leaders to invite, and who they are who should be chosen rather than others. Sir John Simon, if he were told that, while the issue of the invitations was to take place before the sending in of his Report, the Conference would not be until after it was published, would see that he had nothing to complain of. One writer thinks the situation is complicated by the fact that the Secretary of State for India canvassed against Sir John Simon during the General Election. Can that now count? One knows there is pettiness enough in British politics: is there as much as that would show?

Communalism.

Attention may be drawn to an address by Mr. N. C. Kelkar as President of the Provincial Hindu Conference at Dacca. Mr. Kelkar deals very frankly and openly with the hydra-heads of the communal problem—conversion to Muhammadanism and Christianity; separate electorates; the Hindu fear that the Muslim is aspiring once more to overrun India, "through the corridor he has proposed to build from Constantinople to Calcutta." Mr. Kelkar would himself prefer separate electorates rather than yield as much as the Muslims are demanding as the price of their agreeing to joint electorates. "We may have to accept eventually," said Mr. Kelkar, "what Government will make up their mind to give us by way of a solution of the communal problem."

THE MIND OF MODERN INDIA.

BY THE HON. SIR PHIROZE SETHNA, O.B.E.

We always profess to know other countries and other peoples, and we even think that a few weeks' visit to a country entitles us to write a book thereon and to tell the whole civilised world that we have discovered the secret of its greatness or the causes of its backwardness, fall or ruin. What is most important about a country is to know its Mind or Soul. This is an extremely difficult thing. To know the mind or soul of an individual, even after a close contact extending over many years, is difficult enough. Infinitely more difficult is it to know the mind or soul of a country or its people. It can only be gleaned from a patient and careful study of its past history, its ideals of thought and life, the vicissitudes which those ideals may have passed, the impact of outside forces, the aims which inspire its great men, its literature, the activities and movements which occupy the people and receive their earnest and single-minded devotion. Superficialities and appearances must be cast aside, prejudice must be given up, judgment must not be allowed to be warped by any conscious or unconscious sense of racial or national superiority; we must penetrate, with deep imagination and sympathy, below the skins of the people, and then only their mind or soul will be revealed to us. But if it is difficult to know the mind or soul of a people, it is absolutely necessary to do.

We have now reached a stage in the development of the world which requires us to think internationally, to develop an international mind and outlook, to approach all important questions not only from the national point of view, but also—and perhaps more—from the international point of view. Three years ago Professor Alfred Zimmern delivered a lecture at the Geneva Institute of International Affairs "on the development of the International Mind," and he concluded his lecture with these words:—

If we are to stand together and to work together, let us work together so that every one of us, like Shakespeare's Puck, may

learn how to stretch a girdle of thought and of sympathy round the entire world.

Yes, it is quite true that we must all develop the international mind, but it is obvious that the right international mind cannot be developed unless we know the national mind of each country or people. This is all the more necessary in the case of those countries or peoples that are not yet politically free or self-governing.

What is the mind of modern India? India is such a vast country with such diverse conditions that some people may be inclined to doubt whether modern India has one mind. To this it may be replied whether any nation or people has one mind. Can England claim to have one mind? Can France? Can Germany? It may perhaps be said that at least Italy has one mind, but even that is doubtful. But I shall not pursue this point further; it is more in the nature of a retort than an argument.

The first thing that must be realised is that modern India, in spite of her vastness, the variety of her populations and the diversity of her conditions, and in spite of communal discords and fights, the flaring headlines about which in the Press may perhaps give rise to false impressions, is developing a common mind. The development is not yet complete, but the process has been going on, and it seems reasonable to infer that it will continue until the development is complete and a common national mind is fully evolved. The common mind is at present in the making, just as it may be said that the international mind in the world is in the making, but there is no doubt that the evolution of the common mind has reached a stage which renders further development inevitable.

Where does modern India begin? It begins with the establishment of British rule and the introduction of Western education. What contributions have British rule and Western education made to the formation and development of the Indian mind? In order to understand those contributions, let us first bear in mind that India has had a long and chequered history, that she had already developed a peculiar and unique civilisation before she came under British rule and Western influences began to act on her in full force. Though split up into numerous kingdoms, great and small, which only twice were consolidated into a vast almost All-India Empire—once under the great Buddhist monarch Asoka in the 4th century B.C. and again under Chandragupta in the 4th century A.D.—India enjoyed independence till the establishment of Muhammadan domination in the 13th century A.D. During the long period of Hindu rule, Hindu civilisation itself had undergone many phases, some most brilliant and progressive, others marked by decline and disintegration. The two centuries before the Muhammadan invasions constituted the darkest period of ancient India, her middle ages. But before the shades of this period began to fall on her, her life had been marked by harmony between thought and action, by a happy blend of the material and spiritual sides of civilisation. But this harmony was subsequently broken. Life came to be realised as an evil and an illusion, fatalism ran rampant, men began to wrap themselves up in the barren spirit of dreaminess and mysticism; and their interests became coterminous with those of bread-and-butter and of the petty concerns of caste. And the material standard itself declined and no incentive was felt to maintain a high level of economic existence. A mistaken and misunderstood philosophy of life and the disintegration of caste had done their work, and the Indian mind had become passive, dreamy, mystic, caste-ridden, parochial, inert, wanting in vigour of body, mind and soul and therefore easily liable to be overcome by superior foreign forces. Such was the state of the Indian—that is, the Hindu mind—when India came under Muslim rule, and such on the whole it continued to be on the eve of the British conquest.

Have British rule and Western education changed this mentality of India or not? British rule has been on the whole an enlightened and progressive force, whatever sins of commission and omission it may have been guilty of

and whatever criticisms may justly be passed upon it. Some Indians decry Western education, but there is no doubt whatever that it has exercised a tremendous and far-reaching effect upon the Indian mind. Racial or national mentality is supposed to be immutable and fixed, incapable of being modified—radically modified—by the operation of new forces. This notion is wrong and can be easily disproved by historical instances. The German mentality, or soul, of Goethe's time was quite different from the mentality or soul which Germany evolved under the Bismarckian régime and ultimately developed in the pre-War period. The change was due to the system of government, the system of education and the new ideals and aims which were deliberately inculcated into the minds of the German people. These two forces—the system of government and the system of education—never fail to produce great effects upon the mental type of a people; they can even change it radically. Speaking about the Russians of the present Bolshevik régime, Mr. Michael Farbman said in a lecture he delivered in 1926, on "The Foreign Policy of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics":—

Anyone who compares, either from personal experience or from knowledge of Russian literature, pre-revolutionary Russia and Russia to-day must be struck by the change in the mentality and the aspirations of the people. The main element in this new mentality is activity instead of dreaminess, the utmost degree of self-confidence in place of diffidence and humility, and the desire to get on and to make money in place of a longing for spiritual and artistic perfection. The tendency to make good is so amazingly developed and cultivated among Russians of to-day that one gets the impression that Russia is speedily acquiring the American spirit.

These instances clearly show that a nation's or a people's mentality can be radically altered by the action of new powerful forces. And British rule and Western education have proved such powerful forces that it is no wonder that under their influence the Indian mentality has undergone and is undergoing great changes. And one change it has undergone is that it has given up and is giving up its age-long dreaminess and has developed and is developing the spirit of activity. For the most important feature of the mind of modern India is the spirit of activity that marks it. It is active in almost every sphere of thought and life. Though handicapped by various circumstances and limitations, it is yet showing marvellous activity. She has discarded the passive type of life and adopted or readopted the active type of life. I say readopted, because such a type of life is not a new thing to India, since before her decline in the 12th century it was a normal type. The keynote of the Bhagvatgita, the one religious book that has exercised and still exercises the greatest influence upon the Hindu mind, is a life of activity, of strenuous and disinterested duty for the sake of duty and of nothing else. In readopting the life of activity modern India has reverted to a type that prevailed in the best days of ancient India and made her great, powerful and prosperous.

What is the impelling motive of this spirit of activity? It is to make India a great self-governing modern nation that will take a high rank among the great, enlightened and progressive nations of the world.

(To be continued.)

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

The Provincial Reports.

The reports which have been issued so far by the Committees which were appointed by the Provincial Legislative Councils to confer with the Simon Commission are interesting documents. These Committees, it will be recalled, are representative of those members of the Councils who were willing to co-operate with the Commission. The Swarajist members, in pursuance of their policy of boycott, refused to co-operate and they consequently had nothing to do with the Committees. This being so, the opinions expressed in the reports are those held by the more moderate sections of the politically minded classes. Consideration of them suggests that there is much diversity of opinion even as among those classes. But at the same time the reports exhibit a certain measure of agreement, as will be clear from the following summary of their more important proposals.

The Madras report deals in more or less detail with most of the major issues. Its main recommendations are: (a) that provincial autonomy or, in other words, full responsible government in the province, should be granted; (b) that responsible government should be established in all the civil departments of the Government of India with the exception of those dealing with defence, foreign relations, and relations with the Indian States; and (c) that the British Government should declare that full dominion status within the British Commonwealth of Nations is accepted as the goal of India to be achieved within a reasonably definite period. Provincial autonomy is defined as meaning self-government of the people in the province, which implies responsible government. Responsibility should not be limited, the Committee recommend, to a part of the provincial sphere of government, but should be extended to that sphere in full; and that the limits within which the Provincial Government is independent of the Central Government should be prescribed. The Committee do not favour the extension of the franchise to all adults. They would leave the franchise as it is, and empower the Legislative Council to alter it according to requirements. They would retain for a time communal electorates for Muslims, Indian Christians, and Europeans and Anglo-Indians. The executive power in the province the Committee would vest in the Governor acting with a Cabinet of seven Ministers. The Governor would select the Chief Minister, on whose recommendation he would appoint the other six Ministers. The Ministers would be jointly responsible to the Council and should resign if a no-confidence motion against them were carried by a majority of the total strength of the Council. A second Chamber is considered to be necessary, its constitution and functions to be tentatively similar to those of the Council of State. It would have not more than fifty members; and the Legislative Council would number 150 or, if the franchise should be lowered, 200 members. As regards the Central Government, the Committee believe that control of the Civil Departments by a popularly elected legislature, to whom the executive should be responsible, is essential in the interests of true economic

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progress. They hold that "control over customs, railways, shipping, banking and currency, and exchange, if it continues in the hands of an irresponsible Government, however justly the latter may act, will breed irritation and suspicion on the part of the people." With reference to the Army the Committee recommend that immediate action be taken on the lines of the report of the Skeen Committee, so that defence forces mainly officered by Indians may be created within the period set for the attainment of Dominion status.

The Bengal Committee, in summarising its main conclusions, says that the ultimate goal, so far as the province is concerned, is complete provincial autonomy. That is to say, autonomy *vis-à-vis* the Central Government, and the establishment of an internal political system of full responsible government. For the attainment of this goal the immediate steps recommended by the Committee are, first of all, a revised financial adjustment between Bengal and the Central Government; and, secondly, the transfer of all provincial subjects except Law and Order to Ministers responsible to and removable by the Legislature. Thirdly, the Committee recommend the establishment of an Upper Chamber. Other recommendations are that the two major communities should be represented in the Legislature in proportion to their numbers; that the ultimate authority for legislation should vest in a joint session of the two Chambers; and that separate communal electorates should be maintained. With reference to the first recommendation quoted above the Committee hold that no political reform is worth having, unless and until the financial problem is satisfactorily solved. They are of the opinion that under the present allocation of revenue Bengal is the least solvent of the provinces; and they insist that an additional Rs.4 crores must be assigned to her. Under the Committee's scheme the Executive Government would consist of the Governor with a body of seven Ministers to be appointed by the Governor. All the Ministers would have joint responsibility; they would be selected from both Houses; and one of them would be the Prime Minister. Regarding Law and Order, the Committee make an interesting suggestion. It is that this subject should be transferred to a Minister who would be assisted in administering the Department by a Board consisting of three members, namely, a Hindu, a Muslim, and a European, to be appointed by the Governor. Universal adult suffrage is deemed by the Committee to be undesirable and impracticable on account of the illiteracy of the masses. But they would reduce the franchise and increase the number of members of the Council. As to the precise

number they are not agreed, but 200 on the one hand and 280 on the other are the limits which they suggest. The number of members of the Upper Chamber would be equivalent to 30 per cent. or 40 per cent. of the Lower. The Committee hold that a strong Central Government is essential; and they consider that it should be of the federal type, and that the minority communities should be adequately represented in it.

The Bombay Committee are divided in their views and one member has issued a separate report. The majority urge the removal of the official *bloc* in the Legislative Council; and they are also opposed to the principle of nomination in respect of the Council. They are in favour of the immediate transfer to Ministers of all provincial subjects with the exception of law and order, which should, they consider, remain reserved for a further short period. The communal disorders which have occurred in Bombay and elsewhere in India are such as to make it, in their opinion, dangerous to transfer this subject at once. After the expiration of, say, five years the province would become completely autonomous with a unitary government consisting entirely of Ministers chosen from among the members of the Legislative Council. They would have a chief Minister at their head, and they would be jointly responsible to the Council. The Committee would widen the electorate so as to enable the rural population to be more largely represented. The existing system of communal electorates would be continued and seats would be reserved for the depressed classes, for labour, and for other sections of the population. The establishment of an Upper Chamber is recommended with the object of providing a safeguard against the passing of hasty and ill-considered legislation. The Upper Chamber could be elected on the franchise prescribed for the Council of State. It might consist, the Committee think, of about thirty members, of whom ten might be nominated. The special powers of vetoing and certifying which are now vested in the Governor might, the Committee suggest, be withdrawn. But they would favour the retention by the Governor of certain emergency powers. They are unanimous in assuming the existence of a strong Central Government, capable of exercising a unifying influence over the country by legislation and by administrative action, and of interfering effectively in the administration of a provincial government in the case of a break-down. The Central Government which they have in mind would be of the unitary and not of the federal type. On the important question of the separation of Sind, the Committee are divided, but the majority are opposed to separation. Financial reasons are of themselves sufficiently strong, the majority consider, to make the proposal impracticable.

The other provincial reports will be dealt with in a subsequent issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

The Indian Legislative Assembly on September 11 passed the transfer of Property Act Amendment Bill.

The Indian Legislative Assembly on September 12 discussed the Home Members' Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill, which was introduced for its second reading.

Mr. Reuben Manley Thurley, late Deputy Commissioner of Abkari and secretary of the Board of Examiners, Government of Madras, died in London on September 10 at the age of 65.

Sir Sassoon Jacob David, Bt., K.C.S.I., of Esplanade Road, Bombay, India, merchant, lately Chairman of the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company, Ltd., and a member of the Imperial Legislative Council of the Viceroy of India, who died on September 27, 1926, aged 77, left personal estate in England now sworn as of the net value of £4,242, in addition to property in India of the net value of 1,607,500 rupees (at par value £241,125), making a total of £245,367. The Indian grant states that this is exclusive of trust property valued at over 20,000,000 rupees. The will is dated February 10, 1926. He left 5,000 rupees for distribution within one month of his death among the needy poor of the Jewish community of Bombay: 5,000 rupees each to his "old friend and medical adviser," Sir Temuljee Bhicaji Nariman, and my "confidential adviser and friend," Jivali Dinshaw Ghandy, in each case "as a token of my great regard for them." And he directed that any of his descendants who shall marry a person not of Jewish descent and professing the Jewish Faith should forfeit all interest under his will.



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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

September 19, 1929 (New Style).
 September 6, 1929 (Old Style).
 Rabia II, 14, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.
 Ellul 14, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Edward Spencer Churchill has returned to London from Belgrade.

Sir Victor Sassoon will leave Marseilles to-morrow (Friday), for Bombay.

Sir Geoffrey Archer arrived at Marseilles from Bombay on September 13, in the P. and O. s.s. Malwa.

The Maharaja of Tikary arrived at Marseilles from Bombay on September 13 in the s.s. Malwa.

Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson returned to Wokingham on September 14 from Spain.

M. Aliasghar Taleghani, ex-Provincial Treasurer of Tabriz, has been transferred to Teheran.

Following the collapse of the revolt of the Bakhtiari, Modirol-Molk has been appointed Governor of the Bakhtiari country.

Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall, who have been staying at Le Touquet, have returned to 39, Hill Street, Berkeley Square.

Sir Henry Norman and Miss Rosalind Norman have left England for a Mediterranean cruise. They expect to return early in October.

Captain and Mrs. Duncan McCallum who recently returned to Cheyne Walk, from Italy, left London for Ireland and Scotland at the end of last week.

Sir Reginald Patterson, who has been staying at Dalmeny Court, Piccadilly, since the end of July, left on September 14 for Egypt.

M. Jem, formerly Minister of Public Works and Commerce in the Persian Cabinet, has proceeded to Meshed to take up his new appointment as Governor-General of Khorasan.

Major Hubert Young, Colonial Secretary, at Gibraltar, who was recently appointed Counsellor to the High Commissioner in Iraq, left Gibraltar on September 15 for England, travelling by the overland route. He will probably fly to Baghdad.

The programme of lectures to be delivered at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, at 3 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon during the winter include one on December 11 by Sir E. Denison Ross, on "The Situation in the Middle East," at which Major-General Sir Percy Cox will take the Chair; and on February 19 a lecture on "The Navy in the Persian Gulf," will be delivered by Captain R. St. P. Parry, with Vice-Admiral B. S. Thesiger in the Chair.

Mr. Charles Rey, who has been until recently Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, is leaving England to take up the post of Resident Commissioner for Bechuanaland. Apart from his Government services, extending over nearly thirty years, Mr. Rey is well known in connexion with his special work in Abyssinia. His first association with that country in 1919 and 1920 led to three subsequent visits, and he is the author of two books: "Unconquered Abyssinia as it is To-day," and "In the Country of the Blue Nile." In all these travels he was accompanied by Mrs. Rey.

Mr. E. G. Lomas, H.B.M.'s Consul in Cairo, has been appointed H.B.M.'s Consul-General in Tunis. Mr. Lomas is expected to leave Cairo to take up his new appointment in a few months' time.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

The new session of the Central Asian Society, in which is incorporated the Persia Society, begins to-morrow (September 20), when, at 5 p.m., in the Royal Society's Hall, Burlington House, W.1., Brig.-Gen. H. Rowan Robinson will lecture on "The Place of India in Imperial Defence." General Sir George MacMunn will be in the Chair.

The next lecture will be given on September 25, at 5 p.m., at 74, Grosvenor Street, by Dr. Emil Trinkler, whose subject is "Geographical and Archaeological Explorations in the Deserts of Chinese Turkistan." This lecture will be illustrated.

THE PALESTINE INQUIRY.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed the following Members of Parliament to serve under the chairmanship of Sir Walter Shaw, formerly Chief Justice of the Straits Settlements, on the Commission of Inquiry regarding the recent disturbances in Palestine:—Sir Henry B. Betterton (Conservative), Mr. R. Hopkin Morris (Liberal), and Mr. Henry Snell (Labour). Mr. T. I. K. Lloyd, of the Colonial Office, will be Secretary of the Commission.

It is hoped that the Commission will sail for Palestine towards the end of this month or early in October.

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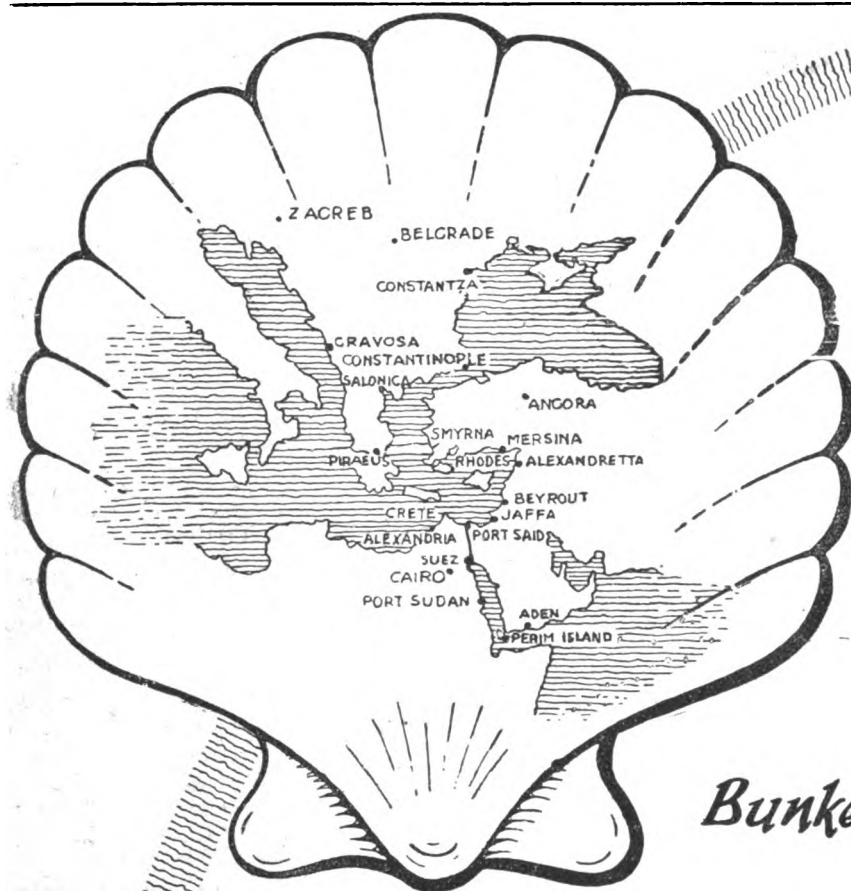
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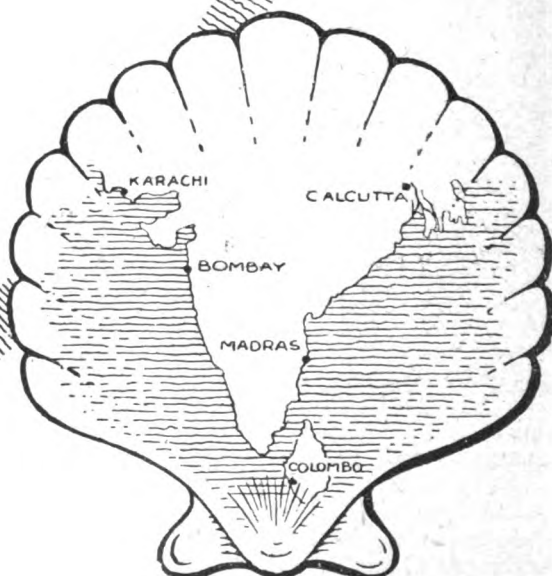
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Book Reviews

THE LITTLE ENTENTE.

"THE LITTLE ENTENTE." By Robert Machray, Illustrated. (London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd., 12s. 6d. net.)

Whatever may be the individual reader's views on the effect of the Little Entente on post-War European politics, it is certainly desirable that there should be available in English a consecutive story of its origin, its aims and its accomplishment up-to-date. So far the only book, in a language accessible to ordinary Western Europeans, that has tried to fill the gap is by M. Albert Mousset, a book which Mr. Machray has made full and frank use of. But it is six years old and is in French.

It is an everlastingly disputed question whether a historian should be entirely impartial or not. Possibly the verdict of most of the readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA would be for the man who takes sides, provided that he does so fairly and avoids the pitfalls of propaganda. If so, Mr. Machray's version of the story will find favour. He is quite definitely a warm admirer of the *Petite Entente*, but he does not distort facts in order to make converts. Indeed, the reviewer's only serious complaint against him is that he is apt to be, especially in the latter half of the book, unnecessarily long winded and prosy. After all, one does not want to be told the exact hour at which each Conference of the Entente opened, or to read the *communiqués* issued after each *séance* with their monotonous repetition that the three parties found themselves in perfect agreement. And long extracts from the three speeches to the Press which regularly follow each Conference tend to be dull. So, one may say, are the constant and long quotations from the numerous carefully prepared speeches by Monsieur Benesh in Parliament and elsewhere. One cannot but feel that, with a little more trouble, the author might well have been able to digest these things and to give them to us in his own, and much fewer, words. He might also, had he given himself more time, have presented us with a real history of the movement instead of a series of glimpses into the very unreal tracts of diplomacy outside which he rarely wanders. Or again, he might have been able to place Yugoslavia and Roumania in better perspective, instead of allowing Czechoslovakia, or rather Benesh, to occupy the whole foreground and most of the middle distance.

But these are faults readily forgiven in view of the substantial value of a book that will hold the field until it has to give way to the critical and philosophical work by the historian steeped in the knowledge of his subject—which may be expected one day, but not till much that is now dim and misty in the future of Central Europe has become clear by the evolution of circumstances.

The eight excellent photographs of the chief Foreign Ministers of the Little Entente are much to be commended.

C. S.W.

THE DIWAN OF NASIR-I-KHUSRAU.

The publication* in Teheran is announced of a critical edition of the works of Násir-i-Khusrau of Isfahan, free-thinker, poet and traveller of the eleventh century, and perhaps the best known exponent of the Sufi philosophy, which originated in Persia, probably as a reaction from the rigid bonds which the Arab conquerors attempted to impose upon a more cultured race, and has had widespread repercussions throughout the East.

Násir Khusrau was a contemporary of another famous Persian, Avicenna, physician and mystic of Rhages, who was also regarded as a heretic, and had the mortification of seeing his works publicly burned. He was a thorough Sufi, and his poetry, though strikingly beautiful, was so heretical as to be abhorrent to all good Muslims. Once whilst in Balkh he

stopped at the booth of a cobbler to have a shoe repaired : a great uproar was heard in the distance ; the cobbler ran to see what was the matter and returned a few minutes later with a piece of raw flesh on his awl. "What is that?" said Násir Khusrau. "An ill-advised youth recited in public some of the infamous verses of the detestable Sufi, Násir Khusrau of Isfahan : he has been hewn in pieces before the Lord, and I myself, as an act of merit, have taken a fragment for remembrance." "Shame on the city," replied the trembling poet, "where the poetry of such a man is known or even heard of. As for me, I will depart forthwith" : and go he did, leaving his shoe with the pious cobbler.

The volume under review, consisting of 810 pages, is prefaced by a scholarly and comprehensive study of the life and teachings of Násir Khusrau by H.E. Saiyid Hasan Taqizadeh, the present Persian Minister in London, who, like his cultured predecessor, Hovhannes Khan, is deeply interested in Persian literature, and has done much to elucidate and popularise the greater classics of his own country.

The main body of the work consists of : (1) the "Diwan" proper, containing over 11,000 verses, collated by the learned scholar Haji Saiyid Nasrallah Taqawi, from a number of ancient MSS.; (2) the "Rushanai nameh"; (3) the "Saadat nameh"; (4) a hitherto unknown prose work, all by the same author; and (5) critical notes by Agha Mainavi and Agha Dehkuda, a former editor of the "Sur-i-Israfil." Scholars will be interested to compare this edition with that published by the Kaviani Press in Berlin in 1922, and with the translations and commentaries of Schefer, Ethé, Fagnan, Pertsch and Rieu. The last three authorities held that there were two Násir-i-Khusraus, of whom one was the poet, philosopher and magician, and the other the traveller, but E. G. Browne (J.R.A.S., April, 1905) considers this thesis to have been decisively disproved by Schefer and Ethé.

The publication of critical texts of notable Persian authors has hitherto been left for the most part to European savants, and there is no better proof of the growth of national life and public spirit than the renewed interest now being shown in Persia, of which this volume is the first fruits, in the classical literature of the nation. To quote a traditional saying of the Prophet Muhammad, generally recognised as authentic—"If knowledge were in the Pleiades, the Persians would reach it."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"All Things Come Round." By G. B. Burgin. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Sin and Sand." By Helen Halyburton Ross. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Socrates in an Indian Village." By F. L. Brayne. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Waters of Africa." By A. Aloysius Horn. Edited by Ethelreda Lewis. (London: Jonathan Cape. 7s. 6d. net.)

"A Voyage to Surat in the year 1680." By J. Ovington. Edited by H. G. Rawlinson. (London: Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Music for All." By Cyril Winn. "The English." By H. W. Nevinson. "The Will to Work." By G. H. Miles. "What Darwin Really Said." With an Introduction by Julian Huxley. Introductions to Modern Knowledge Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 11. (London: Routledge. 6d. each net.)

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SOME TRIBES OF THE SOUTHERN SUDAN—I.*

(From a Correspondent.)

The one "object of interest" for tourists who reach Rejaf is Baker's Rock. It is a large, flat block of granite, standing upon a pedestal of clay, at a height of some ten feet from the ground. Europeans and Arabs have painted their names, initials, and dates all over the rock, but if the traveller takes the trouble to climb on to the flat top of the rock, he will find a more ancient and more interesting kind of inscription. The smooth face of the



A SHILLUK OF MALAKAL.

rock is pitted with a series of small depressions, worn by women grinding *durra* there for many years, if not for centuries. That must have been long ago, for now the rock stands some ten feet or more above the level of the surrounding ground: the soil has been washed away for that depth with the exception of the column which the rock caps. The Upper Nile has thus been inhabited for centuries, and has a history perhaps as ancient as that of the Lower Nile Valley. But it is unwritten, for the European has arrived late on the scenes. A hundred years ago Khartoum was founded by one of the military expeditions of Mehemet Ali. It was this southward movement of the Turkish power in Egypt which first brought Europeans into touch with the Shilluks, the northernmost of the Nilotic negroes. Fifty years ago, the German scientists Schweinfurth and Junker were writing the first detailed accounts of the tribes of the Bahr el Ghazal and the Nile Congo watershed. Thirty years ago, after the dozen years of the Mahdist rule, the country was once more thrown open to investigation by the victory at Omdurman.

By now a great deal of miscellaneous information exists about the inhabitants of the Southern Sudan, and within ten years or so it may be supposed that the origin and relationships of the various tribes, the provenance of their languages, and the other problems of the kind will be more or less thoroughly solved. As it is, a few main facts begin to stand out and help to show the wood from the trees.

In the first place, along the whole length of the Nile, from Lake Albert to Dongola, there is or has been a common language stock. Thus the Acholi who live on Latitude 3°N., have a language closely similar to that of the Shilluks, who live as much as seven degrees further north. In the same way the Bari, who are found round Rejaf, have many word roots in common with the Mahass,

a much Arabized people living on the Nile north of Khartoum. It may in the end prove that the Meroitic inscriptions of the Northern Sudan which at present can be read but not translated may have a Nilotic element in them.

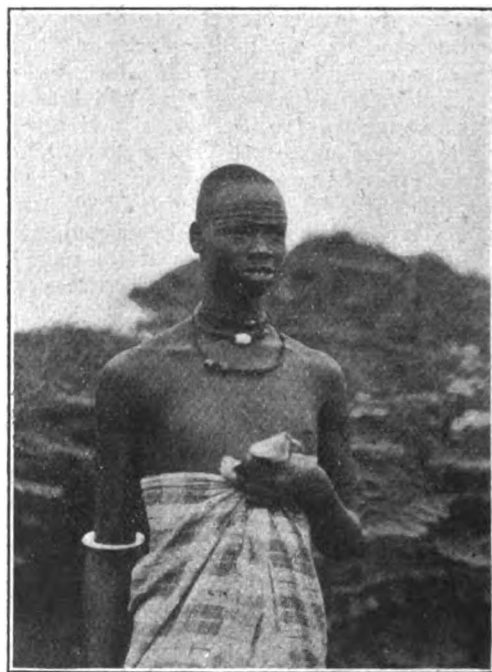
In the second place, there has been a stream of influence in culture and language coming in upon the Nile Valley from the east, from the Red Sea, Abyssinia, and Somaliland. This influence, which has been labelled Hamitic, can be recognised by the good facial type of many of the people on the Nile, who are far from negro in appearance, and also by a particular syntax which has been grafted on a number of Nilotic tongues. Further, it seems to have conferred on them their extreme devotion to cattle raising. This Hamitic influence is strong among the Bari, but it has also apparently touched the Dinka and the Shilluk.

The best known example of a Hamitic strain in negro Africa is that of the Bahima, the good-looking cattle-tending aristocrats of Uganda.

Lastly the Nile negroes have probably not been left untouched by movements and influences from the west. Within historic times at any rate the Azande, a vigorous fighting people, have moved up from the south-west forest land over the watershed between the Nile and the Congo. They have overwhelmed and submerged a number of weak tribes, who have adopted the Zande language even when they preserved their own as well, and the Azande might very well, but for British rule, be established on the banks of the Nile to-day. Their origin is not certain, but they have linguistic affinities with tribes on the west coast of Africa.

At first sight the Upper Nile, which has been so long unknown to and unexplored by the European, seems a necessarily isolated and stagnant part of Africa. This is largely because its northern approach lies through the almost impassable *sudd*. Thus it has been closed from the north, but south of that barrier there have probably been considerable movements, the main lines of which may some day be revealed by the study of language and customs.

From another point of view the facts of environment give another broad grouping of these Sudanese tribes. Thus the Arab ceases to possess the land roughly where



A NUER.

the desert scrub gives way to the grass country, that is to say, about 200 miles south of Khartoum. This belt of grass country which stretches across the Sudan at a width of about 5 degrees is the natural home of the cattle-owning people, the Shilluks, Dinkas, Nuers, and Anuaks.

* This is the first of a series of three articles.—Ed.

The belt of open forest country which succeeds the grass land is in its turn peopled by the Bari, Mandari, Nyangwara, and Lokoya close to the Nile. Further to the east, where the forest country grows more sparse and barren, the Taposa, Turkana and Suk are to be found; while on the west, where there is a better rainfall and a more luxuriant type of vegetation, there are the Moro, Mondu, Avukaya, Kaliko, Makaraka, and Azande.

To speak in a general way, the Shilluk, the Dinka, the Nuer, and the Anuak may be classed together. They have a common physical type; they are tall, thin, and very long legged. They have a common pursuit and basis of livelihood, for they are all great cattle people. They inhabit a generally similar tract of country, the vast grass plain of the White Nile, and of its tributaries, the Bahr el Ghazal, and the Sobat.

Their tastes lie mainly in the direction of idleness, relieved by periodic cattle-raiding, and they have not much genuine liking for a régime which, while it brings peace and good government, prevents inter-tribal war, and encourages agricultural development and spells of manual labour on improvement schemes of various kinds.

The white man is apt to look at these wide grass lands as a possible reservoir of a meat supply as copious as that

strap work of beads over the face. The Shilluks raise a line of small circular scars across the forehead, apparently in imitation of a band of beads; the Nuer has a series of deep transverse cuts across the forehead, a painful and dangerous operation, while the practice of pulling out four of six incisors of the lower jaw is almost universal among all these tribes.

Of their history little is known. It has been surmised that the original home of some of these tribes may have been in the hill country of the Lotuka, that the Acholi and kindred tribes struck south, while the Shilluk, Anuak and others migrated north. A historical memory of the last of these migrations is preserved in the Shilluk traditions of a great hero Nyakang. His genealogy would point to this movement having taken place towards the end of the sixteenth century.

SIR GILBERT CLAYTON.

We regret to have to record the death of Sir Gilbert Clayton, which occurred with tragic suddenness in the Residency, Baghdad, on September 11. The High Commissioner for Iraq had been playing a game of polo, and collapsed shortly afterwards. Death was officially stated to be due to *angina pectoris*. He was buried at Hinaidi, with full military honours, on the following day.

No student of Middle Eastern affairs can fail to be familiar with the achievements of Sir Gilbert Clayton. From his earliest days in the Sudan, success had, almost without interruption, crowned his efforts in the fostering of peace between various Oriental peoples and the British Empire. His loss will be very keenly felt indeed in official circles, and in a hundred unofficial circles, particularly among Arabs and Egyptians, there is the feeling that a patriotic but friendly Englishman has passed away.

Gilbert Clayton was born at Sandown, Isle of Wight, in 1875. Entering the Royal Artillery, he was enabled to see Kitchener recover the Sudan, and was present at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum. From 1900-1910 he was employed with the Egyptian Army, but then transferred to the Sudan Government Service, becoming Private Secretary to the Sirdar. From being Sudan Agent, he was appointed as Director of Intelligence on the outbreak of the Great War, and during the War years he was mainly responsible for the establishing of the Arab Bureau at Cairo, from which were supervised the operation known as the Sharifian revolt against the Turks in the Hijaz. When the War was over, he was made Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, which post he held until 1922. Then he was appointed to be Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, headed by Sir Herbert Samuel. For three years at Jerusalem he held the scales equal as between Arab and Jew. But in 1925 he was chosen to visit Ibn Saoud on a delicate mission, that of adjusting the Wahhabi's ambitions to the needs of the mandated territories of Iraq and Trans-Jordan, on whose behalf he was acting. In this purpose of defining the frontiers and of keeping the peace he was completely successful—a success shown in concrete form in the two Treaties of Bahra and Hadda.

His achievement with the Wahhabi King prompted the British Government to send him afterwards to treat with the Imam Yahya of the Yaman. He could not, however, persuade the Zaidi monarch to cede his ground in the Aden Protectorate, and in 1926 returned from Sanaa empty-handed, but with considerable knowledge upon the real potentialities of the Yaman and of the alleged power of certain foreign nations to steal a march on the British Empire in south-western Arabia.

A year later he was again a special envoy to Jidda, where he arranged with King Ibn Saoud of the Hijaz and Najd a Treaty providing for the respecting by the Wahhabis of all British commitments in Arabia. Once more, in 1928, he was to return to the Hijaz, this time over a question of the frontier between Iraq and Najd. On this



DINKAS AT TORY, NEAR RENK.

of the Argentine. But the native will need many years of persuasion before he views his possessions at all in this light. He is devoted to his cattle, and there is little he does not know about them. His vocabulary bears witness to this, for there is no combination of colour or marking for which he has not the appropriate word. But he does not regard cattle as so much meat, but as a symbol of wealth and position and as a means to marriage.

These people, as the photographs show, take considerable trouble over their appearance, though they are averse from wearing clothes. The peculiar head-dresses of the Shilluk are well known. Boys of 17 or 18 wear their hair in a short grease-matted red mop; as they grow older, they adopt a more elaborate style. They stiffen their hair with gum and mud and work it into a variety of shapes. Sometimes it is made into a large fan at the back of the head, sometimes into two saucer-like circles on either side of the head, or a coxcomb cut like a cog-wheel down the middle. The Dinka more often shave their heads or stain their hair a yellowish red.

There are various other adornments; waistbelts, collars, and armlets are made up of beads, and some of these are very handsome. Round Renk the Dinkas wear a peculiar

occasion he could not persuade King Ibn Saoud to alter his views, but the friendship between the two men remained unbroken.

When Sir Henry Dobbs resigned from the High Commissionership of Iraq in 1928, Sir Gilbert Clayton was appointed to succeed him. He left for Baghdad in January of this year, and after a terrible journey—the Orient Express was snowed up in the Balkans—arrived to take over his new post in the following month.

The late High Commissioner had not, up to the time of his death, made any general statement upon the situation in Iraq, which he was carefully considering. He was bringing to bear on the problem, not only of Iraq's relations with Great Britain, but also of her relations with her neighbours, a new mind, and was resolved to study every aspect of the question before he made any formal pronouncement. It was known, however, that he was striving very hard to help on an amicable understanding between Iraq and Najd, and to hasten Iraq's entry into the League of Nations. He became immensely impressed with the possibilities of economic development in Iraq—a point which his experience of Egyptian development no doubt helped him to realise. And now before he had time to achieve anything very much either in the political or the economic sphere, he has been taken away. Both Arabs and British in the Middle East may well mourn the loss of a friend.

Memories of Sir Gilbert Clayton's accessibility, frankness and tact will be stored up in a thousand minds. If anyone needed help or advice in the Middle East, he would, on coming to Sir Gilbert, never be disappointed, though it should not be supposed that the bounds of discretion were ever overstepped. For when facts had to be concealed, no one was more of an artist than the late High Commissioner. His watchwords in dealing with the peoples of the Middle East were courtesy, firmness, and tact. A convinced unbeliever in the forceful school, he sought to gain his ends by diplomacy, which involved the consideration of all men as being equal. And few men will be found to say that his results did not justify his methods.

Very wide sympathy will be felt for Lady Clayton and her young family in their sad bereavement. Lady Clayton had accompanied Sir Gilbert Clayton on what proved to be the arduous journey to Baghdad *via* Constantinople, and after spending a few months in Iraq had returned to England for the summer. During those few months she had already shown herself an able helpmeet to the High Commissioner by interesting herself in such matters as fell within her woman's sphere, and the sorrow felt in Iraq over Sir Gilbert Clayton's death will be the keener because that death entails the added loss to the country of one who had promised to be a wise and needed guide to Arab womanhood.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Labour and Liberals.

An interesting development is going on at the present time in the mental processes of certain members of the Labour and Liberal parties. That the greater section of the Liberal Party will eventually drift into the Labour Party is widely taken for granted: the urgent point is, how soon?

Certain members of the Labour Party are for holding out the olive branch at once. Only one thing, they say, really keep the Liberals from us, and that is Nationalisation. But Nationalisation, they go on, is not the absurd fetish that it once was. We Socialists are not Marxists, and we do not really believe in the utter and ubiquitous necessity of public ownership. What we do believe in, and what many of you Liberals also believe in, is that any enterprise, whether publicly or privately owned or controlled, should regard its obligation to the State as its capital duty. Let us, therefore, cast aside the *démodé*

shibboleths of our ignorant past.

But this argument is an unofficial one, and there is yet no means of gauging how extensively it is being used. Official Labour circles still seem reluctant to give up the rigid creed of Nationalisation, thinking that even with its retention, which is necessary to keep up the spirits of the more fervent followers, Liberals will secede to their party.

Yet there are still thousands of Liberals who, even were the ideal of Nationalisation jettisoned by the Labour Party, would staunchly refuse to be assimilated. For they live on and in the past as surely as some Socialists live on outworn shibboleths, and it is they, together with their counterpart in the Labour Party, who make very difficult to believe a real fusion of the two anti-Conservative parties.

Reclamation of Land.

With the reports last week of more acres in Norfolk falling into the sea, one reads the revived proposals for reclaiming land by the Wash with special interest. For unless we cannot make up on the roundabouts what we lose each year on the swings, this erosion of our coast is going to cost us very dear. Unfortunately, it seems to be only at holiday time that the general public takes much notice of it: for the rest of the time it conveniently forgets.

Most people who know the King's Lynn and Boston area are aware that the reclamation of the Wash has often been thought of. About a hundred years ago a committee of landowners and engineers was formed to see whether the areas flooded, which are said to contain the most fertile agricultural land in all England, could not be reclaimed. A scheme was drawn up, by Sir John Rennie, for joining the four rivers, Ouse, Nene, Welland, and Witham, into one and discharging through an embankment made between Gibraltar Point on the Lincolnshire side and near Hunstanton on the Norfolk side.

Nothing, however, was done. But recently, as was pointed out in an article on the subject in the *Manchester Guardian*, a day or two ago, a revived interest has been shown in the scheme, partly owing to the success of the Dutch Government in reclaiming the Zuyder Zee (it is now making between the mainland and the Island of Wierigen an embankment nearly 20 miles long, whereas the Wash is only about 14 miles across), and partly to the fact that the Commissioners appointed in 1925 by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to report on the drainage of the Ouse district foreshadowed that, unless their drainage recommendations were carried out, serious inundations would follow and "the whole fen area will return to primeval conditions."

One hopes that the project is engaging the attention of the Labour Government, which would earn not only the immediate gratitude through the employment of labour involved, but also the undying gratitude of future generations of fen-men, who have long outgrown their seventeenth century prejudices against using the resources of science in aiding the productivity of their land.

Congresses.

This may be the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness: it is also the time when cranks and crankesses assemble in congress. Year after year these people pour out their souls to others—and the world wags on, cheerfully indifferent to their passionate counsels.

One particularly fatuous gathering has just ended in London: the Sexual Reform Congress. Of course, it was widely reported, but, equally of course, badly, so that eminent or anaemic professors have had to point out that really their views were not so conventional as might have been thought, and so on. In any case, it seems a little late in the world's history to talk about sexual reform, does it not? Somehow or other one has an instinctive distrust of these pleaders for more "openness," "frankness," "liberty," and the rest of it. They are at the wrong end of the stick. Of that fact you would have been certain had you seen some of the men in Wigmore Hall, in blouses, open-necked, and sockless.

ALTER EGO.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Progress in Flying.

The glamour attaching to the great race for the Schneider Trophy will not, it is to be hoped, obscure the real goal towards which progress in flying is being directed all the time. That goal is primarily threefold—the maintenance of stability at low speeds, ability on the part of aeroplanes to land and rise more directly, and reduction in cost of construction. High-speed research is necessary and invaluable, if only because the proof that these flying tests afford of soundness of construction leads to the application of the knowledge thus gained to other more general purposes. Great Britain's success, moreover, is evidence that British invention and workmanship, no less than personal prowess, still hold their own, and there is certainly no domain in which these attainments are more essential than in the construction and manipulation of aircraft. For the present, however, it is not the Supermarine Rolls-Royce or the Gloster Napier VI that is going to encourage air traffic, but the increasing perfection of the light aeroplane which ultimately should have the effect of sending the individual into the air, as the cheaper motor-cars have already sent him careering along the high road. In the recent race round Europe for the International Challenge Cup for Light Aeroplanes the striking qualities of the British light aeroplane were well brought out and British light aero engines were largely used by foreign competitors. In the meantime research is being steadily carried on in regard to what has been called above the primary threefold problem of aircraft construction, and it is not without interest to know that the cost of aeroplane engines per horse-power is considerably less than that of marine engines—in fact, about an eighth of the latter—and on a level with that of locomotives.

Roumania and The Hague Settlement.

Although Roumania's representatives at The Hague did not compete with their Greek and Yugoslav colleagues in broadcasting the advantages that their country stood to derive from the new Reparations agreement, it is clear that the Roumanians also have reason to be satisfied with the revised scheme. For the full details of the settlement it may be necessary to await the completion of the tasks of the various committees; but it is known that Roumania is to have her indebtedness to the Allies covered, at least for the earlier part of the period of repayment, by the amounts that she herself receives as reparations. Her quota, it is stated, has been raised from 1.1 per cent. to 1.4 per cent.; and, will be met for the most part from Germany's unconditional payments. These results will be the more welcome, as the country has experienced a severe strain in surmounting a prolonged financial crisis.

Fiscal Reorganisation.

Not the least of the difficulties inherited by the Government of Dr. Maniu was the lax system that characterised the collection of the State's revenue. Roumania has only recently had experience of direct taxes, and the method of their encashment left so much to be desired that an official estimate places the loss to the State in the five or six years during which they have been in force at more than fifteen thousand million lei, or nearly twenty million pounds. The new Government, therefore, has to incur the odium of tightening up the machinery of tax-collec-

tion. Closer watch will be kept on all sources of income, agricultural property as well as commerce and industry. Owing to the many loopholes for evading payment that had been discovered or created, the country had reached the anomalous position of collecting more revenue from the incomes of State officials than from any other class of the community.

A Tax Pass-Book.

Roumania must have been for some time the only State that found it necessary, in order to combat the evil of absentee landlordism, to compel those who owned landed property to reside at least six months of the year in the country under pain of confiscation of their land. She is now to introduce another innovation, a taxpayer's pass-book, with which each taxpayer will be provided and which he will have to produce whenever he has any dealings with the State authorities. Unless the pass-book shows that all taxes have been duly paid, up to date, the unfortunate citizen will seek in vain to enlist official services on his behalf. In South-Eastern Europe, it must be remembered, the average citizen finds more occasion to rely on State intervention on his behalf than his opposite number in the West, who is generally more impressed, particularly when paying taxes, by his own services to the State than by the State's services to him. Before the Roumanian dilatory taxpayer will now loom up, it may be, the prospect of being prevented from buying a postage stamp, not to mention a ticket on the State Railways. Fortunately, there are indications that the nation as a whole—Opposition politicians and their Press being the chief exceptions—having appreciated the necessity for these drastic measures, has begun to realise the advantages accruing from them. When, as a further reform, the fiscal authorities throughout the country are divided into two separate sections, the one to assess taxation, and the other to receive payments from the individual taxpayer, one of the easiest avenues for evasion of payment will have been closed. In the meantime tax collectors and others have been informed that they will be held personally responsible for delay in the collection of taxes, unless some valid reason is forthcoming. This warning, it is stated, has had the effect of increasing income tax receipts in Bucharest alone four fold.

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Great Britain's Mandates.

The perverse British public, which refused to wear the hat that a popular newspaper prescribed for it and to change its opinion that any revision of the Peace Treaties must be secured by agreement and not by dictation, and which has, indeed, consistently rejected the views of an organ whose strong points are news, advertisements and an insurance policy rather than political acumen or knowledge of foreign affairs, is now being urged to abandon the British Mandates over Palestine and Iraq. The suggestion would call for no comment—in Great Britain it counts for nothing—were it not for the fact that in foreign countries exaggerated opinions prevail regarding the influence exercised by certain British newspapers. Any mistaken conceptions engendered abroad on the subject, it is to be hoped, therefore, will have been corrected by the emphatic declaration of the British Foreign Minister at Geneva that the British Government would not give up its Mandate over Palestine to the League or to any other Power, but would carry on, determined to do its full duty as a trustee and guardian. In the case of Iraq the problem of arranging for the Mandate to fade away into a treaty relationship that will satisfy the national aspirations of the Iraqis—not necessarily the same thing as the claims of urban politicians—and Great Britain's own responsibilities has already been taken in hand, and will, no doubt, in good time be satisfactorily settled. In the meantime it is to the interest neither of Great Britain nor of the Mandated Territories that misstatements regarding the actual situation should pass unchallenged. To say that £300,000,000 of British money have been spent on "these alien people" may be as true as to say that twenty times that amount has been spent on the French and other alien people in the prosecution of a war for the defence of British interests; but to link up the statement with the insinuation that money is still being spent "so freely" in these countries is entirely a perversion of the truth. The statement that out of every £100 worth of goods imported into Palestine last year the amount that came from the United Kingdom was £11 12s. 6d. does not take into consideration the position of Egypt as a clearing-house for British goods; and the gibe that the last official report dismisses the cotton exports of Iraq as negligible could with equal force have been levelled at the Sudan a few years back. Fortunately for Great Britain and the world it is a divinity and not a daily Press that shapes our ends, leaving to the latter the rough-hewing of them.

Paper from Bamboo.

An interesting question has been raised by an enthusiastic statement of the potentialities of bamboo pulp as a substitute for wood pulp, in the manufacture of paper, that appears in a report on the Bamboo Pulp Survey in Burma issued by the Indian Forests Records. The author is Mr. W. Raitt, officer in charge of the Paper Pulp Section of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, who finds a guarantee against the exhaustion of the bamboo as a final solution of the papermakers' problem in the fact that bamboos are annually self-reproductive and may be cropped every fifth or seventh year, and he is convinced that bamboo pulp can be produced at a cost which will permit its export to Europe. It is noticeable that in a foreword to the report the Chief Conservator of Forests, Burma, accepts for his Department no responsibility for the opinions expressed by Mr. Raitt, and emphasises certain considerations. He points out that in view of the heavy capital requirements of the industry the first essential is a continuance of supply of the raw materials. A secure supply of bamboos may exist, but the problem of getting it to the mill is by no means easy to solve, partly because the local inhabitants provide a very unreliable source of labour. He recommends, therefore, a very careful investigation into the questions of supply, maintenance, and cost of the labour force before any commercial schemes are launched.

Previous Experiments.

Mr. Raitt supports his arguments by having his report printed on paper made in the paper pulp section at Dehra Dun from bamboo from the Arakan coast of Burma; but it does not appear that he has made any special effort to meet the difficulties that have been experienced in the past in connexion with the use of bamboo pulp for paper-making. A paper mill was working for some five years in Travancore, using bamboo almost exclusively. The fibre was regarded as superior to *esparto*, but the expense of chemicals killed the industry, as a larger quantity was found to be required than with other paper materials. In Sir George Watt's "The Commercial Products of India" other difficulties are mentioned:—If only young shoots of the bamboo are serviceable, these have to be gathered during August and September, their removal damages the stock, and each clump yields only about three or four shoots a year; unless a large percentage of old stems are left on the stools, the plants are killed; during the months in which the bamboo shoots appear, the climate of the most important bamboo tracts is such that labour could not be obtained. In the twenty years or more that have elapsed since these difficulties were encountered it is possible that advances in chemical knowledge will have obviated one of them; whether the climatic obstacles can be overcome remains to be seen. The bamboo grows in sub-tropical as well as tropical regions, and it may be that the labour problem will not prove as insuperable as it is understood to be in Burma. The purposes to which the bamboo is put range from a vegetable to a means for carrying grand pianos; it serves as a walking-stick, lance-shaft and scaffolding-pole, for mats, sieves, furniture and roofs, for the production of fire and for torches. The Chinese certainly use it for paper-making, and it would be strange if modern ingenuity could not overcome the physical drawbacks enumerated, when the threatened exhaustion of the wood pulp supply draws appreciably nearer.

COMMENTATOR.

THE PORTS OF BULGARIA.

(From Our Sofia Correspondent.)

Bordered by the Danube on the north and by the Black Sea on the east, Bulgaria has devoted herself, during her fifty years of national life, to the improvement of her ports on the Black Sea and the Danube and the development of her trade through these ports. I propose to give some details on this subject recently published by two engineers, MM. Boikoff and Dantcheff. Being divided by the mountains of the Balkans into two parts, northern and southern, Bulgaria was compelled to concentrate on the construction, and the development, of her two principal Black Sea ports—Varna in the north and Bourgas in the south.

Varna.

This port is very important for the export of cereals, as it serves a fertile agricultural region. Its development began in 1848 when it was linked up by regular services with Constantinople, Marseilles, Trieste, etc. Its traffic increased to a marked extent after the construction in 1867 of the Rustchuk-Varna line, which is used by travellers to Constantinople from western and central Europe. Under special laws of 1889 and 1912 the Bulgarian Government authorised a French engineer, Admiral Gúerard, Port Inspector at Marseilles, to prepare plans for the construction of ports at Varna and Bourgas. The construction of the port of Varna lasted ten years, from 1895 to 1905, and cost 7,450,000 gold leva. Since 1919 the enlargement of the port has been taken in hand, and special warehouses have been constructed for cereals and flour; but the works are being carried out very slowly, for the means are lacking, and the traffic of Varna has notably decreased as a result of the annexation of the Bulgarian Dobrudja by Roumania.

Bourgas.

This port became more important than the natural port of Anhiolo about 1848, when steamers began to appear in the Black Sea, and found a safer harbour in the bay of Bourgas. The port acquired great importance because of the extensive commerce between Southern Bulgaria and Constantinople, as well as with the other countries bordering the Black Sea.

The construction in 1874 of the Adrianople-Dedeagatch railway led to competition on the part of the latter with Bourgas in the handling of Bulgarian exports and imports, but the Nova-Zagora-Bourgas line and the construction of the port at Bourgas by La Société Française des Batignolles assured to Bourgas a very important trade. Although an amount of 7,080,000 gold leva has been expended on the port, it is clear that it will have to be enlarged, at a still greater cost, but the work of construction is in abeyance owing to the difficult position of Bulgaria's finances. The statistics show that in 1924-5 the port was visited by 1,836 vessels of a tonnage of 795,499, with 180,928 tons of merchandise exported and imported; whereas in 1886 it was visited only by 1,412 vessels, 147 of which were steamers.

Other Black Sea Ports.

(1) Bessemvria, an old and poor port, is visited by the steamers of the Bulgarian Navigation Company. Its traffic is on the decline. The little town has become a much-frequented watering place.

(2) Anhiolo is an old and once famous town. The port, which is old and constructed of wood, is on the down grade owing to the competition of Bourgas.

(3) Sozopol. Here an artificial port has been constructed. The traffic in 1926-27 amounted to 473 vessels, 9,144 passengers and 2,684 tons of merchandise.

(4) Achtopol. There has been no building, and the traffic is small.

(5) Vassiliko is developing in economic importance. For the future exploitation of the forests of the neighbourhood a port has recently been constructed at a cost of twenty million leva.

Danube Ports.

Bulgaria's Danubian ports are more numerous, but less developed. Rustchuk, finished in 1912, ought to be enlarged and improved by the construction of warehouses, hangers, and offices which would entail an expenditure of 63,000,000 leva. Svishtov, completed in 1913, lacks hangars. Nikopol has no special works, and requires for its development a railway (Nikopol-Somovit) and various buildings. Somovit was only finished in 1924. Orehovo has increased its traffic as a result of the construction of the line from Sarajevo to Orehovo. Competition will arise from the port of Kozlodouï in the course of time. Lom, the most important port in western Bulgaria, was constructed in 1915-18. It will be necessary to expend a sum of 30 million leva on certain additional works. Vidin has been open since 1908. In 1913 it was connected by railway with Sofia.

The Danube ports are visited by the ships of the following lines:—

(1) The Danube Navigation Company (D. D. S. G.), (Austrian) with 31 passenger vessels, 43 tugs, and 424 barges.

(2) The Hungarian Maritime and River Navigation Company (M. F. T. R.), with 48 passenger vessels, 30 tugs, and 200 barges.

(3) Roumanian River Navigation (State-owned) with 19 vessels, 23 tugs, and 151 barges.

(4) The Roumanian Danube Navigation Company, with 11 vessels and 80 barges.

(5) The Bavarian Lloyd (N. L.), with 16 vessels and 90 barges.

(6) South-German Navigation Company which possesses 3 tugs and 7 barges.

According to reliable information the completion of the

Government's programme for the improvement of the Black Sea and Danube ports will entail an expenditure of about 405 million leva.

THE EGYPTIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION.

Annual Report, 1928.

In submitting to the Minister of Communications his Annual Report on the Post Office for the year 1928, the Postmaster-General of Egypt states that the receipts of the Administration exceeded expenditure by 35 per cent. Details of the revenue, which showed an increase of £E11,436 on the returns of the previous year, were as follow:—

Postage and poundage in stamps	...	...	£E626,708
Poundage in cash on monetary remittances	...	...	„ 43,230
Other items	...	...	„ 63,759
Services rendered by the Postal Administration to Ministries and Governmental Departments	...	...	„ 301,170
Total	...	...	£E1,034,867

Expenditure, amounting to £E767,465, was made up as follows:—

Salaries	...	...	£E440,535
General expenses	...	...	„ 261,015
Services rendered by other Government Departments	...	...	„ 65,915
Total	...	...	£E767,465

At the end of the year the Postal Provident and Mutual Help Association possessed scrip to the value of £E120,582. Income dividends and other receipts amounted to £E15,033, while expenditure and sums paid as indemnity to members amounted to £E10,432, leaving a net profit for the year of £E4,601.

Development in 1928.

Internal developments during the year included the following:—

The opening of fifteen Second Grade post offices (with Savings Bank facilities) brought the total number of First and Second Grade offices to 434. Ten new Third Grade offices brought the number of these to 108, and twelve new Fourth Grade "unestablished" offices brought the total number of these to 67. Fourteen rural stations were created, making a total of 2,672. Ten fresh offices adopted house-to-house delivery, and seven the telegraphic money-order service. Five railway stations have been admitted to the Travelling Postal Service, bringing their total to 358. The transport of mails twice a day between Assiut and Abnub by means of a motor-cycle was introduced in the place of once a day by means of a runner.

A Second Grade temporary office was opened on the occasion of the Medical Instruments and Medicines Show in the park of the Royal Agricultural Society at Gezira, Cairo, from December 1 to 31. Another Second Grade temporary office was opened on the occasion of the Medical Congress in the Club of the Medical School at Qasr-el-Aini, Cairo, from December 12 to 31. Both offices were admitted to the exchange of Reply-Coupons. On the occasion of the Medical Congress new postage stamps of 5 and 10 mills. values were issued similar in colour to the corresponding stamps of the current issue. The design of the 5 mills. stamp represented the old Egyptian statue of Amhotep, God of Medicine, and that

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of the 10 milis. stamp the portrait of late Mohamed Aly Pasha, Vali of Egypt. These stamps have been used for the prepayment of all items of correspondence and parcels in Egypt and for abroad in the periods fixed to that effect by the Postal Administration.

Developments in the foreign service included the issue of money orders on Palestine in sterling currency, the inauguration of a money order service with Iraq, Syria, Lebanon Republic and Alaouites, inauguration of the C.O.D. Parcel Service with Palestine and the inauguration of the Collection Order Service with Czechoslovakia.

Correspondence.

There was an increase of 6 per cent. in 1928 in the total number of articles dealt with, inland and foreign, which amounted to 154,491,000.

The number of registered articles lost was 8 from about nine millions exchanged with the interior and abroad.

The figures for inland correspondence were as follows, the figures for 1927 being in brackets: Letters 59,521,000 (55,315,000); Post-cards, 3,910,000 (3,603,000); Registered articles, 7,227,998 (6,883,398); Newspapers and other printed matter, commercial papers and samples, 21,957,000 (22,858,000); Government correspondence carried free 9,429,000 (9,212,000); Totals 102,044,998 (97,871,398).

The corresponding figures for foreign correspondence were as follows:

Despatched:—Letters, 15,670,000 (14,338,000); Post cards, 1,928,000 (1,808,000); Registered articles, 932,128 (911,148); Newspapers and other printed matter, commercial papers and samples, 4,933,000 (4,327,000); Totals 23,463,128 (21,384,148). *Received*: Letters, 14,248,000 (13,457,000); Post-cards, 1,150,000 (1,215,000); Registered articles, 826,221 (835,421); Newspapers and other printed matter, commercial papers, and samples 12,759,000 (11,080,000); Totals 28,983,221 (26,587,421).

The following table shows the numbers delivered per head of population:—

Category.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Letters	5.6	5.8	6.3	6.0	6.4
Post-cards	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4
Newspapers, commercial papers and samples	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.5

In the total correspondence exchanged with foreign countries Great Britain and Dependencies (including Palestine) head the list with 16,489,245 articles or 31.4 per cent.; France and Dependencies, including Syria, is second with 10,550,458 articles, 20.1 per cent.; Italy and Colonies third, 9.3 per cent.; the United States fourth, 7.7 per cent.; Germany fifth, 6.5 per cent.; and Greece sixth, 5.4 per cent.

Express Letter Service.

During the year under review, 114,078 letters were handed in for express delivery, against 73,832 in 1927, an increase of about 55 per cent.

Air Mail.

The following table relates to correspondence despatched and received by the Egyptian Post Office:—

		Ordinary letters.	Registered articles.
Dispatched		20,206	4,281
Received	{ for Egypt	19,040	4,003
	{ in transit	18,269	4,490
Total		57,605	12,774

Overland Mail Service (By Motor Car).

The total weight of correspondence despatched in 1928 amounted to 4,144 kilogrammes, as compared with 1,509 kilogrammes in 1927—an increase of 175 per cent.

Parcels.

The total number of parcels dealt with was 2,015,773 as against 1,924,296 in the previous year, making an increase of 4.8 per cent. 5,509 Inland Express Parcels and 446 from abroad have been delivered to addresses by special messengers. Details of this service were as follows, the figures for 1927 being in brackets:—

Number of parcels exchanged: In the interior 1,258,714 (1,189,839); With the Sudan 158,653 (153,416); With abroad, 598,406 (581,041); Total 2,015,773 (1,924,296);

Of the parcels exchanged with foreign countries 125,901 were despatched and 472,505 received. Of the joint total, 598,406, France and her Colonies were responsible for 194,600, Great Britain and Dependencies (including Palestine) for 160,481. Next in order came Germany, 64,380, Italy, 44,367, and Switzerland, 25,919.

Newspapers and Periodicals.

The following is a classification of the newspapers and periodicals handled by the Post Office:—

CATEGORY.	PUBLISHED IN				TOTAL.
	Arabic.	Other Oriental Languages.	European.	Oriental and European.	
Newspapers, political, commercial, and financial ...	37	6	44	—	87
Newspapers, humorous ...	4	1	3	—	8
Reviews, literary ...	75	1	34	1	111
.. judicial ...	5	—	2	—	7
.. religious ...	27	—	3	1	31
.. for women ...	6	—	2	—	8
Totals	154	8	88	2	252

Of 252 newspapers and reviews, 178 are published in Cairo, 50 in Alexandria, 8 in Tanta, 3 in Minya, 2 in each of Port Said, Mit Ghamr and Bilqas, and one in each of Asyut, Benha, Beni Suef, Fayoum, Mansura, Nikheila and Zagazig. Of the 252 newspapers mentioned, 23 are illustrated. Subscriptions taken out for foreign periodicals amounted to 1,615, as compared with 2,737 in 1927.

Cash Services.

The total value of cash handled in respect of Money Orders (Inland, Sudan and Foreign), Specie, Collection Orders, Postal Orders (Egyptian, British and Palestine) in 1928 amounted to £E13,150,253 as against £E13,479,599 in 1927—a decrease of £E329,346.

Staff.

At the end of the year the staff of the Postal Administration numbered 4,353, of whom 1,597 were pensionable.

CONSTANTINOPLE MUNICIPAL LOAN.

Bondholders and coupon holders of the City of Constantinople Municipal Five per Cent. Loan, 1909, are informed that, owing to the vacation, it has not yet been possible to obtain the signatures of the Judges of the Anglo-Turkish Mixed Arbitral Tribunal to the homologation of the agreement dated April 30, 1929, made between the representative of the bondholders' committee, the National Bank of Turkey and the municipality.

The date provisionally fixed under the agreement as September 15 for payment of Coupon 38 has been postponed.

A further announcement will be made in due course.

The yield of the plum crop in Yugoslavia is expected to amount to 17,000 tons.

The yield of the maize crop in Roumania is estimated at 6,380,000 tons.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ending August 20 amounted to £E8,433, making a total for the period from April 1 of £E112,820, as compared with £E7,577 and £E98,724 for the corresponding periods of 1928.

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Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

Engineer or Business Man.

At one time there was a considerable amount of controversy as to whether a trained engineer or a successful commercial man made the best head for an engineering business. Those who supported the first view ridiculed the idea that a man with no knowledge of the subject could steer an engineering venture to a safe port; the other group argued that if a man could sell matches in bulk he could sell machine tools.

As usual in controversial matters, the truth seems to lie somewhere near the centre of the two extreme views. If a man has neither a good head for business, nor possesses sound commercial training, an engineer attempting to act as a head of a business would soon occupy the position of an oyster at an banquet; someone would be certain to take an interest in him before long. Without some engineering training, a commercial manager of an engineering concern should wear a card: "Pity the Blind," and pray for help to pass the pitfalls on his way. Putting it plainly, no amount of engineering or metallurgical knowledge can make a business a success without sound commercial judgment.

Further, engineering production is only one of the problems that a manager has to face; in addition he must know how much every ounce of raw material costs, what it costs to bring it to the works, handle and machine it, and he must be able to gauge accurately the percentage of the many overhead charges and provision for depreciation that every part and every tool should carry.

He must know when to buy material and when to sell finished products—knowledge that is possessed by hardly one engineer in a thousand. He must know what to charge for the goods turned out; another thing which sounds simple but is a trifle less easy than it looks. How many engineers can keep touch with the fluctuations of overhead expenses, varying as they do according to the rate at which the shop is operating?

An engineer with a mere smattering of business knowledge would probably be content with averaging his overheads for the year. Such a man to-day would fill up hours in wondering why he didn't get business, ignorant of the fact that a large number of works to-day are cutting under their average overhead to get business to help reduce it. Commercial judgment is needed here, as an error in calculation may mean a serious loss.

A Rara Avis.

Of course, a commercial man, ignorant of even the rudiments of engineering, who had to manage an engineering undertaking would have the active help and assistance of all the engineers beneath him; they would all do their utmost to help him and steer him clear of error! That goes without saying. But even with all their kindness he might do something or other that he would eventually wish undone.

The commercial engineer is greatly needed and seldom found. Commercial engineering is as important a branch of the profession as is electrical, aeronautical or chemical engineering. The training for a post of commercial engineer should be highly scientific and intensive, and, in my view, it should be possible to apprentice boys to commercial engineering, as well as to send them to a course of commercial engineering training.

Pyrometers.

A pyrometer installation is a valuable adjunct to a steam plant, as by its means one is able to ascertain the working temperatures in various positions which would

otherwise be inaccessible, as, for example, the temperature of the exit flue gases in various places, the temperature of the superheated steam, and the temperature of the boiler feed water. Mr. W. E. Warner, who is an authority on the subject, says that two objections are usually raised to the use of such instruments as pyrometers in a boilerhouse: firstly, cost and maintenance costs; secondly, their unsuitability for the severe conditions under which they will have to operate. By carefully selecting the pyrometers, however, and other instruments to which a similar criticism might be applied, the first cost can be kept down, and provided the pyrometers, leads and instruments have been carefully chosen to suit the working conditions, and have been carefully installed, the cost of maintenance and renewals will be small, too.

Although the conditions are naturally severe, pyrometers are now made of robust construction and, when necessary, the elements are themselves protected by porcelain and steel tubes. Writing in "Cheap Steam," Mr. Warner says that the indicating and recording instruments can be situated well away from the actual boilers and connected to the pyrometers by means of connecting leads. The accuracy of the temperature measurement is not affected, owing to the metal these leads are manufactured from. The actual pyrometer tubes, which are placed in the temperature to be measured, consist of the element wires or hot junction mounted in a tube, this being of sufficient length to bring the hot junction to the spot where the temperature is to be measured, suitable arrangements being made for holding the pyrometer in position and for protecting the connecting leads as they pass to the external circuit. There is also the cold



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to the Secretary

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junction which has to be situated in some position of low and non-variable temperature, and it is the temperature difference between this cold junction and the hot junction that is measured on the instrument. The principle of the measurement is that of the thermo-couple. If two dissimilar metals, electrically connected, are heated to different temperatures, an electric current will flow between them, its magnitude depending on the temperature difference. The hot junction provides one dissimilar metal and the cold junction the other. These two being electrically connected, a current flows between them when a temperature difference exists, and by placing a galvanometer in the circuit, calibrated in temperature degrees, the temperature of the hot junction will be indicated on the instrument. The actual construction of the pyrometer tube and the metal of which the hot junction is composed, depend upon its purpose and the temperature which is to be measured, and naturally, the higher the temperatures that have to be dealt with, the higher the cost of the instrument. The metal used for the hot junction may be either platinum or platinum-rhodium wires, as these are suitable for the highest temperatures likely to be met with in commercial practice. In fact, these wires should be used for all temperatures in excess of 1,000 degrees C. These are known as rare thermo couples. On the other hand, what are technically known as base thermo couples made of Titan alloy wires can be used for temperatures of between 800 and 1,000 degrees C., whilst for temperatures of below 800 degrees C. a number of couples are made of iron constantan wire, and these answer the purpose admirably.

Coal Saving on Industrial Boiler Plants.

Two important points in connexion with industry are that most of the coal of the world used for steam generation is consumed in the industrial boiler plant, and also that substantial economies are in most cases waiting to be effected in the smallest plant, even when only one boiler is used. A typical example of savings being effected concerns a well-known gold mining company on the Rand, showing also the efficient utilisation of a high ash content, cheap, low-grade coal instead of a good quality material.

In this case the boilers are of the very small hand-fired, water-tube type, without feed-water economisers, of 1,265 square feet heating surface, having a calculated evaporation of 3,850 lb. of water per hour, based, of course, on good coal. One of these boilers was subsequently fitted with the "Turbine" forced draught steam jet furnace of standard design, 27.5 square feet actual effective grate area (5ft. 6 in. long) exposed to the air blast, and a detailed series of tests under very accurate conditions have been carried out side by side with the "Turbine" boiler and another boiler having the ordinary hand firing.

In the case of the normal good quality coal used (Whitbank) containing 20 to 25 per cent. ash, under ordinary conditions the coal burned per boiler per hour was 500 lb., and the water evaporated 1,776 lb., that is 3.55 lb. of water per lb. of coal, the general conditions also of the test being a steam pressure of 150 to 160 lb. and very hot feed water, about 200 degrees F.

The corresponding boiler under exactly the same conditions equipped with the "Turbine" furnace burned 760 lb. of coal per boiler per hour and evaporated 4,200 lb. of water per hour, that is $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the amount of steam, exceeding the calculated rating of the boiler, hardly ever attained in practice, and corresponding also to 5.60 lb. of water per lb. of coal.

In a second series of tests much inferior coal was used, known as "Springs," containing 33 per cent. ash. In this particular test the ordinary natural draught boiler with good quality Witbank Coal as before, burned 600 lb. of coal per boiler per hour and evaporated 2,275 lb. of water, that is 3.70 lb. of water per lb. of coal, a slightly better performance than the first one. Using Springs inferior coal the "Turbine" furnace boiler burned 900 lb.

of coal per boiler per hour and evaporated 3,275 lb. of water, corresponding to 3.60 lb. of water per lb. of coal. That is about 50 per cent. more of the inferior coal was burnt with an evaporation of more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as much, naturally representing a very great economy because of the difference in price between the two coals.

Obviously also a further improvement would be the installation of feed-water economisers, which perhaps however, would be difficult in the case of ordinary firing because presumably the natural draught available is not good. It may be stated that in many parts of the world large numbers of extremely small water tube boilers are still at work, largely because of considerations of difficulties of carriage in connexion with plant and machinery, although the modern heavy 6- and 8-wheeler motor wagon with caterpillar tractor wheels if necessary has now altered the whole situation in this respect.

Generation of Electricity by Water Power.

Notable in the field of hydro-electric power, as well as reservoir and other pipe line work, is a patent, automatic, self-closing, needle-valve, with precision timing gear, that has been introduced recently by Messrs. Glenfield and Kennedy, Ltd., of Kilmarnock, and the firm have just supplied a 21 in. diameter unit to the order of Thomas Piggott and Co., for the Hermitage Dam Hydro-electric Scheme in Jamaica. This valve operates under a head of 140 feet and is designed for a normal water velocity of $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet per second, while it automatically closes when a velocity of $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet per second is attained, such as for example to a burst pipe, blown joint, racing of the turbine, or similar cause.

The chief feature of the design is that hydraulic forces only are employed, no accessory mechanical contrivances being necessary to assist closing, the design consisting fundamentally of a loose sliding plunger suspended in the water stream, which moves forward and closes the orifice upon the velocity of the water increasing beyond the predetermined amount. The valve casing is somewhat smaller at the outlet than at the inlet—a divergent taper pipe being added to continue the main pipe at its original diameter—and held centrally within the casing is a cylinder which houses the freely moving plunger, provided with a differential piston dividing the cylinder into two internal working chambers. The back end of the plunger is subjected to the full water pressure in the main, and the front end of the low pressure in the throat, while the two internal chambers are connected by the group of small valves on the top of the main valve body, and are normally in equilibrium under the same pressure. This pressure difference between the back and the front ends of the plunger becomes greater as the velocity of the water increases, and as soon as the pre-arranged limit is attained— $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet per second—the external poising weights are overcome and the valve begins to close. The rate of closing is adjusted to take five minutes, thus enabling the pipe to be closed down and the water brought to rest without violent shock and excessive surge pressure in the pipe.

The first portion of the stroke is controlled by isolating the two internal chambers, for which purpose the connecting valve operated by one of the side levers is closed, thus transforming the float chamber into a dashpot cushion. Then at about half-stroke the precision timing gear is released and takes complete control of the closing operation by admitting pressure water to either chamber by means of a hydraulic valve, which in turn is controlled by a floating lever attached to a cataract piston and the near side lever, so that the valve is constrained to close exactly at the rate determined by the loaded cataract gear.

The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways have given a contract to Kitson and Co., Ltd., Leeds, for ten locomotive boilers.

The Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company announces a dividend on the cumulative preference shares at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30, 1929, payable, less tax, on September 30.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, September 17.

Business in the Stock Exchange still remains below the normal level, though the new account opened under fairly cheerful conditions. A rise in Bank rate was not generally anticipated and gilt-edged stocks have been firmer than for some time past, with India loans sharing in the general recovery. A rise in home rails was checked by profit-taking and a less favourable batch of traffic returns, and Argentine rails were unaffected by the dividend declarations, which were in accordance with expectations. Activity in the industrial section was again confined to a narrow range of specialities, the international favourites being affected by uncertain movements in Wall Street. Margarine issues were again very active, though quotations show little alteration on balance, in spite of the circulation of a rumour that Union and Lever shares are to be exchanged on a figure about 20s. above the present market price. The Imperial Airways statement produced little enthusiasm, but there was a marked rally in newspaper issues on the publication of a reassuring notice.

"Johnnies" Accounts.

The accounts of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., for the year ended June 30, 1929, disclose a fall of £100,000 in net profit for the second year in succession, the net earnings being £593,199, compared with £692,722 in 1928 and £793,827 in the preceding year. The usual dividend of 15 per cent., free of tax, is nevertheless to be paid, although this distribution absorbs practically the whole of the amount available, a mere £700 being added to the carry forward. Nothing is therefore allocated to the reserve, compared with £100,000 and £200,000 on the two previous occasions. The reserve fund, however, already stands at the respectable figure of £1,000,000, against an issued capital of £3,950,000, and, it is stated, is entirely invested in gilt-edged stocks. The balance-sheet reveals a rather less liquid position than a year ago. While cash is £149,000 higher, call loans have declined by £73,000 and debtors by £82,000, and creditors have advanced by £83,000. No explanation of the decrease in profits is contained in the report, of which the most interesting feature is the statement that the company has acquired large interests in the Northern Rhodesian copper fields, the directors expecting to see an extensive and profitable industry developing there in the next few years. These interests, it is to be hoped, will in time compensate for the recent diminution in revenue from other sources, but meanwhile the yield of £7 12s. per cent. on the ordinaries does not appear unreasonable.

Argentine Railway Dividends.

As was generally expected, the first of the Argentine railway dividend announcements were of distributions at unchanged rates. Buenos Aires Great Southern is paying 8 per cent. for the third year in succession, Buenos Aires Western maintains the 7 per cent. paid on the last three occasions, and Central Argentine is distributing 7 per cent., as in 1927 and 1928. The gross traffics for the year ended June 30, 1929, were satisfactory in view of the reductions in rates introduced in accordance with the

Mitre Law. True, the receipts of B.A. Great Southern fell away by £229,000, but the decline compares with one of £313,000 in the preceding period. B.A. Western reported an increase of £4,000, Central Argentine one of £485,000, and the Pacific company one of £863,000. With cheap fuel obtainable throughout the year, the net receipts are expected to show advances rather than declines. The cautious dividend policy, however, had been anticipated in view of the drought prevailing in the Argentine. So far this has not materially affected traffics, but the conditions may at least retard any increase for the current year as a whole. On a longer view, however, the position of the securities of the Argentine railways as high-class investments is unaffected by such a temporary factor. The Republic has made solid progress in recent years, which should continue, and the railways will naturally benefit. The companies themselves have built up a sound position, and have made liberal allowances for maintenance and renewals. Great Southern and Great Western ordinary, and Central Argentine deferred can all be bought to yield £7 14s. per cent., while Pacific ordinary stock returns £7 per cent.

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The September issue of the Monthly Review of Barclays Bank, Ltd., contains the following reports:—

The Sudan.

Gum arrivals in Kordofan stations are steadily declining, the total, during July, amounting to 172 tons (about half of which was rain damaged), against 495 tons in the same month last year. Although the demand has been slight, El Obeid prices for gum free from rain damage closed, at the end of July, at about 10s. per cwt. above those of the previous month. Coffee prices, both on a cash and credit basis, show little material change, the former being P.T.380.385 and the latter P.T.390.395 per kantar, 100 rottles. Stocks are estimated not to exceed 16,000 bags. The sesame market is dull, with little domestic or foreign demand, and prices remain steady at £E17.500 for white and £E17 for red, f.o.t. Port Sudan. Groundnut prices have hardened slightly, from £E10-£E10.500 to £E11.200 per ton Port Sudan. Exports are negligible. Owing to adverse reports regarding the wheat crop in America and Canada, prices for flour have risen, quotations being £15 for Indian and £15 10s. for Australian, per ton, c.i.f. Port Sudan. There is, at present, very little demand for gunnies, but with the new crop coming forward, an appreciable improvement is anticipated. Dura crop reports are encouraging, rains having been plentiful, but it is not yet known whether the Government will permit exports.

Palestine.

The following report, received by mail, was written before the recent disturbances in Palestine occurred.

The construction works on the river Jordan, in connexion with the Rutenberg Concession, are expected to be completed within a year, or, at the most, 18 months. The supply of cheap electrical power should prove a great boon to the many small industries which have sprung up in Tel Aviv and elsewhere and should also give considerable encouragement to the extension of irrigated plantations. The Jerusalem Electric Company is expected to be in a position to supply current in the autumn, and a good demand for electrical accessories is expected, in anticipation of which a considerable quantity of cheap German goods has been imported.

Harvesting is completed. A slight rise in the prices of cereals is attributed to the fact that imports of wheat from Trans-Jordan have diminished, as cereal merchants in that region are disposing of their goods in other markets in the Near East. The flour market is now more healthy and active, as the heavy selling of imported flour, which has depressed prices for the last three months, appears to be coming to an end. The market for rice is quiet and quotations are weaker, Rangoon being £P.1:700 per sac of 103 kg. Business in cotton and woollen goods has continued to be of moderate dimensions, at poor prices, although the market for Manchester goods has been active and merchants report satisfactory sales.

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THE ROUMANIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

Roumania offers an excellent market for all kinds of textiles and for raw materials required by the domestic textile industry, which has made considerable progress during the last few years, despite the absence of such essential raw materials as cotton, superior quality wool and various yarns which have had to be imported from other countries (says an article in the United States "Commerce Reports.")

The number of textile enterprises, which in 1922 was only 182, producing manufactures valued at £3,993,300, had multiplied to 462 in 1926. In 1926 these mills produced goods valued £6,243,386, while textiles produced in 1927 amounted in value to £9,544,800. The consumption of textiles has steadily increased in Roumania since the War. In 1925 the total consumption of textiles amounted to £18,598,600 in value, of which 29.5 per cent. was supplied by the domestic industry and 70.5 per cent. by importations from other countries. During 1926 there was an increase of £1,488,646 over the 1925 consumption—32 per cent. of the total representing production of the local industry and 68 per cent. goods imported from other countries.

In view of Roumania's importance as a sheep-growing country and as a result of the protection offered by the Government, the wool manufacturing industry has made notable progress during recent years. The total annual production of wool is officially estimated at 26,000 tons, the major portion of which is worked up by the peasants. The home industry is an important customer of the small spinning mills in Bessarabia and the Old Kingdom, to which washed wool is furnished by the peasants in exchange for yarn. As the quality of domestic wool is inferior, better-grade wool and yarn is imported and mixed with the local product.

A characteristic of the Roumanian wool manufacturing mill is that the manufacturing process begins with the raw material and continues to the finished product, washing, spinning, dyeing, and finishing being done in the same plant. Only one Roumanian mill is equipped for wool combing: it has 10,000 spindles and a total annual production capacity of 300,000 kilos of combed yarn. However, the production of this mill is much below its capacity, its output having been 260,000 kilos in 1924, 290,000 in 1925 and 171,000 in 1926. The cause of this reduced output of local yarn is attributed to the insufficiency of the tariff protection afforded the domestic combed-yarn producers against foreign competition. The consumption of carded yarn is met almost entirely by local production.

In 1927 there were 97 wool manufacturing mills in Roumania, with 110,414 spindles and 2,282 looms, employing 8,884 workers. Of the total number of mills in operation in 1927, 57 were in Transylvania, 22 in the Old Kingdom, 17 in Bessarabia, and 1 in Bukovina. Although the production of these mills covers the greatest part of the local consumption—especially heavy inferior quality cloth—large quantities of better cloth are imported from abroad.

Production of Cotton Mills.

Cotton, which is not grown in Roumania, is imported in both the raw and semi-manufactured state. The Roumanian mills using cotton as raw material are divided

into three groups—spinning, weaving, and knitting. The cotton spinning mills in Roumania, located in Arad and in Bucharest, possess a total of 33,228 spindles. The cotton weaving industry in 1927 had 59 factories with 5,413 looms and it employed 7,695 workers. The Old Kingdom had 34 of these mills; Transylvania and the Banat, 23; and Bukovina, 2. The cotton yarn used by these establishments, as well as by the peasant home industry, is largely supplied by importations from abroad. From the year 1922 to 1925 imports for mills increased three and a half times, while those for the peasant home industry remained practically stationary. In view of the fact that the production of Roumanian cotton mills is insufficient to cover the growing consumption of cotton textiles, over 80 per cent. is imported from various countries.

The Roumanian knitting mills, although using as raw materials not only cotton but also wool and silk yarn, are producing mostly cotton knit goods. The cotton-knitting industry in 1927 employed 5,443 workers in 85 establishments, operated 3,844 knitting machines, and had an invested capital of £468,879. Of the 85 knitting enterprises, 46 were located in the Old Kingdom, 25 in Transylvania and Banat, and the remainder in Bukovina and Bessarabia. The production of the knitting mills in 1925 was 972 metric tons, as compared with 1,202 metric tons in 1924. Consumption of knitted goods equalled 1,566 metric tons in 1925 and 1,787 metric tons in 1924. Local production practically doubled from 1922 to 1926 and there was a continual growth in consumption.

Flax and hemp are cultivated in Roumania to some degree, but unfavourable climatic conditions have resulted in a decrease of the yield per hectare of both of these fibres during the last three years. In 1927 Roumania possessed a total of 17 mills working flax, hemp, and imported jute. The production of the mills, comprising coarse hemp, cord, ropes, halters and belting, cannot be ascertained, owing to the lack of official statistics. From import figures, however, it appears that the major portion of local consumption is covered by imported goods. A small quantity of fine flax and hemp textiles are produced in some of the local cotton mills.

Despite favourable climatic conditions sericulture is not highly developed in Roumania. As the quality of Roumanian silk is inferior the importation of silk yarn for admixture by the domestic silk industry is necessary. In 1927 Roumania had 15 silk mills, 8 in the old Kingdom and 7 in Transylvania, with a total of 273 looms. It is reported that the Roumanian silk industry has developed rapidly since the War, but there are no recent statistics covering the production of the mills. Some idea of the rate of growth of this industry may be obtained from statistics showing the production of textiles composed partly of pure silk and partly of an admixture of silk. During 1925 the value of the production of silk and rayon textiles was £145,985, as compared with £43,755 in 1924. It is estimated that of the local production of silk and rayon about 80 per cent. is rayon and only 20 per cent. pure silk.

It is stated that the Roumanian textile industry has succeeded in meeting only 30 per cent. of the country's total needs in textile goods. Of the quantity of textiles required for local consumption the greater portion produced comprises coarse and inferior products, it being necessary to import the better grade goods from abroad.

The Eastern Telegraph Company announces a dividend at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, less tax, on the preference stock for the quarter ending September 30, payable October 15.

The Albion Motor Car Company, Ltd., Glasgow, have secured from the Government of India a contract for the supply of 100 Albion special six-wheeled lorries with the carrying capacity of three tons. The value of the contract exceeds £200,000, and delivery of the vehicles will be given over the next six months. These six-wheeler vehicles are specially designed to operate across country and, if desired, can leave the hard roads and travel over broken ground and up extraordinarily steep gradients with a full load.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

[The following notes are taken from the bulletin of the British Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce of Sofia, dated August 31.]

General Situation.

Owing to the seasonal harvesting activity, trade has been rather slack in August. The peasant population is busy bringing home the different crops and, as a rule, does not sell the produce before September 15. Local markets are, therefore, almost inactive. It is generally expected that, with the opening of the sales of grain, maize, grapes, sunflower seeds, beans, etc., active purchases of manufactured goods will set in towards the end of September.

Weather conditions continue to be favourable and the forecasts for fairly good results of various crops appear to materialise, with the exception, perhaps, of wheat and rapeseed.

A certain activity in the general situation of trade will most probably be brought about by important orders for railway and building materials on account of the Railway Administration. Numerous tenders are to be invited to this effect in September, October and November next. Among other appliances, there will be placed important orders for switches, steel bridges, weighing platforms, construction steel shapes, etc.

Contracts for the supply of railway carriages have been awarded to one Czechoslovak and two Italian concerns. Two British firms did submit tenders, but their prices were higher than those of the successful tenders.

An important contract for a complete Briquette Making Plant for the State Collieries at Pernik was not awarded, as no offers were submitted. The terms of the supply, as established by the Administration of the Collieries, were found difficult to be complied with.

The position of the textile and leather trades is still uneasy owing to difficult sales as a consequence of excessive foreign commitments to be met by local importers; in order to secure funds for their payments, they are underselling one another. An improvement of the situation is expected to set in with the beginning of peasant purchases in September.

Foreign trade remains passive. No definite data are available for July and August, but, according to preliminary information, the position has not improved since the end of July.

Railway traffic has considerably increased and the rolling stock available threatens to prove deficient for the heavy transport of grain, sugar beet and other agricultural products.

Cotton in Bulgaria.

The favourable conditions in the southern part of Bulgaria for growing cotton, on the one hand, and the large imports of raw cotton, on the other, have induced the Ministry of Agriculture to start a campaign among the peasants for intensifying the growing of cotton. This pioneer work has reached a stage at which cotton grown in Bulgaria has proved to be of good quality. The area under cotton has increased steadily from 16,585 decares in 1923 to 51,521 decares in 1929. This year the area is estimated at 48,687 decares. Production of raw cotton which amounted to 286 tons in 1923, rose to 749 tons in 1927 and 941 tons in 1928.

Forthcoming Tenders.

The Ministry of Finance is inviting tenders to take place on October 14, 1929, for the coinage and supply of silver coins of a total nominal value of 580,000,000 leva. Offers may be submitted in either Bulgarian, French or English languages. Only State Mints or such other institutions as have manufactured silver coins for either their own government or other governments since 1920 will be allowed to compete. Such institutions should submit samples, of the various coins which they have struck. Competitors are required to deposit a sum of

400,000 leva with the Bulgarian National Bank, and to produce a deposit certificate together with their offers before the Adjudication Commission. This caution must be completed to 5 per cent. of the price offered by the successful tender. All expenses incurred in connexion with the supply including all fiscal taxes and revenue fees will be for the account of the contractor.

Tenders are also invited to take place on the same date for the coinage and supply of an alloy of copper and nickel coins of a total nominal value of 250,000,000 leva. The requirements for these are the same as those for the silver coins, except that the amount required as the first caution deposit is set at 700,000 leva.

Agriculture.

According to information obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, the apple crop of Bulgaria is considered satisfactory. Five districts of the country will show a surplus production of over 450,000 kilograms to be exported. The pear crop is reported to be excellent throughout the country. However, the exports will be very insignificant due to the fact that the pear fruit is not of that standard which would sell abroad. The pear trees of the better sorts are still too young to bear sufficient quantities for the purpose of export.

The crop of water melons this year has been abundant, 90 cartloads have been already exported, and owing to the flooding of the market, prices have been extremely low as compared with former years.

The prospects of the plum crop are very good and important quantities of prunes are expected to be exported. The Ministry further reports that the honey yield, especially in some districts, is satisfactory.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1 to September 7, 1928, were £10,250,000, of which £2,750,000 was remitted by means of purchases of sterling in India and £7,500,000 transferred from the Paper Currency Reserve in England to the Home Treasury.

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THE NEW OLYMPIA.

New Setting for the British Industries Fair.

A battery of six high-speed "talky" lifts, announcing the different floors automatically; 36 staircases and escapes; flood-lighting for the front of the building and advertisement letters six feet high in stainless steel—these are some striking features of the new £500,000 building at Olympia, London, two floors of which are to be ready in time for the British Industries Fair next February. Although there will be two floors still to complete, the whole front of the building will be finished for the forthcoming Fair. It is 330 feet long and will completely dwarf the existing Olympia buildings.

Prejudice against exhibitions on upper floors has had to be overcome. The building has been made "super-safe," to use the words of the architect, Mr. Joseph Emberton, A.R.I.B.A. The steel in it amounts to 6,500 tons, all of which has been erected in three months—five times the average speed of steel construction in London. But strength has had to be combined with wide spans so as to keep the floors as free as possible from encumbrances. Some of the girders weigh 22 tons each and some of the columns carry 1,500 tons, the spans being over 50 feet.

With the unusual number of staircases and escapes, each emergency stair serving only one floor, it will be possible to clear the entire building, with 3,600 people on each of the four floors, in two minutes.

The "talky" lifts, announcing what is to be seen on each floor as they go up and down, will be opened and closed at each floor by one man sitting in a glass control box. Between them the lifts will be capable of transporting 500 people at the rate of 350 feet per minute. There will be two goods lifts besides, with room for the largest motor cars.

Each floor provides an exhibiting area of about 60,000 square feet, bringing the total at Olympia, including the old buildings, up to nearly 600,000 square feet. In cubic content the new building by itself, it is stated, will be the largest building in the Empire, and it will also be the most up-to-date exhibition building in the world.

The stands will be 11 feet high and the long horizontal windows will come above that. These windows will run the full length of each floor, broken in the middle only by a big vertical window which will light the well around which the floors are built and limited at each end by the arrangement of staircases.

The long windows make the building horizontal in form, which the architect maintains is more reposeful than the vertical lines of the new Regent Street.

There is no cornice or ornament of any kind, but along the whole front will run, above the ground floor entrance, a canopy of reconstructed stone—the material for the whole facing of the building—with a projection of 10 feet, increasing to 14 feet over the doorways. This will give

protection from the weather and at the same time carry the lamps for flood-lighting the whole front of the building above the canopy.

This is believed to be the first time that a permanent building has been designed with the deliberate object of flood-lighting it. The necessity, too, of giving a building a new interest for each exhibition—for subsequent motor shows and other trade exhibitions will use the premises—has been thought of, for space is provided for posters and advertisement lettering in stainless steel. "British Industries Fair" will be emblazoned there in six-foot letters without destroying the design of the building. Surmounting the building, and probably also in stainless steel, there will be some simple statuary symbolic of the British industries for the display of whose products the new building will be principally used.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

System of Water Mains.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of 6,580 metres double wrapped steel pipes with valves and specials, 28 hydrants, 11 column hydrants and 4 fountains (drinking water). October 15. (D.O.T.)

Pumping Units.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, Public Works Ministry, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection at Giza and Gebireh Waterworks, Giza, of two Diesel pumping units, complete, with all accessories. October 15.

INDIA.

Fans.—The Indian Stores Department, Delhi, invites tenders for the supply of ceiling and table fans. December 3. (D.O.T.)

SYRIA.

Sewerage System.—His Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout (Mr. H. E. Shaw, O.B.E.) reports that the Municipality of Beyrout is calling for tenders, to be presented in Beyrout by January 15, 1930, for the construction of a sewerage system for the town of Beyrout. It is stated that firms desirous of tendering must signify their intention in writing to the Municipality before October 15. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Britannia for Bombay (Glasgow, September 28; Manchester, October 4; Birkenhead, October 5). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakuta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 30); s.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Glasgow, September 26; Birkenhead, October 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Staffordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 2).

British India Line.—S.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 21); s.s. Warfield for Bombay (London, September 21); s.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 5).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 5); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 10).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, September 27); s.s. Nankin for Calcutta (London, September 27).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, September 28).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Piræus, Patras, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 28; Swansea, September 28); s.s. Serbino for Malta, Alexandria, Haifa*, and Jaffa* (Glasgow, October 1; Liverpool, October 3); s.s. Oporto for Algiers*, Oran*, Piræus, Patras, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 12; Swansea*, October 12); s.s. Algerian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, October 12; Swansea, October 17). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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Passenger sailing dates:—

ASSYRIA ...	Sept. 27	CALIFORNIA ...	Oct. 22
BRITANNIA ...	Oct. 11	ELYSIA ...	Nov. 12

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.
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SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLES, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN ROUMANIA.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ending September 7 :—

Grain.—Although grain markets abroad continued to be weak, the local market was fairly active, and occasionally merchants paid prices over the parity in order to fulfil pressing sales, mainly for Germany. Fair quantities of wheat have been sold to Levant ports, chiefly Constantinople, and the first arrivals of oats are about to be shipped, probably to Antwerp. In view of the foregoing, the accumulation of tonnage, which was anticipated last week, has not taken place, and ships are receiving fairly good dispatch, whilst freights have been inclined to harden. In certain instances 15s. 9d. has been paid for the Continent. For Constantinople rates from 8s. to 8s. 6d. were current. Steamers to the extent of about 100,000 tons have been fixed from the Danube for September/October loading at from 17s. 6d. to 18s. 3d. Continent according to size, position, and destination. At Constantza there has been a restricted business at 10s. 6d. Continent, but further tonnage has been taken for September, and September/October at slightly higher rates. Owing to one of the silo-elevators being out of commission and a third not yet having been equipped, the present accommodation at Constantza is not adequate for rush periods and the steamers now arriving have to wait five to six days for a berth.

Timber.—The demand for usual Mediterranean and Near Eastern destinations remains weak, there being almost no inquiry for Greece or Syria, for which freights are nominally £7 10s. and £8 10s., respectively. There is a small inquiry for Italy, principally Naples, at £9, and also for North Africa, for which tonnage is asking £11 10s. per waggon. Some parcels are in view for Rotterdam, but no new freight engagements have yet been made for this destination, as shippers are hoping to get on at less money than the rate of £12 which was paid in the case of recent shipments.

Weather and Crops.—The weather during the week continued to be fine and dry, with a high day and low night temperature. There were occasional showers, mostly in the western part of the country, and on the whole it was favourable for the ripening of the maize. At the moment of writing a thunderstorm accompanied by a deluge of rain lasting about an hour passed over

the Galatz district and caused a heavy drop of the mercury. It is stated by the Ministry of Agriculture that, as a result of the dry hot weather last month, a reduction of 10 to 15 per cent. must be made in the estimates published with regard to the yield of late-planted maize in Bessarabia and the neighbouring districts of the Old Kingdom. On the other hand, the prospects in Transylvania, where beneficial rains have fallen, are excellent, and the crop in the watershed of the Theiss is reported to be exceptionally large. Provisional estimates are published of the average weights per hectolitre of the principal straw crops as follows :—

	Wheat.	Rye.	Barley.	Oats.
	Kilograms per hectolitre.			
Old Kingdom	75.5	70.5	62.0	45.4
Bessarabia	78.4	72.7	67.5	47.0
Bukovina	78.0	72.2	67.8	46.6
Transylvania	75.2	70.5	64.2	47.4
Average for whole of Roumania	76.7	71.4	65.3	46.6

Owing to shortage of seed for autumn sowings of wheat in certain localities, a proposal for a loan of 300 million lei for supplying the deficiencies, made by the Minister of Commerce, was promptly agreed to in principle by ten of the leading Bucharest banks. The State guarantees the loan, and the money will be advanced to the peasants' banks as required. The interest proposed is 3 to 3½ per cent. over the National Bank rate.

Sulina.—Bar : On the resumption of dredging operation it was found that a bank extending about 300 feet had formed in the navigable channel, reducing the depth to 22 feet, but this has been already improved to 23 ft. 6 in. These fluctuations are attributed to extra silt having been brought down by flood water, which now appears to have subsided. River depth : The depth of 24 feet has been restored at the 39th milepost.

Constantza.—About 10,000 tons of grain were shipped for Hamburg during the week, and about 15,000 tons are being loaded for Rotterdam and Antwerp. Several steamers are waiting for berth, including a 7,000 tonner destined for the Weser.

Petroleum.—Seven vessels loaded about 28,000 tons of petroleum products and five ships were supplied with about 2,500 tons oil fuel as bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, August 31.—The market remained slack for prompt business, but in fulfilment of old engagements about 1,200 tons of barley were shipped from Antwerp, most of this quantity having been booked at 10s. 6d. net. Only trifling quantities are available for shipment to the Continent during the first half of September, and no large movement is yet in sight even for later positions. About 1,200 tons of barley and 1,500 tons of sunflower seed for Antwerp and Rotterdam are offered for end September shipment.

Weather and Crops.—Rain has been reported from most parts of the country, except in the Varna and Bourgas districts. Floods have occurred in a few parts, causing loss of life to man and beast. The rain has improved the condition of the maize considerably, and there are hopes of a very good crop.

The Mercantile Bank of India has declared an interim dividend on its "A," "B," and "C" shares of 8 per cent., less tax, payable September 23. (Last year's interim dividend was the same.)

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ending August 17 amounted to Rs.12,06,258, making a total for the period from April 1 of Rs.2,56,63,976, as compared with Rs.11,28,138 and Rs.2,33,08,041 for the corresponding periods in 1928.

At the Yugoslav Economic Congress held in Belgrade, which closed on September 9, it was stated that the country's exports for the current year were estimated at 8,600 million dinars, or an increase of 1,600 million dinars on the value of the exports for the previous year.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital ...	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund ...	£3,800,000

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Aden	Calcutta	Colembo	Lahore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe	Uganda
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
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The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Power of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

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The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of *Atta of Roses* is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ending September 11:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Rather erratic fluctuations have been witnessed during the course of the week, and there is little doubt that the disappointing response shown by the American markets to Monday's "bullish" Bureau figures has unsettled confidence in both trade and speculative quarters for the time being. A slackening off in business was noticeable towards the end of last week, and with the general policy to even up commitments bringing in a moderate amount of local and Continental liquidation, values developed a somewhat reactionary tendency; just prior to the report, the level broke sharply owing to absence of support, Novembers declining to 16.50d. Subsequently, a recovery of 50 points occurred; however, as mentioned earlier, the action of the American markets has latterly checked activities on the buying side, with the result that values on the week show declines of 8 points for near and 2 to 6 points for more distant positions. Sentiment at the moment appears to be against a maintenance of present values, and this, combined with the sharp price movement in raw material values, has checked, but only temporarily it is hoped, the expansion of the recent improvement shown by trade reports. At the present juncture, steady markets are required to bring out business, and with this in view it is satisfactory to note that at the time of writing a firmer undertone appears to be developing. Taking all things into account, Alexandria has shown considerable resistance throughout the week; crop accounts continue to be rather conflicting, and the following cable from an authentic source just received no doubt partly explains some of the buying that has come into our market to-day:—"Fresh rise Nile causing more serious apprehensions damage crop lower Egypt. Yesterday's 'Bull' liquidation absorbed by purchases trade."

As a result of the week's trading local differences show very little change; near months continue to enlist quite as much support as later deliveries, and will probably hold their ground until clearer ideas of next season's supplies can be formulated. Generally speaking, we are moderately "bullish" on the outlook, and, taking a strict view of the position, would advise conservative purchases should the market develop a reactionary tendency.

Upper Contract.—Only a moderate amount of business has been attracted to this market during the past week, and, as values have been mainly governed by the ruling tendency in American values, we have to report a decline of 20 to 27 points for near and 25 to 29 points for distant positions, since we last wrote. The after-effects of the Bureau report have proved rather against trade interests, and less support has been received from this quarter than has recently been the case. General ideas at the other side are that the crop will prove smaller than last year, but to what extent depends on conditions and ginning yields shown during the next two or three weeks. The Alexandria General Produce Association's report for August reads as follows:—"Temperature in general was favourable to plants. Boll worm and pink worm caused damage, varying from 5 to 10 per cent. according to district. Irrigation water was plentiful and waterings took place normally. First picking commenced towards the 20th of the month, about 15 days later than last year, and it will become general during the first week of September."

Egyptian Spot.

This has been a somewhat disappointing week, as, prior to the publication of last Monday's Bureau report, business was showing distinct signs of improvement and it was generally felt here that should the tenor of the report prove to be "bullish" a very useful fillip to the trade would be provided. Although the report was of a markedly "bullish" character, the trade entirely failed to respond and values have actually sagged, and this in spite of efforts from Egypt, whence reports of flood damage are being daily received. This would seem to point to the fact that spinners have no confidence in current rates were it not that the spot demand is notoriously an unsafe criterion to be guided by, and we are inclined to the belief that the neglect of the spot has been compensated for by an improvement in c.i.f. business. It is merely repeating ourselves to say that the cotton chiefly in request, i.e., G.F. and F.G.F., both in Sakel and Upper, is becoming increasingly difficult to find locally.

Sakel.—The demand has broadened somewhat, and practically all qualities have been in request at one time or another, with the exception of the very best. As usual, most of the business has taken place in cotton at from 50 to 150 on November contracts.

Uppers.—The customary steady offtake has occurred for cotton at from pass to 50 on contracts. Staple lots are becoming harder to select each day. The basis has remained steady. Cotton at from 10 to 20 points off has also attracted some attention.

Pilion has been in moderate request for the medium qualities.

Nahda, White, and Maarad.—Rather more doing, but actual sales are hard to trace.

Sudan Sakel.—The demand continues to expand and foreign buyers have this week shown more interest.

Tokar Sakel.—This cotton still fails to attract buyers.

C.i.f. business has shown further improvement. Forwardings to the trade last week were returned as 4,004 bales Egyptians and 999 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 2,100 bales Egyptians and 1,650 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel have eased

20 points; those of Upper and Pilion 40 points on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.50d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.6d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.75d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 5, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active and appreciable fluctuations have been registered; at the close to-day the tendency was somewhat undecided. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 33.92 dollars, 0.63 dollars up; January, 34.28 dollars, 0.63 dollars up; March, 34.72 dollars, 0.58 dollars up; May, 35.07 dollars, 0.57 dollars up. Ashmouni: October, 21.82 dollars, 0.43 dollars up; December, 22.22 dollars, 0.40 dollars up; February, 22.67 dollars, 0.41 dollars up; April, 22.95 dollars, 0.30 dollars up; June, 23.43 dollars, 0.37 dollars up.

Sakel.—We have had a series of very firm markets, with numerous transactions passing, chiefly of a speculative nature, and during yesterday's session November almost touched 34½ dollars.

During to-day's session there was a reversal of the bullish sentiment in the ring, as a result of the decline of about 30 points in the American market and the news that the river level in the Sudan was falling. Heavy liquidating followed and prices declined more than ½ dollar.

During all this movement the trade took very little interest in the market, chiefly because of the scarcity of orders from spinners. Local bull operators maintain that stocks in the hands of spinners are very low, and that sooner or later they must come into the market; but in view of the fact that prospects of production of both American and Egyptian cotton are reassuring, we do not think that spinners will change their attitude of the past year—that is to say, they will continue to buy only according to their needs.

Notwithstanding the bull liquidations of to-day, the market is still overbought, and we expect that any reaction in New York will be fully reflected in our market.

The Sakel/Uppers straddle (November/October) this week stands at 1,210 points, against 1,190 points last week and 1,408 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—This market has followed the movements of the Sakel market, but on the whole transactions were more commercial in character. Fixations against spot cotton have been fairly heavy, but the sales were easily absorbed by the purchases of both the trade and the speculative element.

The difference with New York has widened slightly; at one time it was over 3 dollars, but we do not think that this parity can be maintained and expect that the weight of new crop arrivals will probably again reduce, at least temporarily, the difference between Ashmouni and American.

The Ashmouni American straddle (October/October) this week stands at 270 points, against 260 points last week and 384 points at this time last year.

The official figures of arrivals and exports for the period September 1, 1928, to August 28, 1929, are as follows:—

Arrivals: Sakellaridis, 2,524,566 kantars; Ashmouni and Zagora, 4,561,025 kantars; Pilion, 419,032 kantars; Various, 317,941 kantars; Scarto, 139,179 kantars; total, 7,961,743 kantars.

Exports: Sakellaridis, 2,584,450 kantars; Ashmouni and Zagora, 4,664,856 kantars; Pilion, 372,211 kantars; Various, 225,285 kantars; total, 7,846,802 kantars.

Spot.—With the arrivals of new crop cotton more interest has been shown. New crop arrivals have, however, been very few, owing to the lateness of the Ashmouni crop. Of a total turnover of about 3,420 bales, we estimate Sakel 950 bales, Ashmouni and Zagora 2,000 bales, Pilion 340 bales, White 90 bales, and Maarad 40 bales.

Sakellaridis has been in moderate demand and business has been done in low cottons and cotton grading Good about to Good/Fully Good. There has been a demand for medium grades, but with very little result, as the offerings were of a very poor quality indeed. There would have been a much better business done in medium grades had there been any decent cotton on offer. Premiums are much the same as last week.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—There has been a very good demand for the better grades and the turnover was only limited by the smallness of the arrivals. Low cottons have been neglected. Premiums are unchanged from those of last week.

Pilion.—There has been a much better demand for Pilion grading Fully Good Fair and upwards, but the bulk of the business done has been in the better classes. Premiums are unchanged.

Other Varieties.—Apart from a small business in Fully Good Fair/Good White and Good Maarad, other varieties have been very neglected.

Crop, 1929.—The reports which we have received from our agencies in Lower Egypt indicate satisfactory conditions; despite the attacks of the various pests, the crop has, on the whole, suffered less damage than last year, and, unless something unforeseen happens during the next three or four weeks, final results should at least be equal to those of last year. Picking has commenced in some advanced fields, notably where brown varieties have been planted, and is expected to become general about the 20th instant.

In certain localities near to the Nile, the high level has caused infiltration in some places, the effect of which may be to cause some slight damage to the later pickings.

The situation in Upper Egypt is satisfactory, thanks to the favourable temperature. It would seem that all fears of floods may now be dismissed. Arrivals of cotton at the ginning factories are steady and large in quantity, and the daily arrivals in our market will soon reach a fairly high figure.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for the month of August reads:—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature during August was in general favourable and the plants made normal progress. Fog was reported on certain days, but did not cause any damage.

Boll worm, pink boll worm, and leaf worm were remarked everywhere and caused certain damage; the percentage of bolls attacked varied, according to district and the variety of cotton, from 7 to 25 per cent.

Water for irrigation was abundant and waterings took place normally except in certain lands where the growers took advantage of the excess of water.

Picking is from 10 to 15 days later than last year and will commence for Sakellaridis between September 20 and 25 and for other varieties between the 5th and 10th.

Condition of the crop at the end of August is satisfactory. Prospects are almost the same as last year, but it must be remarked that a crop as late as the present one is more susceptible to worm attack and dampness.

Also the abnormal Nile flood gives rise to fears of damage by infiltration.

Upper Egypt and the Fayoum.—The temperature in general was favourable to the plant.

Boll worm and pink boll worm caused damage varying from 5 to 10 per cent., according to district.

Irrigation water was plentiful and waterings took place normally.

The first picking commenced towards the 20th of the month, about fifteen days later than last year. It will become general during the first week of September.

DIVIDENDS.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS.

The directors of Imperial Airways announce that the net profit for the year ended March 31, 1929, after providing £36,175 for obsolescence, amounted to £78,861, which, together with the carry-forward from the previous year of £4,049, leaves available an amount of £82,910. Out of this amount there has been written off the balance of the preliminary expenses and underwriting commission amounting to £20,663 and £20,000 has been appropriated for additional obsolescence reserve. A dividend of 7½ per cent. is proposed on the ordinary share capital, leaving to be carried forward £6,689. For 1927-28 the net profit amounted to £72,567, and the company, which was formed in 1924, paid as its first dividend 5 per cent.

BANK OF ATHENS.

The Bank of Athens has paid an interim dividend of 5 drachmæ per share, less tax.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Sept. 16	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Aug. 28.
Government Stocks.			Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	78 1/2		3½% Government Paper ...	68 1/2	
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	68 1/2		Banks		
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	87		Imperial Bank of India ...	1,397	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	80		Bank of India ...	90	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	28 1/2		Central Bank of India ...	18 1/2	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	82		Coal.		
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	69		Baraboni ...	7 1/2	
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	68 1/2		Bengal ...	47 1/2	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	52 1/2		Burrakur ...	16 1/2	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	68 1/2		East Indian ...	2 1/2	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	69		Equitable ...	3 1/2	
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ...	56		Pench Valley ...	35 1/2	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	59		Raneegunge ...	4 1/2	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (f.o.n. issue) ...	73		Standard ...	61	
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	100 1/2		Cotton.		
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	86 1/2		Bengal Nagpur ...	8 1/2	
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	100 1/2		Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	73 1/2	
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	83 1/2		Bowrah ...	57 1/2	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	68		Buckingham and Carnatic ...	17 1/2	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	45 1/2		Cawnpore Textiles ...	32 1/2	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	106		Century ...	47 1/2	
Sudan 4½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	64 1/2		Central India ...	91	
India 3½ p.c. ...	55 1/2		Elgin ...	83 1/2	
Do. 3 p.c. ...	99 1/2		Khatau Makani ...	34 1/2	
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	85 1/2		Muir ...	16 1/2	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	19 1/2		New Ring ...	32 1/2	
Banks.			Phoenix ...	406	
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	7 1/2		Svadeshi ...	593	
Bank of British West Africa ...	45 1/2		Jute.		
Bank of Roumania ...	80 1/2		Alliance ...	305	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pt. ...	28 1/2		Barnagore ...	596	
Chartered Bank of India ...	19 1/2		Budge Budge ...	40	
Eastern ...	6 13/16		Clive ...	570	
Hambros ...	10 1/16		Dalhousie ...	590	
Ionian Bank ...	6 11/16		Delta ...	975	
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	11 1/2		Fort Gloster ...	466	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	16 1/2		Gourepore ...	58	
Lloyds ...	62 1/2		Howrah ...	67 1/2	
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	32 1/2		Kamarhaty ...	553	
Do. B ...	33		Kankannarrah ...	603 1/2	
National Bank of Egypt ...	32 1/2		Khaddah ...	1, 10	
National Bank of India ...	49		Kinnison ...	32 1/2	
Ottoman Bank ...	11 1/2		National ...	490	
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	8 1/2		Standard ...	756	
Westminster ...	75 1/2		Union ...	2 1/2	
Land.			Miscellaneous		
Kassala Cotton ...	9 1/2		British India Corporation ...	21 1/2	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	5 1/2		Bengal Paper Mills ...	40 1/2	
Sudan Plantations ...	47 3/32		Bengal Timber Trading ...	225	
Mines.			Burn and Co. ...	362 1/2	
Salaghat Gold Mining ...	5 1/2		Cawnpore Sugar ...	16 1/2	
Burma Corp. ...	17 1/2		Champaran Sugar ...	13 1/2	
Champion Reef Gold ...	9 1/2		Howrah Oil Mills ...	9 1/2	
Mysore ...	12 1/2		ALEXANDRIA		
Nandydree ...	17 1/2		Prices on Sept. 6, supplied by G.L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Oreogram Gold Mining Ord. ...	8 1/2		Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...		27 1/2
Oil.			Fond. ...		214 5/8
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	21 1/16		Alexandria Water Co. ...	4 1/2	
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	4 15/32		Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	2E20 15/16	
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pt. ...	26 1/4		Behera Ord. ...	Frs. 115	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pt. ...	28 7/8		Ciments d'Egypte ...	182 1/2	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	97		Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	2 5/16	
Brit. Burmah ...	6 1/2		Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	Frs. 905	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	41 1/32		Fondateur ...	2,500	
Do. 8½ Cum Prof. ...	26 1/2		Crown Brewery Priv. ...	Frs 130	
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	3		Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	23 1/2	
Phoenix Oil and Transport (p.) ...	12 1/2		Frigorifiques d'Egypte ...	26 11/16	
Do. (1/2) ...	7 1/2		Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	21 1/2	
Shell Transport ...	5		Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	21 1/2	
Steaua Romana ...	10 1/2		Parts de Fond ...	2200	
			Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	Pt. 190	



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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	329	INDIAN NOTES	339	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Notes and News	353
Yugoslavia's Problem	331	The Mind of India	338	Persian Finances	354
SPECIAL LETTERS—		PERSONAL AND GENERAL	336	Bulgarian Tobacco Crop in 1929	354
Egypt	332	CORRESPONDENCE	335	The Week's Finance	355
Bulgaria	333	THE WEEK AT HOME	340	Engineering Topics	319
Cyprus	333			Motors and Motoring	357
Calcutta	337			Economic Conditions in Roumania	359
				Cotton and Cotton Goods	360

Notes of the Week.

Egypt and the Treaty Proposals.

So far the Egyptian Wafd has shown no disposition to modify its intransigent attitude towards the proposals for an Anglo-Egyptian treaty. With the one idea of regaining office, it is understood to have intimated that its "demands" include the unconditional resignation of Mahmoud Pasha and the holding of elections on the basis of the existing Electoral Law. The *quid pro quo* that it offers, it would be supposed, would be the unconditional acceptance of the proposed treaty; but that apparently is not the Wafd's way. When its demands have been granted, it will then accept the proposals as a starting point for further negotiation. If this attitude should be persisted in, the Wafd could devise no better way of disillusioning the British Government, and it is to be hoped that there will be no further suggestion of seeking through an elected Parliament an expression of the Egyptian people's opinion of the proposed treaty. There is no reason to suppose that office has ever held the same attraction for Mahmoud Pasha as it holds for Nahas Pasha and his colleagues; but it would be a grim commentary on the country's capacity for gratitude, if it sacrificed on the altar of party politics the man responsible for the improvement in Anglo-Egyptian relations. For the sake of Egypt as a whole it was hoped that King Fuad's efforts to unite all sections of the people for a general acceptance of the treaty would be successful, and that, when once this question was out of the way, the ground would have been cleared for the resumption of normal political conditions, with the inevitable differences of opinion on policy and methods, but always conditioned by the devotion of all parties to the true interests of the country. Egypt, however, it is to be feared, will not be out of the wood quite so easily.

A Cypriot Delegation.

Yet another delegation of Greek Cypriots, it is announced, is arriving in London to plead with the British Government the cause of the union of the Island with Greece. The step was inevitable with the change of Government in Great Britain; but it is interesting to note that opinion among the "Unionists" themselves appears

to have been divided as to the wisdom of action at this particular moment, quite apart from the not unimportant question of funds, and there was a short delay in the dispatch of the delegation. That a political mission of two members should include a high ecclesiastical dignitary may seem strange until the conditions of the Greek Church in Cyprus are understood. In Turkish lands the Orthodox Church was the rallying point for Greek nationalism, and the tradition has been perpetuated in Cyprus under the present Archbishop, to such good purpose that political activities would seem to be regarded as the surest road to Church preferment. Consequently an ambitious prelate must necessarily tread in the Archbishop's footsteps, and the Bishop of Kition has no difficulty in laying aside his spiritual duties and other pre-occupations which have served to keep him in the public eye, in order to plead in England the cause of the union of Cyprus with Greece. For the purpose of this political mission a sum of over £600 has been provided by the Greek Church in Cyprus; but, as both delegates, Mr. S. G. Stavrinakis, and the Bishop, are travelling at their own expense, the whole of this amount will be at the Bishop's disposal for other ends, which seem to be vaguely grouped under the word Propaganda. It may be for this reason that the Greek community in Cyprus, which is inclining to the idea that the Church possibly has other than political duties to perform, makes merry over the mission, and the Bishop is depicted in a cartoon as riding away, as in a car, on his £600. It is satisfactory to know that the burning passion for "union," which is represented as eating away the hearts of the humblest Greek peasants, has not affected their sense of humour and appreciation of the ridiculous.

"Me Kinei Kamarinan."

The hopes of the Greek "Unionists" in Cyprus have been raised by the statement very sedulously circulated in Cyprus and in Greece that in February, 1919, speaking at a Socialist Congress at Berne, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald announced that the Labour Party would apply the principle of self-determination to Cyprus. Moreover, a few days earlier on January 5, 1919, the *Daily Herald* declared that it was high time that the Government gave

Cyprus the liberty that she [*sic*] demanded. In the face of these utterances, it is argued, there can be only one course for the present British Government to take. Few people in Great Britain nowadays can make out a good case for the "No, No, Never" line of policy. A British Prime Minister once tried to drive a bargain over Cyprus, and another may be found to believe that the same thing can be attempted again with advantage to British interests. He will not be thinking of the Island's interests, but he will, under the Agreement of 1916, have to secure the consent of France. Whether Italy would remain a disinterested spectator of the change in the Mediterranean situation is yet to be seen; Turkey would certainly be displeased, to the prejudice of Greco-Turkish relations. Thus what seems such a simple matter to a comparatively few urban Greeks in Cyprus bids fair to set quite a number of nations by the ears, while holding out no prospect at all of any material advantage for Cyprus, and conferring no benefit upon Greece. On the other hand, if Cyprus could be made the fulcrum of the Millenium in the Near East, any sacrifice on Great Britain's part in regard to the island might be worth while. Thus Italy would surrender the Dodecanese, Greece would give up a large part of Macedonia and the Dedeagatch corridor to Bulgaria, and various adjustments in other directions might be made. If the Cypriot delegation had proposed on its way to England to stop first in Greece to urge the Greeks to make the first move, and then to break its journey at Rome to commend the suggestion to Signor Mussolini, still greater difficulty might have been experienced in dispatching the Delegation. Fortunately for the Greek Cypriots the British are easy-going people and contrive to convey the impression that they suffer nuisances gladly.

Iraq and Great Britain.

As we foreshadowed last week, though we wrote before the publication of the Report on Iraq for 1928 (Colonial No. 44), which contained a significant passage called *Al W'adha' Al Shadh* ("the perplexing predicament") the insertion of which will certainly be attributed to the late High Commissioner, Sir Gilbert Clayton, Iraq is to become a member of the League of Nations in 1932. In England, no surprise will be felt at this announcement, for here it was recognised that the conditions which were attached, in the abortive Treaty of 1927, to Iraq's entry in 1932, were, so to speak, unreal or barely conceivable contingencies that appealed to the mind rather of lawyers unversed in affairs than of the administrators actually handling the problem. Quite certainly it was the general British opinion that in 1932 representatives of King Faisal would be taking their rightful places at Geneva. In Iraq,

however, this impression was by no means widely entertained. There, it was felt that Great Britain was but finding excuses for a prolonged stay in the country: the suspicion grew, in fact, that British control was intended to be permanent. And that suspicion naturally begot a certain hostility. The most gratifying feature of the present situation, therefore, arising from the announcement by the British Government that unconditionally recommendation will be made for Iraq's entry into the League of Nations in 1932, and from the consequent formation of a Cabinet under Sir Abdul Muhsin as Saadun, is the fact that the planes of thought on which Iraqis and British representatives have hitherto attempted to conduct negotiations have been adjusted. There is room now for no misgiving. Each side knows where the other stands. It will, then, be in an atmosphere of perfect amity and understanding that the long-unresolved problems attaching to the military and financial agreements will again be tackled. But no observer will imagine that a settlement will be reached without most earnest discussion, for actually it is the smaller, not the larger, nut that has been cracked by the decision pertaining to 1932. There is, however, abundant time before that date for the good will that has been generated by the latest British declaration to effect the desirable consummation in the form of an Anglo-Iraqi Treaty. In the meantime, let us congratulate both the British Government, which has made the decision, and the Iraqis who have so enthusiastically received it. For no one who knows the genuinely friendly sentiments of the Iraqis can imagine that a situation will arise analogous to that which existed in Egypt after the famous Declaration of Independence in 1922, in which the outstanding problems were persistently ignored: the psychology of the two peoples, like the history of their relations with Great Britain, is different. It is the psychological aspect of the present Anglo-Iraqi situation, in fact, which gives the brightest promise for the future.

Iraq and Palestine.

Just as one inevitably considered how the proposed Anglo-Egyptian Treaty would effect the rest of the Middle East in which Great Britain was directly interested, so one is prompted to consider the effect of the latest decision concerning Iraq upon the Arabs of Palestine. That it will reburnish their hopes of self-government goes without saying, for their claim, made long ago, that educationally they were ahead of their Iraqi brothers, cannot well be gainsaid. (With even more emphasis the comparison is true of Syria). It is, therefore, from their point of view one of the ironies of the situation that, at a time when the question of representative government for the Palestinian Arabs was being investigated afresh by the British Government, the Wailing Wall affair should have begun in Palestine the disturbances which, quite plainly, have put out of court for the time being any thought of further Arab influence in the administration of the Holy Land. Quite apart from this factor, however, there remains, in even more glaring light, now that Iraq has been definitely promised entrance into the League in 1932, than was visible hitherto, the contradiction between the Balfour Declaration and the implication of the Mandates of "A" category that self-government is but a question of years. Naturally, therefore, concentrated attention will be paid to the issues at stake in the Balfour Declaration. Somehow or other, politically or administratively, the problem of Arab-Jewish co-operation and mutual tolerance will have to be overcome—for the Government has lost no time in reaffirming the intention of Great Britain to stand by the Declaration. It is impossible not to foresee trouble in Palestine, unless the Mandatory Power is prepared indefinitely to keep troops there—a policy which would meet with very considerable hostility at home, where people are apt to judge the desirability of Oriental policies solely by the cost involved to the British taxpayer. What is granted to one section of the Arab people cannot easily be withheld from another, certainly not less advanced section, unless there are very attractive compensations.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1929.

YUGOSLAVIA'S PROBLEM.

An objective view of another country's affairs is never easy to form. Prejudices creep in where conviction and the utmost honesty of intention appear to hold supreme sway, and the very desire to be just prompts the use of a microscope when a telescope would be the more reasonable instrument to use. To appreciate how wide a margin of error is always possible it is only necessary to recall the perfervid denunciations of Great Britain and all her ways that often proceed from those who would indignantly repudiate a charge of bias. In these cases the average Briton has no difficulty in deciding at which point the critic's line of vision has left the clear atmosphere of reason and truth, to become distorted by some denser medium. Consequently it is necessary for the student of contemporary affairs to be on his guard as much against the wholesale condemnation of a country as against the lack of discrimination which denies the possibility that a given people or Government can ever be in the wrong. Probably in regard to no country at the present moment is it more difficult to obtain a strictly fair verdict than in the case of Yugoslavia. For ten years the people floundered in a political morass; few, if any, of the things that the country needed for its political, economic and social rehabilitation after a devastating war were put into execution, and until the beginning of the present year there existed no prospect of any escape from the chaos for which parliamentary government was obviously responsible. On January 6 came the sudden establishment of a dictatorship. The fiat went forth that all politics were *tabu*, and that the people who had hitherto been wasting, presumably their talent, certainly their time, were to set themselves to work for the good of the country, if not for their own edification. As the Serb is not in the habit of doing things by halves, the new régime has been very effectually enforced on the nation. Political discussion—formerly the life-blood of the people, and allowed to course through them subject to no restrictions, legal, moral or æsthetic—was entirely forbidden; political associations were closed, and no political subject could be mooted in the Press. Little wonder that considerable resentment is felt in many quarters, and it may be inferred that, where opportunity offers, the old excessive denunciation that used to be exchanged freely in public or in the Press is still ready to be poured into sympathetic and trusted ears. The sincerity of the critic may be manifest, the truthfulness of the medium through which the criticism is conveyed may be above challenge; but it requires little perspicuity to discover that the picture presented is blurred and does not reproduce the whole truth.

Considerations of this character are forced upon the more careful reader of an article entitled "The Dictatorship in Yugoslavia: A Reign of Terror" in the *Manchester Guardian*. The article, it is stated, was written by a correspondent who, after a tour of Yugoslav towns, was refused permission by the authorities in Belgrade to remain in the country, "unless he pledged himself to write only such articles as were favourable, or at least not unfavourable, to the Dictatorship." As the correspondent "was unable to give this pledge," he left Yugoslavia. Having thus proclaimed incompatibility of

temperament as between himself and the Yugoslav authorities, but without mentioning the antecedent causes, the correspondent proceeds to elaborate his opinion of the Dictatorship. For seven months, he declares, Yugoslavia has been like a cemetery. If so, it would know true peace for the first time; but he has mistaken a prison mortuary for a cemetery. Parliament, he says, is dead, the Press is dead, the political parties are suppressed. In the presence of death a certain amount of awe is appropriate, but no fair-minded man seeks to build up a serious accusation on the just execution of three notorious criminals. No one needs to shed a tear for the Parliament, Press and parties that the Dictatorship has scotched, for, collectively and individually, they were the curse of the country. The Dictatorship, however, set out to be constructive and not merely destructive; and it will be judged in the long run by its ability to build up a healthier State than that which existed prior to January 6 last. On this point, unfortunately, the correspondent is not helpful, as he attempts no discrimination in his general denunciation. "The economic and financial crisis is worse than it was." It should be shown that the deterioration has nothing to do with world conditions; otherwise the Dictatorship is not necessarily responsible. "The Dictatorship has destroyed whatever confidence in Belgrade Zagreb may have had." Zagreb never had any, and the point of real interest is whether the fault lies wholly with Belgrade, or whether some responsibility does not also attach to Zagreb. "In the prisons confessions are extorted by the most inhuman torments." The same charge was brought home to the police in the palmiest days of parliamentarism. "In Macedonia things are much worse than in Zagreb." They always were.

Although it may not be difficult to demolish the denunciation of a biased critic, it is far from easy to determine with certainty the degree of success that has so far attended the efforts of the Dictatorship in Yugoslavia. Undoubtedly, there are disquieting features in the situation; it has not been found possible to relax the censorship, with the result that there can be no means, even for the Government, of gauging the real opinion of the nation; in various directions—foreign policy not excepted—the Government appears to speak with two voices, as if it were subjected to conflicting influences. On the other hand, there is evidence that the Government is actuated by good intentions. It is, however, almost impossible for the foreign observer, especially if he has to rely on the impressions of a brief visit to the country, to decide whether in the peculiar circumstances of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes King Alexander and his present advisers could be expected to have achieved more in the eight months during which the Constitution has been suspended. It is to be noted with satisfaction that King Alexander is seen more frequently among his people, although he still hesitates to visit Zagreb; General Zivkovitch's sudden appearances in different parts of the country suggest that he not only recognises the necessity of keeping a close eye on the details of the Administration, but that he is also adopting the most effective way of doing this. There are, moreover, apparent the beginnings of a movement to bridge the gulf that has hitherto divided the Serbs from their "minority" fellow-countrymen; no very definite progress in this direction may yet have been made, but one or two incidents suggest that those now in authority wish to promote the unity of country even if they have no very practical policy to this end in view. The more conscientious the efforts of the Yugoslav Government to give effect to the splendid promises made by King Alexander when he established the Dictatorship, the easier for it to tolerate the free expression of opinion. It is within its rights in preventing liberty from becoming licence, and its case against the early restoration of Parliament may still well be a strong one; but if it aims at creating a good impression abroad, it will muzzle the representatives of the foreign Press only when uncompromising hostility or prejudice is shown.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, September 14.

The Ittihad and the Treaty.

There is little change in the situation, except that the Ittihad party has declared its opinion on the Treaty, which differs very little from that which it is understood the Wafd holds, viz., that the proposals constitute a good basis for a settlement (though not a settlement itself), and that the Wafd is as determined as ever not to allow the Treaty to be made the basis of the elections to Parliament. This expression of opinion by the Ittihad is significant in view of the fact that it is in Coalition at present with the Liberals, who have declared unreservedly for the Treaty. But to those who understand a little the inner workings of the present political situation it affords, by its similarity to the views of the Wafd, instructive confirmation of the influence which they have suspected of being behind the Wafd's attitude.

The powers that be seem still unable to make up their minds on the line of action to be followed with regard to the Treaty. With a Coalition apparently ruled out by the attitude towards each other of the two parties most concerned, three courses would seem to remain open, viz., elections on universal suffrage lines—the *Daily Herald* leader this week would appear to exclude any alteration in the electoral law which was at one time contemplated—conducted either by the present Cabinet, or by an administrative one which would take its place, or postponement of the Treaty and a continuation of the present régime until a more favourable opportunity presents itself for obtaining the views of the Egyptian nation.

Elections, which, as is generally agreed, would in any case produce a Wafdist majority, would open the door wide to wrecking the Treaty altogether. The Wafd is determined that only Parliament shall deal with it. This means that the deputies would arrive without any mandate on the subject from the electorate—which does not meet the requirements of the British Government. But even if this objection on the British side were overcome, the fact that the Wafd cannot, out of consideration for its political future, accept the Treaty as it stands, and must, if only as a camouflage, seek further negotiations, would seem to foreshadow an *impasse* in that connexion, since the British Government are understood to be averse from any further discussion of the proposals. In that event the Treaty would fall to the ground, and as that would leave the country with a Wafdist Cabinet with all the ugly possibilities that past experience show as attendant

on such a régime, probably the most prudent course, even in the interest of Egypt, would be in existing circumstances to postpone the Treaty altogether. That appears to be the view of the more instructed people out here, Egyptian as well as foreign. But things are at the time of writing in such an unsettled state that it is quite impossible to forecast, and one can only register the tendencies as they are to-day.

The Late Sir Gilbert Clayton.

Wherever one goes one hears expressions of the most sincere regret at the sudden and premature death of Sir Gilbert Clayton. His long connexion with this country, first in the British Army, then attached to the Egyptian Army, later as Sudan Agent, then as Chief Political Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior, enabled his sterling qualities to be appreciated by all classes, and his death is mourned as that of a friend.

The Agricultural Reserve.

A decree has been signed authorising the creation of the "Agricultural Reserve" which was foreshadowed in one of my letters some four months ago. The preamble says that the economic situation of the country demands that steps should be taken to ameliorate the agricultural conditions and to safeguard the national wealth by the enactment of financial measures of a nature to increase the productivity of the soil, facilitate and organise the disposal of the country's products, and assure to the poor and middle classes the means to obtain the necessary funds for their agricultural needs. In order that these measures shall rest upon a stable basis a special reserve from which funds for carrying them out can be drawn is created and, to start it, a sum of £E4,000,000 is to be taken from the General Reserve to which will be added the amounts realised by the sale of the cotton held by the Government in June last and by the receipts from the Cotton Tax as from the coming financial year. As a matter of fact part of the £E4,000,000 in question has already been utilised for advances to cultivators, and, as one of the objects of the new reserve is to provide means for making such advances, their total will be passed to the new account which will be credited with the difference between that figure and £E4,000,000. That assistance to be given to Egyptian agriculture in general—it is to apply to all crops without distinction—and to Egyptian cotton in particular, should be put on a permanent basis is satisfactory, but it is extremely doubtful whether it is really in the interests of the country that Government interference with the cotton market should become such a permanent feature as the institution of this reserve seems likely to make it.

The Nile Flood.

There is better news this week of the Nile, in the sense that a drop in levels is reported from Roseires, whence comes by far the greater portion of the flood water. If there is no compensating fresh rise at that point in the meantime, the main river in Egypt will begin to drop in about a month's time, and the anxiety of the irrigation authorities will come to an end. How great that anxiety has been, and still is, can be gauged from the fact that, while the fall in levels in Egypt normally occurs on or about September 20, the flood itself started twenty days earlier than usual this year—which means that, in the best of eventualities, high Nile conditions will have existed for about seven weeks longer than normal, with

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a consequent greater strain on the river banks. In various parts of the country inundations on a small scale have been reported, but so far no very serious damage has been done, and one can say that the banks have held, thanks to the measures taken and the close supervision of the irrigation authorities. But we are by no means out of the wood yet, and we shall not be able to consider that Egypt has escaped the disaster that threatened her until the end of October has been reached. Nothing that the authorities could have done, however, will prevent damage to the cotton crop owing to the rise in the level of the subsoil water as a result of infiltration, and, as the crop is unfortunately late in Upper Egypt, the damage will, it is to be feared, extend to that area as well, though not, of course, to the same extent as Lower Egypt.



Sofia, September 10.

Bulgarian Intellectuals in Macedonia.

It is reported in the Press that the Young Macedonian, Blogoi Moneff, a student at Belgrade University, who, tried not long ago with a group of Macedonian students, was acquitted by the Skoplye tribunal, was recently assassinated in his native town of Ishtip. Two other Macedonian students of the same town, Hajji-Kimoff and Kiril Karajoff, are also said to have mysteriously disappeared.

All these young men had taken part in the famous trial at Skoplye. The sole crime of these Macedonian students was to have wanted to organise themselves for the defence of their ethnic character and of their national culture—without any hostility towards the central power.

Yugoslavia and the Pirot Agreement.

The Yugoslav Government has just replied to the Bulgarian Note of August 9 upon the Pirot Agreement.

In its answer, the Yugoslav Government takes note of the declaration of the Bulgarian Government that it was ready to accept a modification of and additions to the agreements reached at Pirot and a new examination of the two requests concerning the liquidation of the bilateral properties and the establishment of a "dead zone" ten kilometres wide along the frontier; and it states that on its part it is ready, first, to put into immediate effect the Pirot Agreements, modified and completed according to the amendments contained in an Annexe to the Note; secondly, to consider the accords thus amended as provisional and valid for three months only; thirdly to undertake at once negotiations for the settlement of the two points under dispute by nominating a mixed commission, to liquidate on the spot the bilateral properties as far as possible; and fourthly, to let fall automatically the agreements in question if at the expiration of the three months' period a definite understanding has not been reached between the two parties on the régime of the frontier. The Yugoslav Government declines, moreover, all responsibility for "incidents" which might occur on the frontier in default of the radical liquidation of properties and of the institution of a "dead zone," which, in its opinion, constitute the sole means of avoiding disputes between the two countries.

This Note, which is conciliatory in appearance only, has caused in Bulgarian the impression of deceitfulness, as much by the reserves which it provides as by its insistence on the acceptance of the two Yugoslav suggestions which

Sofia has always thought unacceptable. On the first point the Bulgarian Government consents to a partial liquidation of the bilateral properties by an exchange of property of equal value, where it is possible with the assent of the proprietors interested; but it rejects all compulsory expropriation, for that would mean the exodus into Bulgaria of 1,500 families of refugees. On the second point, the Bulgarian Government, supported by public opinion and by all the political parties, is obdurate, for this measure would result in paralysing the economic life of all the villages in the neighbourhood of the "dead zone," and, in addition, the surveillance of such a zone would necessitate the employment of more soldiers than could be provided under the meagre allowance permitted to Bulgaria by the Treaty of Neuilly. Further, the problem of the régime of bilateral properties would reappear on the internal frontier of the "dead zone," and that would have no end—not to mention the new charges which would be imposed on the border population, already weighed down by many burdens. In short, were the Yugoslav demands accepted, they would only complicate the situation on the frontier instead of simplifying it, and thus increase the tension in Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations.

And so everybody here envisages with profound misgivings the direct negotiations which have just begun at Geneva between M. Marinkovitch and M. Bouroff.

Greco-Bulgarian Negotiations.

A grave crisis in the relations between Greece and Bulgaria has just been averted. In the pourparlers that were taking place, the Greeks threatened to break off all negotiations and to have recourse to reprisals against the Bulgarians. The crisis has been avoided by the long and fresh conversations which M. Bouroff had before his departure for Geneva, in the course of which all the questions outstanding between Greece and Bulgaria were reviewed.

These questions concerned the liquidation of a series of Greek and Bulgarian claims, to which it is necessary to add the demands of six thousand families of Macedonian refugees who presented their claims after the expiration of the period agreed upon by the Commission of Emigration; they concerned also the conclusion of a Treaty of Commerce, and the determination of the régime for Bulgarians remaining in Greek Macedonia.

It is believed that on all these points an agreement in principle was arrived at between M. Bouroff and M. Dendramis.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, September 11.

The Delegation to London.

Although the Greek Archbishop and Holy Synod have adhered to their opinion that a more largely representative meeting, including mayors of towns and others, should be convened, it was finally decided at that held on August 22 that the two delegates—the Bishop of Kition and Mr. Stavrinaki—should proceed to London as bearers of the new memorial. It has also been decided that the expenses of the mission, estimated at £600, should be borne by the island Church as follows:—The diocese of the

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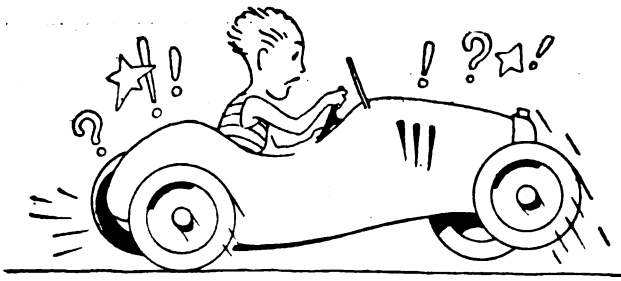
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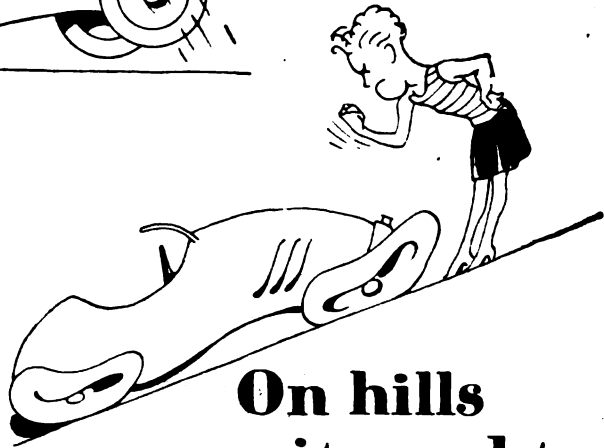
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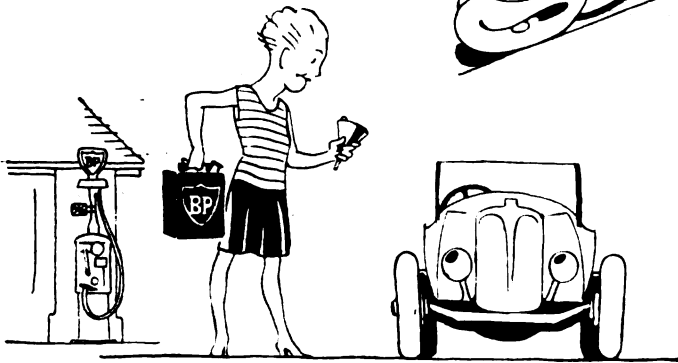
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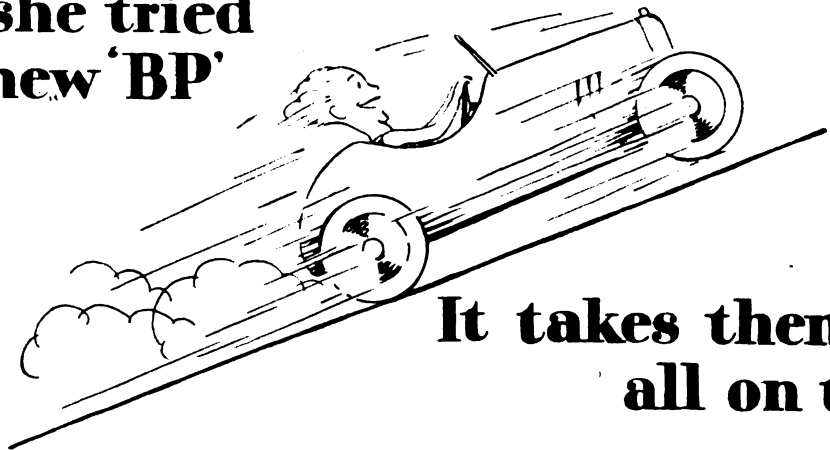
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Archbishop, £170; the Monastery of Kykkou, £120; the Bishops of Papho and Kyrenia, £70; the Church of Phaneromeni, Nicosia, £60; and the balance by four other monasteries and churches, the Bishop of Kition being responsible for his expenses.

The Greek Memorial.

The memorial, which is signed by the 12 Greek members of the Legislative Council, contains 23 paragraphs. It included matters which have been the subjects of frequent complaint and alleged grievance in the Greek Press, and in previous memorials. The 23rd paragraph advocates, as expedient and necessary, the appointment of a Royal Commission of Inquiry into "the pitiable state of the island after fifty years of British rule."

The Governor, Sir Ronald Storrs, received on Mt. Troodos, on September 6, the two chosen delegates, the Colonial Secretary being present. They handed to him copies in Greek and English of the memorial, and also a covering letter from the Greek Members of Council, in which His Excellency is asked to furnish the delegates with letters of introduction. The Governor, having examined the documents with the Colonial Secretary, and having found them in order, informed the deputies that he would forward the memorial to the Secretary of State. He stated that some of the matters referred to therein had already been dealt with, and that others were at present under consideration of the Government. The Colonial Secretary having subsequently suggested to Mr. Stavrinaki another interview, either on Troodos or at Nicosia, the latter replied that they proposed to leave Cyprus on the 10th and to reach London in all probability on September 23 or 24. Another meeting, therefore, would be difficult.

The delegates are carrying letters of recommendation from the Archbishop to the Premier, Mr. MacDonald, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Sir Arthur Crosfield, and Lord Longford. They are proceeding by a Lloyd Trieste vessel to Venice, and thence by rail to Calais. They also bear the addresses of all Members of Parliament who responded to the copies of the memorial sent by His Eminence to them. Special prayers for the success of the mission are to be offered in the Cathedral Church of Nicosia, in which the Archbishop and clergy of the capital will officiate.

The Forthcoming Loan.

A Cyprus loan which, it is said, will be of £150,000, is now the subject of grumbling if, as it is assumed, it is to be applied chiefly, or wholly, to roads. Mr. Stone, Director of Public Works, has been called to London to consult, and it is said that a special engineer, with salary of £800 a year and various allowances, will be appointed. Many other needs of the island, it is said, should take precedence. If the loan is proffered as a gift, it is a "gift of the Danaï."

General News.

In view of the unceasing complaints by the Greeks, discussed by the Greek Press, regarding education, it is satisfactory to know that the general reorganisation of the educational system is now "under the active consideration" of the Government.

Canon Newham, Director of Education, having returned to duty too soon, after illness in hospital, had a relapse and returned to hospital. He is now convalescent, but it is improbable that he will be able to resume work.

The Greek Archbishop has written to the Director of the *Journal de Genève*, thanking him for a recent article on the claims of Cyprus and has sent him a copy of the memorial with a request that it may be published in that journal.

About 100 distinguished representatives from various countries will attend an International Peace Congress in Athens between October 6 and 10. The principal subjects of discussion will be the confederation of the nations against war and international legislative reforms to adjust the Kellogg Pact to the League of Nations Covenant. The final sitting of congress will take place at Delphi, where the Amphictyonic peace meetings were held in classical times.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE LATE SIR GILBERT CLAYTON.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Having had certain opportunities of studying the personality and work of Sir Gilbert Clayton, I venture to ask for your hospitality in order to refer to two points which do not seem to have been sufficiently stressed in the various published accounts of his life.

(1) Sir Gilbert Clayton was remarkably free from official prejudices; he was invariably willing to try to help those who desired to obtain the truth, and he always gave one a clear-cut answer without endeavouring to create mysteries. He was extremely modest and quiet; he knew whom he could trust; and he was not afraid to express his opinion. In fact, he was a far bigger man than appeared at first sight.

(2) Whilst I should be the last person to minimise the value and merit of Sir Herbert Samuel's administration in Palestine, there is no doubt that, during the critical period which accompanied Lord Balfour's visit to that country in 1925, Sir Gilbert's wisdom and knowledge were important factors in the prevention of an outbreak such as that which has recently occurred. I saw him repeatedly at that time; he was constantly pouring oil on troubled waters, and, when difficulties were overcome, one realised that this was largely the result of the work of a man who was trusted by Arab and Jew alike.—I am, etc.,

September 18.

H. CHARLES WOODS.

LONDON CYPRUS SCHOOL.

The new Colonial Secretary for Cyprus, Mr. H. Henniker Heaton, before sailing for Cyprus paid a visit to the London Cyprus School for the teaching of English at the L.C.C. Pulteney General Institute, Peter Street, Soho, W.1., where over a hundred Cypriot students are studying English.

The Principal of the School welcomed Mr. Heaton, and wished him a happy and successful career in Cyprus. The Colonial Secretary replied that he would do all in his power to help the Colony of Cyprus, and, urging the students to be proud of being Cypriots, he asked them to do their best during their stay in London to maintain the good reputation of their country. He congratulated the students for their courage and patience, and pointed out the usefulness of the English language, which was now becoming universal. Before leaving the School he expressed his admiration of the splendid work of the staff, and of their great zeal and self-sacrifice.

"LE MESSENGER DE TEHERAN."

To celebrate its fifth anniversary, the *Messenger de Téhéran*, which contains news in French and English, and appears every day of the week except Tuesdays and Saturdays, published, on September 1, a twenty-page supplement—a most creditable production. This journal performs a very useful service, and the Editor, François Malek-Karam, is to be cordially congratulated on the increasing success of his enterprise.

THE OVERLAND MAIL TO IRAQ.

Communications to Iraq by the desert mail route are now being dispatched with no extra charge, thus bringing the practice into line with that obtaining for many months in regard to outward mails from Iraq.

The French Minister in Budapest on September 18 informed the Hungarian Government that the committee for the settlement of Reparations in Eastern Europe, sitting in Paris, passed a resolution the previous day inviting the representatives of Hungary, Austria, and Bulgaria to assist at the sittings of the Commission from to-day (September 20) onwards, whenever questions touching their interests are discussed.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

September 26, 1929 (New Style).
 September 13, 1929 (Old Style).
 Rabia II, 21, A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.
 Ethul 21, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Walter Lawrence returned last week to Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth, from Frinton.

Sir George Rankin arrived at Marseilles yesterday in the s.s. Rawalpindi from Bombay.

Lady Edward Spencer Churchill has returned to Queensmead, Windsor, from Yugoslavia.

Princess Antoine Bibesco left London on September 21 for Berlin, as the guest of the British Ambassador.

The Turkish Ambassador left Constantinople last week on his return to London.

Sir Jagadis and Lady Bose left Marseilles on September 20 in the Kaiser-i-Hind on their return to Bombay.

Mrs. E. M. Drower is returning to Baghdad on September 28.

Nouri Pasha Said, who has been appointed Minister of Defence in the new Iraqi Cabinet, arrived last week in London from Baghdad for a short stay.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby will return to London from Stanley, Perthshire, on October 2.

The Hon. Sir Francis Lindley last week arrived in London from the British Embassy, Lisbon. He and Lady Lindley will be in England until the middle of November.

Viscount Goschen (Governor of Madras) and Viscountess Goschen will arrive in London from India about November 12.

Ex-King George of Greece, Prince Paul of Greece, and Colonel Levidis paid a visit to the Ex-Services Welfare Society's electrical blanket factory at Leatherhead on September 17.

Brigadier-General H. Rowan-Robinson, who has been appointed to be Director of the Iraq Army Staff School, left London on September 22 for Baghdad. On September 20 he delivered a lecture to the Central Asian Society on "The Place of India in Imperial Defence."

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Major and the Hon. Mrs. Heyworth have left England for Trimulgherry, Deccan.

General Sir Alexander and Lady Cobbe will sail from Marseilles to-morrow (Friday) in the Ranpura on their return to India.

Shaikh Hafidh Wahba, representative in London of King Ibn Saoud of the Hijaz and Najd, left London on September 17 for Egypt and the Hijaz.

The Greek Minister to the United States and Mme. Simopoulos arrived in London on September 9, and are staying at 10, Harewood Court, Hanover Square, W.

Major Taufiq Wahbi Maroof, Commandant of the Iraq Military College, Baghdad, is proceeding from London this week to Sheerness on a three months' course.

Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel returned last week to 35, Porchester Terrace from the Continent, where they have been spending some weeks in Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Germany.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen and Lady Edward Gleichen returned last week to Court in Holmes, Forest Row, from abroad. They will go to 35, Catherine Street, Buckingham Gate, in the middle of October.

M. Athos Romanos, Senator and former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Greece in London and Paris, arrived in London last week, as the guest of the Greek Minister at 51, Upper Brook Street.

Mr. R. A. C. Sperling, C.M.G., the retiring British Minister to Bulgaria, who left Sofia at the end of last week, presented his letters of recall to the King of Bulgaria.

Dr. G. Stuart, Colonial Medical Service, has been awarded the North Persian Forces Memorial Medal for 1928 for his paper, "The Serological Diagnosis of the Enterica by the Method of Qualitative Receptor Analysis," written in conjunction with Dr. K. S. Krikorian, and published in the *Journal of Hygiene*.

Col. G. de S. Dudley, C.M.G., A.D.O.S., Headquarters, British Troops in Egypt, having completed his term of service in that country, has been appointed Chief Ordnance Officer in charge of the Central Ordnance Depot, Dideot, England. He and Mrs. Dudley and their two daughters sailed from Port Said for England on September 15.

The following appointments to the Near East services have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies: Iraq.—Major D. Brown, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, to be Inspector of Ordnance Services, Grade B, Iraq Army. Palestine.—Mr. A. Levin to be Lands Officer, Class III.; Mr. G. B. Simmins, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., to be Senior Veterinary Officer; Mr. A. G. Turner, to be Citrus Specialist.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that the King has appointed Canon Richard Dyke Acland, M.A., to be Bishop of Bombay in succession to the Right Rev. Edwin James Palmer, M.A., D.D., who has resigned. Canon Dyke Acland has worked in India since 1910, when he joined the S.P.G. mission at Ahmednagar, working there for two years, and afterwards at Kolhapur, Sonai, and Dapoli. He has been S.P.G. Secretary for the diocese of Bombay since 1924, and in charge of the Mission at Kolhapur City since 1927.

A Persian Government Commission has found a deficit of approximately 4,600 tons of wheat in the public granaries of Teheran.

It is stated from Constantinople that the state of health of his Beatitude the Ecumenical Patriarch, Mgr. Vassilios, is giving rise to anxiety.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 5.

Viceroy and President.

Our newspapers this week have been full of echoes of the "incident," the first act of which was President Patel's ruling on the Public Safety Bill, the second being the observations of the Governor-General on the subject in his closing address to the two Houses on May 8, and the third, the subsequent amendment of the Rules. Two long letters have been read to the Assembly, one from the President to Lord Irwin, the other a reply to that letter. The solution has been spoken of as "a peaceful and amicable" one; "an honourable vindication." The President said to Lord Irwin in effect: "You came down to address the two Houses, and you took that opportunity to pronounce a censure upon me." Lord Irwin replied in effect: "No, my dear friend: I would never do such a thing. In any circumstances I must withhold any opinion of mine that would lower the dignity of the Chair." But he goes on to say that is, his secretary does: "He earnestly hopes, and has no doubt that such a hope is entertained by the President, that the passage of time may see the gradual establishment around the Chair of the Assembly . . . of such a body of tradition as has, in the sphere of the House of Commons, enabled each of a long line of Speakers to be accepted as an impartial guide and trusted friend of all sections of the House."

The Implication.

The implication of that is that, in Lord Irwin's opinion, such a body of tradition has not yet established itself around the Chair of the Assembly. That is clearly Lord Irwin's not more openly expressed opinion, and it is the fact. There was not last session that body of tradition established around the Chair that would have made it impossible for the President's ruling to raise that cloud of suspicion that the ruling was not impartial. It is not established then, nor is it even now. There is no feeling throughout India of confidence in the Chair and the impartiality of its rulings. But four days before my newspaper had the President's and Lord Irwin's letters in them, it had this from the mouth of Sir P. S. Sivaswami Iyer: "The ruling of the President that the Home Member's motion for consideration of the Public Safety Bill on its return from the Select Committee was out of order, seems to me to be quite wrong . . . I cannot help thinking that, in ruling out the motion, he was clutching at powers he did not possess." That is what is worth bearing in mind, instead of talking of "honourable vindications"—that a public man can see nothing wrong in criticising the Chair with that freedom. There is nothing wrong either; for our body of tradition has not yet been established, and it only will establish itself after many doubtful rulings have been freely criticised.

The Chair.

What is the proper thought to have of the duty of the occupant of the Chair? It should be that he is to use his utmost endeavour to see that the proceedings of the House are conducted in accordance with the law of the land. The law includes the rules of the House. Now the present occupant of our Chair may be written of as follows: "If this advice is followed, and the Opposition and the Chair, in the interests of the cause they have so deeply at heart, decide on such a policy, we hope that Government will heartily co-operate." The "cause" the writer had in mind was India's political progress. It is clearly the business of the Opposition to have that cause deeply at heart. It is no business whatever of the Chair. It is for the Opposition to decide upon a policy, and to pursue it. It is no business of the President even to begin to concern himself with a policy. His sole business is to see that the debates of the House are conducted in accordance with the rules. *Bas*, as we say in India.

The Political Imbroglia.

There are things worth calling attention to in the last "Political Notes" in the *Pioneer*, the writer being that Indian student of politics from whose Notes I have once or twice quoted. He speaks this time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as one who "stands as the spearhead in the mind of the beardless crew at school and college." I wrote on July 11: "You hear that Mr. MacDonald or Mr. Baldwin has addressed a political meeting. You think of grown men and women as forming the bulk of the audience. In India it would be schoolboys and college students." If you feel disposed to be anxious, after reading such or such an utterance of Pandit Jawaharlal's, remember that it was probably addressed to the "beardless crew." It was a playing up or down to them. If you think the threat of the Calcutta Congress that, if Dominion Status is not granted to India before December 31, 1929, we shall see "non-violent non-co-operation and civil disobedience" in full swing in January, consider this from the "Political Notes": "There is no harm in reiterating the acknowledged truth that, again in its long history, the Congress is about to be divided on a question alike of goal and method. Of one thing there is no doubt. The return to non-co-operation, as originally conceived, is entirely out of the question. That was patent even to the framers of the famous Calcutta resolution."

The Congress Presidentship.

The two quotations in the last paragraph are from an article headed: "Mr. Gandhi and the Congress. His Refusal of the Presidentship." The article begins thus: "It is difficult to believe that the protestations of eminent leaders that he is the fittest to lead our varied hosts in the crucial period ahead will in any way affect the decision at which the Mahatma has apparently arrived in regard to the presidentship of the Lahore Congress. But the grounds on which the Mahatma refuses the crown of thorns are worth examination." So the student proceeds to examine them. If I have read his argument rightly, it is that the Mahatma, who this year has been in effect the leader of the Congress, must be its leader next year in name; for otherwise the leadership will fall into the hands of the impetuous youth of the country, and there will be bloodshed, provoked either by them, or by conservative elements in India roused by fear of them. That bloodshed the Government would have to stop, and when it had done so, it would say: "Now there is to be no more nonsense talked about a self-governing, democratic India." Well, it might think that the only thing left to say.

Child Marriage Bill.

I wrote on July 18, expressing some distrust of the Simla Secretariat in connexion with Mr. Sarda's Child Marriage Bill. It is now seen that I might have spared myself that anxiety. The Assembly had a motion before it yesterday for the postponement of the Bill until India had had time to study the Report of the Age of Consent Committee. It was well known that the object of the mover was to gain time for the "orthodox party" to gather its forces for a wrecking of the Bill in the winter session of the Assembly. There is strong opposition to the measure, as I stated in my letter of July 18. It looks to-day as if it would not prevail; for Sir James Crerar has shown that the Government of India wish the Bill to become law. He described child marriage as "a grave and corroding evil clamouring for remedy," and ended his speech with: "Where we find that evil, and where we find a promising remedy, we feel we must support what we think to be right. I trust that the great majority of the House will agree in the view that this measure is one in the right direction and that it is their duty to support it." There ought to be no doubt that the Bill will become law. Yet only a few days ago the Viceroy had to listen to a deputation, protesting against the proposed law. One of the speakers, a woman, said that at the age of three she was married to a boy eleven years of age; that she was

now sixty, and enjoys good health. One wants, however, to know much more. What age was she when her husband was given custody of her - he or his family. It does not matter when you are legally married, if in effect you are not married until a much later age.

THE MIND OF INDIA.

BY THE HON. SIR PHIROZE SETHNA, O.B.E.

(Continued from page 307.)

There are many prevalent misconceptions regarding the mind of modern India. One such idea is that modern India is hostile to the Western spirit and Western civilisation. This is far from the truth. On the contrary, it is precisely the Western spirit that modern India wishes to cultivate, as she thinks that only by the cultivation of that spirit she can realise her ideals and hold her own. As regards Western civilisation, far from being hostile to it, her attitude is one of admiration and appreciation and she wants to assimilate all that is good in that civilisation that is essential for her own development as a great modern nation. Some criticisms upon Western civilisation by Mahatma Gandhi are taken to indicate an attitude of hostility on the part of India towards that civilisation. But it must be remembered that no civilisation is so perfect as to be immune from criticism, and even Mahatma Gandhi's attacks are directed more against its extravagances and evils than against its merits. And if they really indicate an attitude of hostility towards Western civilisation, they do not faithfully reflect the real attitude of modern India. All the material appliances of the West modern India has adopted and is adopting. Motor services are now connecting town to village and village to village, and have already brought towns and villages much nearer. Electricity has not as yet made much progress, but there can be no doubt that the next generation will witness in an interesting measure the electrification of all the towns and the larger villages.

Does this show hostility to the civilisation of the West? Mahatma Gandhi himself has expressed his approval of a Constitution for India which is based on the principle of adult suffrage and on full democratic self-government. Does this evince hostility to Western civilisation? Many Indians are admirers and lovers of Western literature. Can this be said to indicate hostility to Western civilisation? The political movements of India are very largely influenced by European political thought. Does it show that Modern India is hostile to Western civilisation? She may be - she is - hostile to the dominance of the West. She does not brook any pretensions on the part of England or any other Western Power. But it is absolutely untrue to say that she is hostile to Western civilisation, that her attitude is one of antagonism to that civilisation. Just as the mind of modern India is marked by the spirit of activity, so also it is marked by a desire to improve and perfect her own civilisation by assimilating all that is good in Western civilisation.

What is the attitude of modern India towards internationalism? Has she developed or is she developing an international mind or an international outlook? Or has she become, or is she becoming, too intensely, too narrowly national? Internationalism is not a new thing in India; in fact what is new is nationalism. Indian nationalism is the product of British rule, of European political thought and of Western influences as a whole. It derives its inspiration partly also from Japanese nationalism, which is a thoroughly and purely native growth of the soil. Before the birth of nationalism in modern India, India resembled Europe of the Middle Ages, before the formation of the national States. Europe then was not national, but European or international, that is, she thought in terms of the Empire or the Papacy. India had a provincial, communal, religious or caste sense, but no national sense, and along with the provincial, communal,

religious or caste sense, she had the international sense, or rather the sense of internationalism. She was absolutely free from religious or racial prejudice. Her civilisation and culture were humanitarian, the unity of humanity, indeed, of all creation, with its potential divinity, was a cardinal doctrine of her philosophy, and some of her best and noblest sons made it their goal to realise this unity in their lives. It is this international or human sense that made the Hindus give a ready welcome to all foreigners; this sense prevented them from developing that sharp edge of the spirit of resistance, without which it is difficult to roll back the tide of foreign aggression. The international or human element was thus already a part and parcel of the content of the Hindu or Indian mind.

But the mind of modern India has realised that just as nationalism without internationalism is a great danger, so also, internationalism without nationalism is a source of great weakness. Hence she wishes to develop the strength of nationalism or humanism. The International Movement, the League of Nations will find in her a great tower of strength, but not until and unless her newborn nationalism attains its fullest development and realises its ends.

The spirit of activity, the spirit of nationalism, the spirit of progress, in order that modern India may attain as high a place in the scale of civilisation as the most advanced countries of the world, these are among the chief elements in the mentality of modern India. And all these elements make her self-introspective and bent on removing every evil that may have crept into the body politic. She wishes not only to be a politically great nation, but also to recreate a sound and healthy social system. Her national pride would naturally resent any false or misleading features of her social condition or any sinister or dishonest attempt to run her down. But she is fully alive to the necessity of purifying and improving her social system. Caste is doomed, the emancipation of woman has already made great advance. The social conscience is fully awakened, and every social evil is sought to be remedied and every social wrong to be redressed. Liberty, equality and fraternity are the watchwords of modern India in the social, no less than, in the political sphere. The spirit of reform and progress is infusing its fresh and vivifying breath in every sphere of social and national life. The Hindus are said to be the slaves of the gods, and one lady writer, who has developed a peculiar and, by no means, enviable genius for moralising on the evils in other societies than her own, has already essayed to portray the religious slavery of the Hindus. This again is a one-sided and misleading feature. It is one of those half-truths which conceal the truth and thereby do great injustice and create international ill-feeling. The fact is that behind the Hindus' so-called slavery to the gods, there is the living recognition of the unity and the purity of the Divine principles, and moreover, strange as it may seem, the Hindu mind is not at all so much in the grip of priestly influence as the Christian mind in Catholic countries. Nevertheless, the purification of the religious life of the people is also included in the all-pervasive movement for reform and progress.

There is one element in the mind of modern India which I must not omit here to mention. It is the sense of absolute justice and fairness. We want to be just and fair to all, to every race, to every community to every minority, to every vested interest. Modern India wants to build up her life, social, political, economic, national, international on the granite foundation of full justice to each and all. And all that we ask for is that our viewpoints should be thoroughly and sympathetically considered and that others, while asking for justice, should not seek to do us injustice.

The subject is very tempting and capable of almost indefinite expansion. But I wish to emphasise first that, if the British Commonwealth of Nations is to become a great force, the instrument of Divine Providence for the promotion of peace and progress of mankind, it can do so

only by mutual understanding, sympathy and appreciation. You cannot run down India and her aspirations and at the same time expect that the British Empire will rest on the firm foundation of good will and co-operation. Secondly, I wish to make clear what a great potential asset modern India is in the reconstruction and the rejuvenation of the modern world. Here is a country which is so vast as to be equal to Europe minus Russia, whose population numbers one sixth of the entire population of the world, which boasts of an ancient and glorious civilisation, whose intellectual achievements testify to a perennial source of vitality, and which has exercised throughout the ages a vast and subtle influence upon world politics. Can any one doubt that its future or evolution is a matter of supreme importance to the world? When India's aspirations are realised, when she attains her highest development, she will be the greatest instrument of Divine Providence for bringing together the Eastern and the Western civilisations, for putting an end for ever to the clash of colour or race, for furthering the ends of international peace and justice and for evolving a type of culture, of civilisation of social, political and economical structure, which will at once ensure stability and progress and diffuse happiness throughout all races, communities and classes, because the happiness will be such as will be born not of strife and competition, but of the harmony of the diverse and conflicting elements of life. The sooner the Western world realises that India is not only the political pivot of the world, but also its intellectual, moral and spiritual pivot, the better will it be for its peaceful progress and for the achievement of the highest ends of mankind. I would earnestly plead for a true and better understanding and appreciation of the mind of modern India, for it is by such understanding and appreciation that one of the greatest, if not the greatest problem with which the British Empire and race are confronted to-day, will be satisfactorily solved.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Indian Labour Commission.

The European members of the Royal Commission on Indian labour leave Marseilles by this week's mail for Bombay. It is expected that they will there be joined by the Indian members, and that the Commission will then lose no time in getting to work. We shall be interested to see what manner of reception the politicians will accord to the Commissioners on their arrival in India. At any rate the reason which was given for the attempted boycott of the Simon Commission will be inapplicable, seeing that of the twelve members of the Labour Commission six are Indians. But a boycott has been threatened, and doubtless reasons for it can be easily found. It is true that half the members are Indians, but the critics have already complained that they are not the right Indians. The fact of the matter seems to be that there is very little enthusiasm among the politicians for an inquiry into labour conditions in India. If there were, they could hardly fail to recognise that the Commission is, as we remarked a few weeks ago, a singularly well-equipped body for the task which it has in hand. And there cannot really be any question that that task is of the utmost urgency and importance. Labour disputes have been a feature of the industrial life of India since the War. But last year, 1928, established a record, as during the twelve months no fewer than 31½ million working days were lost on this account. Considering the stage of India's industrial advancement this is a lamentably heavy total. In fact it is equal to the aggregate of all the days lost, from the same cause, during the preceding five years. The disputes exceeded two hundred in number, and involved upwards of half a million workers. As was to be expected, the trouble was chiefly in Bombay and Bengal, which are the two leading industrial provinces. Such a series of disputes certainly justified an

investigation, and the happenings of the past few months in Bombay and Calcutta have made the case even stronger. A searching inquiry into every aspect of the Indian labour problem is what is wanted, and fortunately the terms of reference to the Commission would seem to be wide enough to admit of this. The inquiry will extend not only to purely industrial undertakings such as mills, factories, etc., but to plantations also; and it will cover the health, efficiency and standard of living of the workers, and also the relations subsisting between them and their employers.

The League of Nations' Malaria Commission.

The members of the League of Nations' Malaria Commission arrived in Bombay from Europe on August 23. They expected to stay there for about a week, and then to go on to the Punjab, where there is usually an epidemic outbreak of malaria in the autumn. After visiting the Malarial Survey at Kasauli, and the Ross Experimental Station at Karnal, the Commissioners will go to the United Provinces. Thence they will make their way through Bihar and Orissa and Bengal to Assam. Thereafter they will return to Calcutta and cross to Burma. Returning to India *via* Vizagapatam, they will visit the Madras Presidency, ending their tour at Bombay by the last week of December or thereabouts. The Commission was constituted in 1923 by the Health Committee of the League of Nations with the primary object of advising certain of the malaria-stricken countries of Southern Europe. The leader of the Commission is Professor Schueffner, a well-known Amsterdam specialist in malaria; and the other members are also experts representing respectively Holland, Roumania, France, Spain, and the United States. Several countries where malaria is prevalent, notably Spain, Sicily, Bulgaria, and some of the South American States, have been already visited. In these countries the Commissioners have studied the disease, and in some cases they have suggested methods of dealing with it. In visiting India—at the invitation of the Government of India—their main object is the study of malaria by obtaining first-hand knowledge of the malaria position there. They will not, it is understood, propose measures having for their object the solution of India's malaria problem. But it is not, perhaps, unreasonable to hope that results likely to be useful in the Indian campaign will accrue from the Commissioners' investigations and from their discussions with those who are conducting it. In any case it is a good thing that more and more attention should be directed to the question of the prevalence of malaria in India. For, as we mentioned in a recent issue of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*, the position there is unquestionably serious. It will be recalled that in its annual report for last year the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases referred to malaria in Bengal as "a great tragedy." And in view of the very large number of deaths for which the disease is yearly responsible in that province the description is no exaggeration.

The Indian Legislative Assembly at Simla on September 17 adopted without a division a resolution in favour of throwing open the military schools of Jullundhur and Jhelum to all Indian boys, irrespective of caste, creed, or family connexions with the Army.

Major Hugh L. Ovans, O.B.E., of The Northumberland Fusiliers, has been appointed Director of Military Prisons and Detention Barracks in India in succession to Colonel J. C. Loch, C.B.E., who was appointed in December, 1925. Major Ovans is due to complete a four years' tenure as D.A.A.G. in the Directorate of Personal Services at Army Headquarters on September 30.

A conference to discuss the furtherance of movements concerning the training of social workers and women's institutes in India and also the extension of the Women's Educational and Medical Services there will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Monday, October 8, 3 to 6 p.m. Among the speakers will be Mr. J. Richey, former Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, Dr. Kathleen Vaughan, author of "The Purdah System and its Effect on Motherhood," Captain J. Ingram, organising secretary of the Gurgaon Experiment, Mrs. Sen, and Mrs. Bruce Richmond. The Chair will be taken by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

On Cabbages and Kings.

I do not know when the silly season is supposed definitely to end, but even in late September the chief topics of thought appear to be concerned with whether women stammer or not, whether they have genius or not, how Milan should be pronounced, and various other things that have not yet been, nor ever will be, resolved by our imperfect world.

It is, perhaps, a good thing that our humdrum but fast-moving life allows breathing-space for the discussion of such things, but it is really extraordinary to find the number of people who are passionately searching for an Absolute in matters of no consequence, whereas in things that are of vital importance they deny the possibility of an Absolute.

Of course, opportunity has been afforded for such discussions mainly because of the chief "sensations" of the time—Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's visit to America, Mr. J. H. Thomas's plans for unemployment, the conduct of certain financiers on the Stock Exchange—too little is at present known.

The Government's Position.

A quite remarkable feature of the present period is the way in which the Conservative Party has "curled up" in face of the Labour Party's achievement up to date. No one, I think, will deny that that achievement has already been considerably greater than was generally thought possible. Particularly in the sphere of foreign politics have Labour politicians shown enterprise. It has been said that they are reaping where others have sown, but everyone admits that they are using their sickles very aptly.

It may be, of course, that much of what at the moment seems to have achieved dazzling success in foreign policy is destined to be undone by events; quite patently some of the Labour Party's acts in foreign politics have aroused grave misgivings. But on the whole their actions have been very generally applauded in the country, and the Government's position is at least fifty per cent. safer now than when it took office.

Not foreign politics, however, but home politics it is that will determine the lot of the Government. That is why everyone is looking anxiously to see how the problem

of unemployment, and particularly the demands of the miners, will be met. One of the chief difficulties, from the Government's point of view, is the fact that such large promises in regard to the ending or modification of unemployment were made before the last election. It has, however, the good will of every single elector in this gigantic matter.

Psychologically, the moment is the Government's. Optimism reigns supreme therein. A consequent depression is visible in the Opposition. Some symptom of Conservative discontent has been shown in the Duke of Northumberland's articles in the *Morning Post*. A curious hesitation seems to exist in Conservative minds over whether out of ordinary loyalty to a decent English gentleman they should continue to support Mr. Baldwin, or whether they should demand a more virile lead. As far as the outsider can see, the former sentiment is prevailing. But as for the suggestion that the Conservatives should now come out as the only trustworthy leaders of democracy in this country, it is only possible to say that had Mr. Schnadhorst never lived, and had the Conservative Party not derived from the Party System and from the indirect corruption which it entails as much benefit as anyone else, the idea might have been listened to with more respect. The standard of public life had declined long before the advent of Lloyd George's Coalition. There are bigger brains in the Conservative Party than that so zealously employed by the Duke of Northumberland, but unless they are used, the chances of an early return to power of any party other than Labour are remote indeed.

London's Traffic.

It is true that in some places in London at the present time there is little need for traffic signals. From Ludgate Circus to Charing Cross, for example, it is quicker to walk than to take the road, for in a bus or taxi one has but mournfully to look out and remind oneself of the poet's lines: "seeking some painful inch to gain." But generally speaking, there appears to be room for improvement in London's traffic control, which is commonly supposed to be the best in the world.

Motorists are complaining of slovenly hand signals given by the policemen on point-duty; that is as it may be. But there does seem to be point in the suggestion that London, like certain large provincial cities, should adopt automatic signals. Where one main thoroughfare cuts across another, this system of automatic signals is extremely useful, and it is difficult to see why, even though traffic be denser in London than elsewhere, it could not be tried in the capital.

The English "Ballad."

I do not know at what date the virile English poem known as the "Ballad" was usurped by the sentimental, drawing-room affair which always began in the major key, had something in the middle in the minor, and the penultimate note of which was a top-note and, therefore, passionately clung to by the amateur singer. Probably it arose in Victorian times: it is not quite buried yet.

But the death the other day of F. E. Weatherly, who is said to have written over 2,000 of such songs, reminds one of how the musical taste of England is changing. I do not say it has improved. But the "commercial ballad," the thing which used to mar the second half of Promenade concerts, the mainstay of a "smoker," the delight of maiden aunts, and so on, has disappeared from all but the lower middle-class suburban house, which, conscious of its superiority in scorning jazz, still faithfully adheres to the ideals of Pinsuti, Kennedy Russell, Stephen Adams, Sanderson, and the rest of the sentimental or rollicking co-operators with Weatherly.

But the phenomenon lasted long. Its disappearance coincides with the arrival of mechanical music, with the entrance of women into "smoking concerts," and with the setting-up of higher critical standards among writers on music. Whether it is also due to these things must be left for the musical and social historians to decide.

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“The Near East and India”

TOBACCO

SUPPLEMENT

SEPTEMBER — 1929

CONTENTS :

Oriental Tobacco 342	Yugoslavia 345	Cyprus 351
Greece 343	Bulgaria 348	Turkey 352



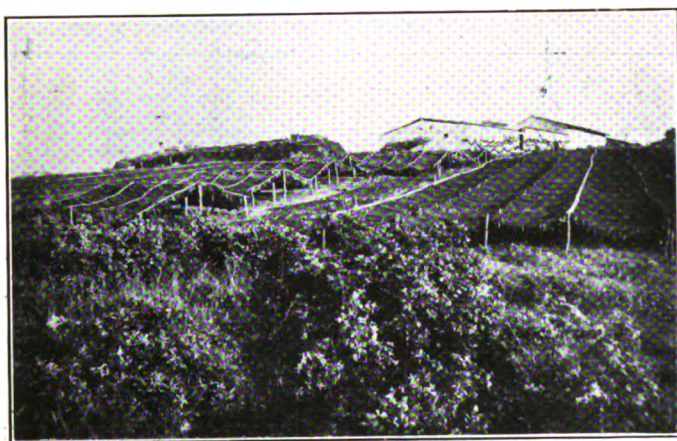
TOBACCO-PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF THE NEAR EAST.

ORIENTAL TOBACCO

BY DR. IVAN STANSKI,
Professor of Agriculture at Sofia University.

By its origin, tobacco is a plant of the warm and damp climate of the Tropics. At Sumatra, for example, the average yearly rainfall is over 2,000 mm. (78 inches). Quite apart from this, in America and the islands a particularly rich and strong soil, often damp with high water capacity, is best suited to the cultivation of tobacco. On account of such a strong, damp and abundant feeding, tropical tobacco, as used for cigars, has usually a luxuriant growth and yields large leaves.

In contradistinction to these tobaccos, small-leaf Oriental tobacco is the plant of a dry climate. It grows in countries with the so-called modified Mediterranean climate, with a total annual rainfall of about 600 mm. (23.6 inches), and with very dry summers. On the other hand the soil on which such tobacco is grown is in no way remarkable for richness. It is rather a poor soil, often with gravel, and consisting generally of large particles.



THE DRYING OF TOBACCO LEAVES IN GREECE.

That is the reason why tobacco grown in such conditions has an entirely different appearance from that of the large-leaf tobacco. Grown under conditions in sharp contrast with those in which it originated, it has not only changed its outward appearance, but has also acquired other qualities.

It cannot be said that small-leaf tobacco is a result of the hereditary qualities of genus, kind or race. On the contrary, when placed under conditions of strong, damp and abundant feeding, it develops large leaves and loses its essential qualities. An important difference between the two classes of tobacco is the fact that the large-leaf kinds are abundantly fed with manure, while the small-leaf kinds do not take kindly to stable manure. Experiments with artificial manure in Bulgaria tend to show that phosphorus and potassium fertilizers are the most useful.

Small-leaf tobacco may, therefore, be considered as an abnormally developed plant, artificially maintained in its abnormal development. The leaves of the plant, however, have just those qualities of taste which are so much appreciated by smokers. By virtue of all these specific conditions, the area of cultivation of the small-leaf tobacco is limited. Even in the countries of its greatest development—Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and part of Russia—this development is not continuous as in the case of other cultures, but is disconnected in, as it were, a series of oases. These oases are the cause of the great diversity of Oriental tobaccos, which has given rise to

what is known as the "poetry of tobacco." This diversity is particularly dependent on the qualities of the soil. The best Oriental tobacco is situated on special surfaces of land called by the Turkish name of *Yaka*. These are the lowest parts of a mountain slope, at the place where it passes into a plain. If the mountain slope is covered with sparse wood or with shrubs, or if the forest trees on it are felled, the water from the rainfall flows down on the surface, dragging with it the materials it meets on its way, and depositing them at the edge of the slope, where the ground levels out and the force of the water thereby decreases. The materials washed down by the flowing waters are of a great diversity, stones and pebbles of various sizes, sand, small particles of clay, various salts, dissolved in the water, organic waste, such as leaves and other vegetable matter, in various degrees of decomposition, soil particles, etc. It is evident, therefore, that each district has its own particular features and will impart a different character to the tobacco grown on it, conditioned by the materials thus deposited by the flowing waters. These peculiarities are further emphasized, although in a smaller degree, by the difference in the heating of the surface in connection with its situation as to the sun, the degree of shelter from winds, and so on. The considerable quantity of large objects contained in the soil of such *Yakas* has a particular influence on the tobacco plants. The stone particles of various sizes absorb the rays of the sun, and reflect their heat in an upward direction from the surface of the soil. In this way the plants are maintained in a condition of intensive heating. Even during the night, when a cooling of the atmosphere supervenes, the refraction of the absorbed heat continues, the tobacco plants being thus still kept in a dry and warm atmosphere.

All this lends to small-leaf tobacco those peculiar qualities of aroma and taste which are its particular feature and make it incomparable of its kind. All attempts to produce Oriental tobacco in other parts of the world have failed, just for the lack of such a blend of climate and soil that is found in the Near East.

TOBACCO IN THE NEAR EAST.

Tobacco is stated to have been introduced into the Ottoman Empire by the English in 1600, and smoking came into vogue at about the same time as the drinking of coffee. The first tobacco plantations were established in the Smyrna region, and the cultivation of the plant gradually extended round the coast of Asia Minor, until it found its most favourable ground in the neighbourhood of Samsoun. From Anatolia tobacco cultivation spread to Turkey-in-Europe, ultimately making its way through the agency of Turkish peasants to all the Danubian countries. Turkish sponsorship is revealed to-day in the retention of Turkish terms for various stages of cultivation, and in part for classification. The Turks introduced tobacco into Russia, and for a long time found in that country their chief market for the product. It is claimed that the subsequent introduction of Turkish tobacco into Western Europe was due to the devotion of Russians in Paris, whose insistence upon their favourite tobacco led to the importation of Turkish workmen, for the manufacture of cigarettes, and of Turkish tobaccos. To-day Oriental tobacco is very largely used for blending with American tobacco.

GREECE

AS A TOBACCO PRODUCER

Landmarks.

The history of the tobacco industry in Greece is the story of an industry which, while for long an important element in the national economy of the country, has developed out of all knowledge in the last decade as a result of what may, perhaps, best be termed external happenings. The two factors which have led to the expansion of the industry have been large accessions of territory, important from the point of view of tobacco production, and the influx of refugees. In regard to the former there are two landmarks, 1913 and 1920, the effect of each event, as will be shown by a few statistics, being almost equally marked. The production of tobacco in Greece before 1913 was on the average round about 9,000,000 kilograms, and was derived mainly from Acarnania (Agrinion), Thessaly, the Peloponnese (Argolis), and the islands of Samos and Mytilene. The result of the Second Balkan War was to add to Greece most of Macedonia, which brought within Greek territory Kavalla, Drama, and other important tobacco-growing districts. The consequence was that in the following year—1914—Greece's tobacco production showed an increase of over 150 per cent. on the previous figures, the production being 27,569,894 kgs. The second landmark was the addition to Greece of Western Thrace after the Great War, which gave to the country the important tobacco-growing district of Xanthi.

The second factor, the influx of refugees, has had a very important influence on the tobacco industry. The number of refugees from Turkey was 1,500,000, and of these a large number had been tobacco growers in the districts of Smyrna, Trebizond and Samsoun. These tobacco growers have naturally followed their industry in Greece, have been very successful in producing the best qualities of tobacco, and have been able thus to establish themselves and their families as self-supporting units. The refugees have been responsible for the introduction of the crop into Crete, Eubœa, Attica and Bœotia. They have further been instrumental in developing the successful cultivation in Greece of two varieties of Anatolian tobaccos which were not formerly grown there. These are tobacco of the Smyrna type (Caloup), which is being grown in Southern Greece, the Islands and Central and Western Macedonia, and the Samsoun type, which is being cultivated in the district of Katerini, Macedonia, and parts of Thessaly. The successful introduction of these two varieties of tobacco into Greece has completed the range of Greek tobacco production, which now includes all the varieties and types of Turkish tobaccos, for the manufacture of high-quality cigarettes from a mixture of tobaccos of strictly Greek origin.

The tobaccos produced in Greece are thus those which have popularly been known as Turkish. While it was never a satisfactory description, it served its purpose at the time when most of the tobacco area formed part of the late Turkish Empire. Now, however, as Turkey has not the remotest connexion with the tobaccos produced in Macedonia, there is a natural tendency to leave the name Turkish to the tobaccos actually produced in Turkey, and to give to the tobaccos of Greece a distinctive title. As some of the best types of Turkish tobacco come from Macedonia and Thrace, Greece's anxiety on this account can well be understood. Macedonian tobaccos, as they are frequently called, is one solution, but it is understood

that the name which appeals to Greek growers is Oriental Tobacco.

The ravages of the Great War, the task of reorganising agriculture generally, and serious pre-occupations in Asia Minor, followed by the arduous work of refugee settlement combined to prevent the figures for production from reflecting the increased area under the crop until 1923, when the output totalled 56,108,432 kgs. Since that year the average production has ranged between 50 and 65 million kgs. The following table shows how the production has changed between 1914 and 1928:

Year.	Kilograms.	Year.	Kilograms.
1914	27,569,894	1922	25,346,197
1915	18,523,441	1923	56,108,432
1916	19,367,288	1924	50,174,398
1917	28,163,634	1925	65,564,295
1918	35,332,323	1926	55,534,127
1919	17,878,423	1927	61,898,701
1920	32,613,958	1928	52,725,484
1921	25,426,565	1929 (approx.)	61,870,000

Production in Recent Years.

The total production of the Turkish type of tobacco is approximately 6 per cent. of the world's output of tobacco, and of that production Greece is responsible for a sub-



A GREEK TOBACCO FIELD.

stantial proportion. But for unfavourable market conditions the figures of production for the last two or three years could easily have been improved upon. The tobacco industry of the Balkans has been passing through exactly the same crisis as has affected the cotton and oil industries—over-production. In all three of the chief tobacco-growing countries in the Balkans production has been on the upgrade, and has coincided with the temporary decline in the demand for choice qualities, with the result that the disposal of the crop has been a difficult matter and the industry has been handicapped by the existence of considerable old stocks.

Categories and Varieties.

The remarkable quality of Oriental tobaccos in general is well known. The various varieties have an excellent aroma, the tobacco burns thoroughly and evenly without any chemical treatment, and there is only a small nicotine content, which cannot affect injuriously the health of the smoker. It is not surprising in the circumstances that the

so-called Turkish cigarettes should enjoy such considerable popularity. The strength of the Greek tobacco industry lies in two things—its large production, which is capable of marked expansion, and the fact that the tobaccos of Greece include some of the finest types of Turkish tobaccos, notably those produced in the districts of Xanthi, Kavalla and elsewhere. Greek tobaccos can be divided into two main categories—Basma with small, oval leaves, a thin edge and delicate veins and with a specially fine flavour, and Bashi-Bagli, a second quality leaf. The complete list of tobaccos grown in Greece is as follows: (1) Basma, (2) Bashi-Bagli, (3) Kaba-Koulak, (4) Smyrna type (Caloup), (5) Samsoun type, (6) Sari, (7) Mavra, (8) Tsembelia Agriniou, and (9) Argos type. The following is a list of some of the varieties classified by districts:—

Thrace.—1. Xanthi (a) Yaka and Karsi-Yaka; (Basma) (b) Jebel; (Basma) (c) Ova; (Basma).

2. Comotini—Gumuljina); (Basma and Caloup).

3. Orestia (Karagatch) Demotica, Sufli, Alexandropolis (Dedeagatch); (Basma and Caloup).

Macedonia.—Zichna; (Sideli) (Basma); Kiria—Mahalla—Little Mahalla (Basma); Serres, Yaka and Karsi-Yaka (Basma); Nestos (Sari-Shaban); Ova (Basma); Drama—Nevrokop (Basma and Bashi-Bagli); Kavalla (Basma and Bashi-Bagli); Salonika Chalcidice—Langada—Selitza Kilkish—Kozane (higher qualities of Bashi-Bagli and Caloup); Pravi Kavakoulaki); (Bashi-Bagli).

Thessaly.—Almyros (Basma and Bashi-Bagli); Carditza; (Bashi-Bagli and Caloup). Rest of Thessaly (Volo, Pharsala, Larissa, Trikkala, and Lamia) (Bashi-Bagli and Caloup).

Agrinion.—Agrinion, Makrineia, Missolonghi, Amphiloehria; (Aromatic and Zembilia, Bashi-Basma, Caloup); Xeromera (Basma and Caloup).

Peloponnese.—Tripoli, Calavryta (Basma and Caloup); Argos (Caloup).

Islands.—Samos, Chios, Mytilene, Lemnos, Amorgos, Naxos, Crete, Eubœa; (Caloup and Basma).

Attica.—Marathon, Thebes (Caloup).

Exports of Tobacco.

The figures for the export of tobacco from 1912 to the present time are as follows:—

Year.	Kilograms.	Year.	Kilograms.
1912	10,981,739	1921	26,191,741
1913	9,667,512	1922	36,671,305
1914	20,398,388	1923	21,362,000
1915	22,280,275	1924	41,832,923
1916	12,720,421	1925	42,219,525
1917	12,710,683	1926	55,324,151
1918	13,848,749	1927	53,419,732
1919	26,595,301	1928	46,385,959
1920	26,436,106		

The following table shows, by countries of destination, the exports of Greek tobaccos in 1928:—

Country.	Kilograms.	Country.	Kilograms.
Germany	20,805,327	Norway	54,204
U.S.A.	8,135,263	Eritrea	48,493
Italy (Trieste Transit)	6,824,344	Argentina	48,018
Egypt	2,163,385	Russia	43,059
Austria	2,032,596	China	37,165
Holland	1,979,607	Arabia	24,556
Belgium	1,653,105	Abyssinia	14,873
Czechoslovakia	1,005,874	Switzerland	13,625
Great Britain	244,563	Syria	12,783
Cyprus	239,588	French West Africa	5,009
Poland	173,140	Palestine	3,231
Tunis	152,670	Algeria	2,760
Sweden	151,431	Malta	1,722
Hungary	149,706	Latvia	799
France	149,612	Portugal	32
Finland	138,401		
Aden	77,618	Total	46,385,959

In addition to the export of leaf tobacco Greece also exports cigarettes, but so far only on a small scale, as the existing factories have hitherto disposed of by far the greater part of their production locally. In view of the advantageous conditions for this industry, with the highest quality of tobacco produced on the spot, it should be capable of important development, and the manufacturers are endeavouring to expand their production with a view to increasing the exports of cigarettes. In 1928 the exports of cigarettes amounted to 58,252 kgs., as against 56,676 kgs. in 1927 and 84,534 kgs. in 1926. The principal countries of destination in 1928 were the following: Egypt, 12,512 kgs.; Italy, 11,896 kgs.; Abyssinia, 7,561 kgs.; France, 5,673 kgs.; Algeria, 3,976 kgs., Africa, 3,213 kgs.; Great Britain, 2,781 kgs.; Japan, 2,301 kgs.; and Sweden, 1,008 kgs.

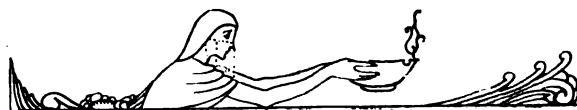
Tobacco as a National Factor.

From the employment standpoint the tobacco industry is of the greatest importance to Greece. In the actual cultivation 170,000 families are engaged, while 40,000 men and women, representing an additional 25,000 families, are employed in the manipulation and sorting of the tobaccos into grades in the warehouses of the tobacco centres. As a factor in the export trade tobacco, of course, looms very prominently. It is not merely the most



STRINGING TOBACCO LEAVES.

important agricultural product, but it now accounts for more than half the value of the total exports. For 1928 the value of the export trade was £16,652,000, and that of the tobacco exports was nearly ten millions. These figures need no emphasis, and fully explain the care that successive Greek Governments have given to the development of this industry. In view of the position of the industry, Bureaux for the Protection of Greek Tobacco have been established at Kavalla, Salonika and Volo. These offices, administered by representatives of tobacco merchants and tobacco planters of the respective districts, have as their chief aim the constant improvement of the quality of Greek tobacco and the lowering of its cost. This object is pursued by the diffusion among tobacco growers of scientific methods of tobacco cultivation and the means of controlling the various tobacco diseases. A Tobacco Institute has been established in Macedonia by these Bureaux for scientific research in relation to various tobacco-growing problems. The Bureaux for the Protection of Greek Tobacco, in order to keep in touch with general tobacco questions and for the purpose of joint management, have now been united, and their headquarters are at Salonika at the Bureau for the Protection of Greek Tobaccos there. Any information concerning Greek Tobaccos in general can be obtained from the Salonika Office.

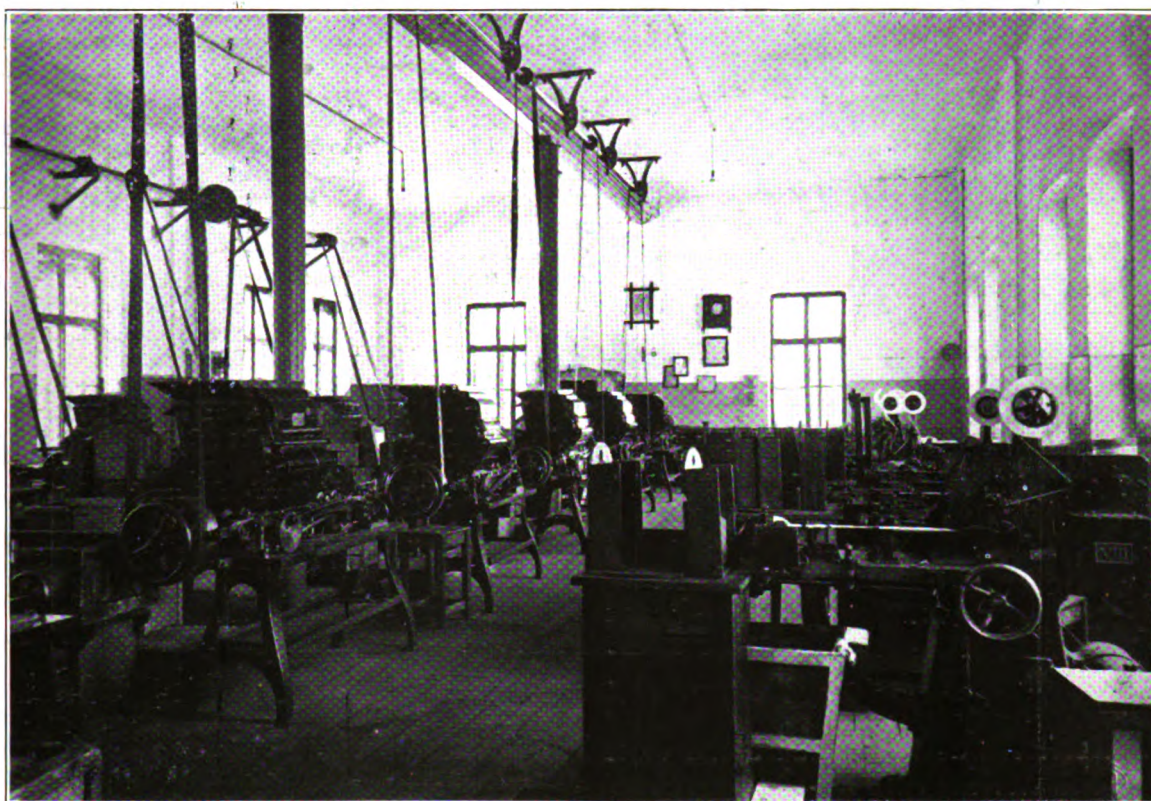


YUGOSLAVIA

THE IMPORTANCE OF TOBACCO.

For several reasons the production of tobacco occupies a most important place in Yugoslav agriculture. First of all, it must be taken into account that about four millions of the population, or about one-third of the total, take part in the work and share in the profits involved. Secondly, the production of tobacco is exclusively in the hands of small peasant proprietors, whose land rarely exceeds from 5 to 10 hectares. In the third place, it is important since it provides the State with considerable revenues. Finally, tobacco plays an important part in the rotation of crops, as it improves the soil, leaving it in

and extensive production. By 1924 production had reached 33,000,000 kgs., so that the Monopoly had not only sufficient for its own use, but also enough to create stocks for maturing purposes and for export. Measures were then taken greatly to restrict production in the interests of quality, and by reason of the difficulties of storage and of preventing smuggling. No one is allowed to plant tobacco without a special permit obtained from the Monopoly, which has now its specially trained expert staff in every district to control the choice of seeds, the field which may be planted, and the amount each grower may plant in a particular year. Seed is supplied free of charge, and all seedlings not planted out must be destroyed in the pre-



TRAVNIK TOBACCO FACTORY—CIGARETTE MAKING DEPARTMENT.

excellent condition; its cultivation occupies a relatively short time, at most little over three months, and it thrives on a limestone soil not very suitable for the majority of other crops. From the economic-social point of view the production of tobacco is important, as it finds work for all members of the producer's family; even the little children and the old folks can help and thereby earn a welcome addition to the family income.

Agricultural experts believe that the production of tobacco in Yugoslavia, although it has attained very considerable quantities, has by no means reached its maximum. Immediately after the Great War the State Monopoly, which has sole control of the production, sale and manufacture of tobacco in the whole country, had no stocks, and was forced to encourage the most intensive

sence of the Monopoly officials before July 1. The crop is examined at least twice during the season by the Monopoly experts, once immediately after planting out and once just before the harvest, and careful estimates of the yield are made, inasmuch as every leaf must be handed over to the Monopoly. The Monopoly experts supervise the picking and drying of the leaf, insisting on each kind of tobacco being baled separately and controlling every process with a view to obtaining the most perfect product and to preventing smuggling.

When the tobacco is harvested and ready for handing over to the Monopoly, it is received by commissions on which the producers are represented. These estimate the quality of the tobacco and fix prices for the various grades, which are announced in advance. Production was hindered

in the past by the interference of party politicians in the determination of quality and the fixing of prices in their own particular district; but it is to be hoped that under the new régime this will be carried out on a purely commercial basis by the Monopoly experts and the producers only. There is also a strong demand among the producers for greater freedom in producing tobacco for export. It is believed that an amendment to the Monopoly Act may be introduced, authorising the production of tobacco for export under the control of Monopoly experts, but for free sale by the producers' associations. This would tend greatly to encourage the production of tobacco, especially in those district whence the finest sorts of tobacco come.

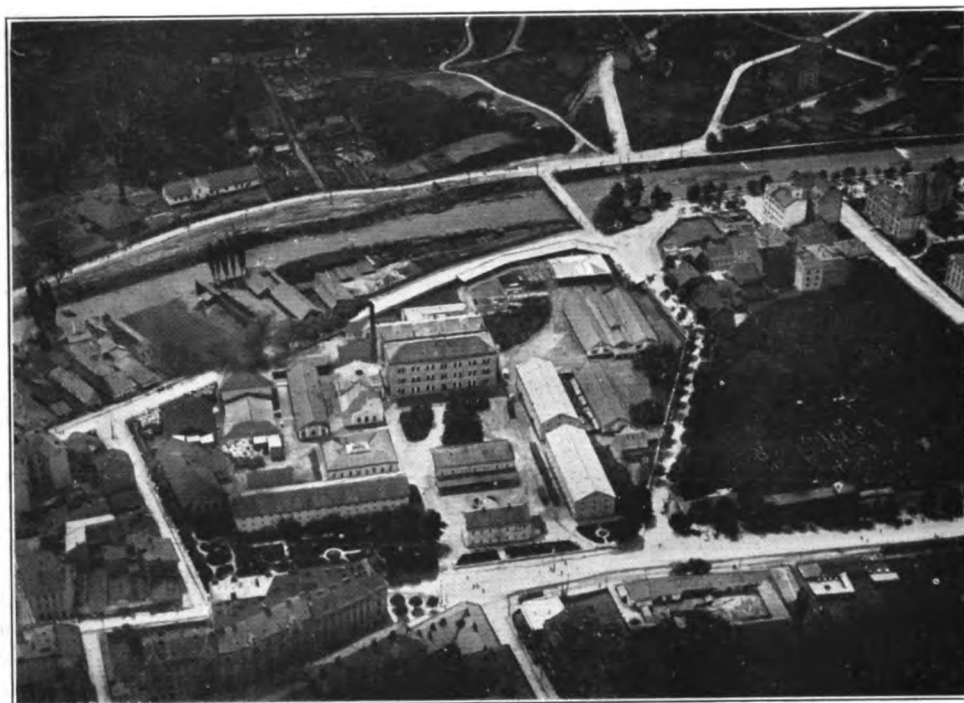
The Chief Tobacco Fields.

The tobacco fields of Yugoslavia are divided among three districts: South Serbia; Herzegovina, Bosnia and Dalmatia; and the Voivodina. South Serbian tobacco is

1927 and the average price per kilogram paid by the Monopoly to the producers.

Kind of Tobacco.	1923. Kgs.	1924. Kgs.	1925. Kgs.	1926. Kgs.	1927. Kgs.
Small Leaf...	9,734,601	15,501,740	4,678,137	9,242,472	4,618,720
Medium Leaf	4,744,645	10,086,782	4,112,670	5,172,005	1,986,559
Large Leaf ...	3,523,654	7,081,212	502,724	406,523	280,471
Total	18,002,900	33,669,734	9,293,531	14,821,000	6,885,750
Average price dinars per kg.	33.5	20.0	20.5	13.5	17.0

The sale of tobacco abroad presents considerable difficulties. A new tobacco needs much launching on the world markets, where the many known brands have all their regular places and a newcomer has difficulty in getting in. Especially is this so in the case of Oriental tobacco, among which the best Yugoslav tobacco is placed, since there is already an over-production of this sort of tobacco from Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey. Nevertheless Yugoslavia has succeeded in placing considerable stocks in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Holland. The interest of foreign tobacco factories for Yugoslav tobacco is growing, and many inquiries are received from



SARAYEVO TOBACCO FACTORY—FROM THE AIR.

of the finest quality and was well known on the world markets before the War under the name of Macedonian or Turkish tobacco. It is of the small leaf variety, of a good light colour and very aromatic. The finest tobacco comes from the Strumitza, Radovitchki and Prilep districts. Near the outskirts of the tobacco district the leaf gets bigger, and the tobacco is darker and stronger. Among the limestone mountains of the Herzegovina district excellent medium and large leaf tobacco is produced, light in colour, tender and elastic, yielding; when cut, long equal fibres especially good for hand-made cigarettes. It has not, however, so good an aroma as the tobacco of South Serbia. The best districts are the Mostarski, Stolarski and Imotski districts. The Voivodina tobacco is of exceptionally large leaf, dark in colour and very strong in flavour. It is used mainly for mixing in pipe tobacco and the cheapest cigarettes and for making the cheapest cigars.

The table below shows the total production of tobacco of various kinds in the whole of Yugoslavia from 1923 to

them. With the building of new storehouses and the careful extension of production in those districts most suited to the production of tobacco of the quality demanded for export the Monopoly should have still greater quantities of tobacco available for sale abroad, especially if modifications in the Monopoly Act can be made further to encourage the producers of these sorts of tobacco.

During the last few years the sales of Yugoslav tobacco abroad amounted to:—

1923	Czechoslovakia (Régie)	...	193,071	kgs. from 1920-21 crop.
1924	Czechoslovakia (Régie)	...	371,031	" " 1922 "
1924	Poland (Monopoly)	...	231,000	" " 1923 "
1925	Poland (Monopoly)	...	2,090,816	" " 1923 "
1925	Czechoslovakia*	...	779,047	" " 1923 "
1925	Czechoslovakia	...	450,953	" " 1924 "
1926	Czechoslovakia	...	1,635,000	" " 1924 "
1926	Czechoslovakia	...	610,000	" " 1924 "
1927	Czechoslovakia	...	800,400	" " 1924 "
1927	Poland (Monopoly)	...	1,834,200	" " 1924 "
1927	Holland (Private)	...	500,822	" " 1924 "
1928	Holland (Private)	...	164,489	" " 1924 "

[Thanks are due to M. Dragan Militchevitch, B.A. (Oxon.), Secretary of the Chamber of Industry, Belgrade, for assistance given in the preparation of this article.]

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY OF YUGOSLAVIA.

When the tobacco crop has been harvested and handed over to the State Monopoly's collecting centres, it is placed in special warehouses for fermentation. Great attention is now paid to this process, since on its success depends the conservation of the good qualities of the leaf and even its improvement. The tobacco is carefully sorted into various kinds and grades, and is packed according to its kind in the best manner to assure that fermentation shall be regular and complete. Experts arrange the temperature and moisture of the fermentation chambers and watch over the whole process, which takes at least two years to complete. The tobacco is then sent to the State factories in various parts of the country according to their demand, or, if its quality meets the demands of the world market and there is a surplus over home demand, it is sold abroad.

At present the State has 38 warehouses for the storing and fermentation of tobacco. Of these 12 are in South Serbia, 2 in Montenegro, 7 in Dalmatia, 4 in the Voivodina, 3 in Serbia, 3 in Bosnia, and 7 in Herzegovina. There is, however, great need for more and bigger warehouses, so that a larger production may be allowed and a greater store of fermented tobacco be available for manufacture and export.

In general the South Serbian and Herzegovinian tobacco is used for cigarettes and the better cigars, and Voivodina tobacco for pipe tobacco and the cheaper cigars. A certain amount of foreign leaf is also purchased to improve the aroma of luxury cigars. These purchases amounted in recent years to:—

		Kgs. "Smyrna"	Kgs. "Holland"
		Tobacco.	Tobacco.
1924	...	28,628.5	—
1925	...	20,808.5	—
1926	...	105,084.5	282,743.25
1927	...	290,153.5	189,956.25

Cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff and tobacco extract for home consumption are manufactured in eight State factories, placed advantageously for the distribution of the products and for the employment of labour in the more necessitous districts. One is in Serbia, four are in Bosnia and Herzegovina, two in Croatia, and one in Slovenia.

The factory in Nish is typical of these factories. It was founded in 1915, but had to be completely reconstructed and re-equipped after the War. It has 22 cutting machines of the latest type, 17 packing machines, and 19 cigarette-making machines. It has its own electric generating station, now to be enlarged, bath houses for the workers, rest rooms and gardens, a tool shop and a box-making department capable of satisfying all its needs. The staff comprises a director, three experts, fifty-two clerical workers, and seven hundred manual workers, of whom some 500 are women. The factory produces all kinds of cigarettes and cigarette tobacco, and has a capacity of 780,000,000 cigarettes and 2,160,000 kgs. of cigarette tobacco a year. A still further increase in the number of machines is contemplated and tenders for the most modern cigarette-making and cutting machines have been invited. Offers have been received from Germany and Britain.

The factory at Senja (1899) is devoted entirely to cigar making; it employs a maximum of 700 workers, and produces about 18,000,000 cigars of the more popular brands yearly.

The Sarajevo factory (1875) is fitted with up-to-date machinery for cigarette-making and has all the accessory departments as in Nish. It employs an expert and clerical staff of 27 persons and 841 workers, approximately 500 of whom are women. Its capacity is 1,500,000 kgs. of cigarette tobacco and 1,000,000,000 cigarettes.

The Liubliana factory (1871) is also well equipped with up-to-date machines. It has a clerical staff of 32 and 1,083 workers; its present annual capacity is 870,000,000 cigarettes, 1,920,000 kgs. of cigarette tobacco, 21,000,000 cigars, 180,000 kgs. of chewing tobacco, 18,000 kgs. of snuff, and 60,000 kgs. of tobacco extracts.

The Mostar factory (1880) has a staff of 16, together with 456 workers; it can produce yearly 480,000 kgs. of cigarette tobacco and 270,000,000 cigarettes. Adjoining the factory is a fermenting warehouse, which deals with from 300,000 to 400,000 kgs. of leaf per annum.

The Zagreb factory is entirely devoted to the production of cigars, including those of the very best quality. It was founded in 1869, and it is interesting to find that one of the women workers who began work then as a child of eight is still employed there. The factory is capable of employing 1,000 workers, but at present only a staff of twelve, with 259 workers, is employed; these can produce about 12,000,000 cigars a year.

The factory at Travnik, founded in 1893 to find work for the poor people of that district, produces only cigarettes and cigarette tobacco. It employs a staff of 18, with 358 workers, besides 44 workers employed in the power station and workshops attached. It produces 490,000 kgs. of cigarette tobacco and 280,000,000 cigarettes per annum.

The cigarettes produced are of the following sorts:—Special luxury varieties: Karageorgie, Strumitza, Yadrin, Kossova, and Shumadia; popular varieties: Vardar (the Serbian Gold Flake), Neretva, Morava, Zeta (the most smoked cigarette, akin to Wild Woodbines), Brigantiza, Krka, and Sava. Cigarette tobacco is sold under the following names: Trebinski, Vardarski, Neretvanski, Moravski, Zatski, Savaski, Banatski, and Dunavski. Cigars made include luxury varieties, Flor de Havana and Perla de Cuba, as well as Regilitas, Trabuka, Brittanski, Opera, Cuba, Virninia, Porturicco, Virginiosa, and mixed short home products. Pipe smoking is not common in Yugoslavia and the pipe tobacco supplied is not of very good quality. The best is a new mixture known as American. Most of the State factories are in need of expansion, since the demand for cigarettes and other products is still growing, despite successive bad harvests, which, in an almost purely agricultural State, have a bad effect on general purchasing power. One or two good harvests would send up the consumption of tobacco in Yugoslavia and make the supply inadequate to satisfy the demand. But the difficulty of providing the new machinery needed lies in the chronic lack of capital in the country. It is possible, however, that an advance might be obtained abroad for this purpose or that new machines might be supplied on credit terms, which would allow of payment over a term of years.

The total production of the Yugoslav State Tobacco Factories during recent years was as shown in the table on the next page.



FACTORY.	Unit.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
(a) Cigarettes									
Nish	1,000's	648,453	616,783	695,450	627,253	681,490	695,722	733,498	838,773
Sarajevo	"	402,442	466,141	658,206	759,658	727,106	911,986	976,545	1,078,353
Banya Luka	"	91,450	144,986	193,813	242,717	287,230	286,487	336,289	364,089
Travnik	"	65,484	95,604	125,055	194,325	243,403	230,160	272,657	289,879
Mostar	"	124,863	193,209	212,303	223,291	224,470	226,090	255,913	280,399
Liubliana	"	319,981	417,464	660,706	668,155	651,806	808,611	859,782	886,864
Total	"	1,652,673	1,934,187	2,545,533	2,715,399	2,815,559	3,168,056	3,434,684	3,738,357
(b) Cigarette Tobacco									
Nish	Kgs.	1,831,370	1,759,162	2,070,259	1,677,200	1,616,303	1,820,779	1,803,296	1,861,016
Sarajevo	"	1,126,857	1,323,662	1,351,531	1,186,826	1,052,801	1,310,103	1,452,529	1,254,273
Banya Luka	"	621,613	689,509	654,281	619,133	607,164	874,159	1,004,672	928,173
Travnik	"	665,236	858,296	556,315	459,134	509,646	536,233	473,742	476,853
Mostar	"	554,660	642,614	500,164	393,628	400,120	421,183	426,960	430,880
Liubliana	"	735,032	1,407,583	1,302,182	1,206,427	1,245,026	1,409,804	1,352,687	1,305,419
Total	"	5,534,728	6,680,826	6,434,732	5,542,548	5,431,060	6,372,261	6,603,986	6,256,578
(c) Cigars									
Liubliana	1,000's	21,721	18,690	7,068	8,547	6,898	12,829	14,801	13,545
Zagreb	"	12,700	13,000	12,800	12,900	10,000	8,000	11,400	11,389
Senja	"	21,230	20,958	14,247	14,059	14,118	14,783	15,357	18,069
Total	"	55,651	52,648	34,115	35,506	31,016	35,612	41,558	43,003
(d) Chewing Tobacco									
(d) Snuff	Kgs.	92,757	92,206	179,544	160,015	113,539	107,989	29,495	37,143
(d) Snuff	"	—	—	—	6,180	5,700	7,330	5,640	4,299

The gross income from the Tobacco Monopoly during the budgetary years 1921 to 1928 was as follows (275 dinars being the equivalent of £1 sterling at the present rate of exchange):—

1921 (7 months)	369,000,000 dinars.
1922 (7 months)	514,000,000 "
1922-23	1,053,000,000 "
1923-24	1,148,000,000 "
1924-25	1,608,000,000 "
1925-26	1,699,000,000 "
1926-27	1,762,000,000 "
1927-28	1,705,000,000 "

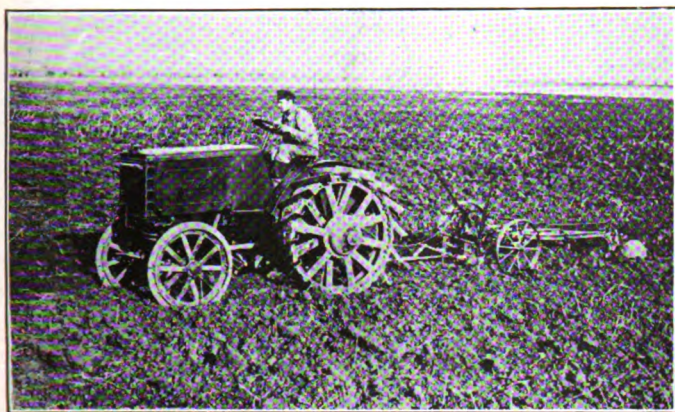
The expenses are comparatively small and the net income is, therefore, very considerable. A part of this income, in common with the income from the Monopoly on Salt, Petrol, and other products, is earmarked for the payment of interest on certain State loans contracted abroad, but there is still a considerable sum over to help meet normal State expenditure. The Monopoly receipts show a slight tendency to decrease this year owing to the financial crisis following three bad harvests; but it needs only one or two good years to ensure a great increase in these revenues.



THE LIUBLIANA TOBACCO FACTORY: THE LARGEST TOBACCO FACTORY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

BULGARIAN TOBACCOS

The importance of tobacco in the national economy of Bulgaria is indicated by the fact that it is the chief article of export, providing one-third of the total annual value of the country's exports; its cultivation gives employment,



A TRACTOR AT WORK IN A TOBACCO FIELD.

in whole or in part, to nearly a quarter of the total number of households in the country, and the revenue derived by the State from the taxation of tobacco represents a tenth of the whole Budget.

The distribution of territory that followed the Balkan Wars gave Bulgaria some of the best tobacco-producing areas of the Balkan Peninsula, i.e., Southern Thrace and Eastern Macedonia. After the Great War part of Southern Thrace was surrendered to Greece, but Bulgaria retained the greater portion of the tobacco fields. Under the Turkish Tobacco Régie the Kirjali district, known as Merkez muduriye Xanthi, and famed for its fine aromatic small-leaved type of tobacco, which passed in commerce under the name of *Jebel Basma*, was divided into seven regions: 1, Xanthi; 2, Ahi-Chelebi; 3, Dari-Dere; 4, Sher-Jumaia; 5, Egri-Dere; 6, Gumuljina; 7, Sari-Shaban. By the terms of the Treaty of Neuilly Bulgaria



PICKING TOBACCO LEAVES.

retained four of these regions—Ahi-Chelebi, Dari-Dere, Sher-Jumaia and Egri-Dere, while the others passed under Greek jurisdiction. In Eastern Macedonia Bulgaria possesses the tobacco-fields of Gorma-Jumaia, Melnik, Petritch and Nevrokop. Their products, which are known as Macedonian tobaccos, are distinguished by their light golden-yellow colour and strong flavour; they are light in weight, and for this reason are specially adapted for

cigarettes, being at the same time mild and pleasant to smoke. The acquisition of these regions gave a great impetus to the Bulgarian tobacco industry, which was further encouraged by the interference with tobacco production in Greece and Turkey. Apart from the produce of the new fields, tobacco cultivation was stimulated throughout the whole country, particularly in the districts of Plovdiv (Philippopolis), Haskovo, Kavakli, and Dupnitsa. Thus the production of tobacco increased from 6.3 million kilograms in 1910 to 10.6 million in 1915, and to 20.4 million in 1918. By 1920 the annual production was 28.5 million kilograms; a set-back came the next year, but in 1923 the high-water mark of 52.2 million kilograms was reached. As the consumption of tobacco in Bulgaria remains fairly constant, this rapid increase in production meant that the country found itself with enormous stocks for which it had to obtain markets abroad. To a certain extent it was helped by the difficulties of its competitor Turkey, who had not yet liquidated her quarrel with Greece; but from a practical business point of view Bulgaria had indulged in over-production. In the following year, 1924, the area under tobacco was reduced by one-



THE TOBACCO LEAVES ARE COLLECTED IN BALES AND THEN PRESSED.

sixth; but as a result of a particularly good harvest the total production of the leaf amounted to 48.9 million kilograms. From that date there has been a steady decline in the area planted each year under tobacco, owing to difficulties experienced in marketing the crop. As compared with the 59,600 hectares of 1923, an annual average of from 20,000 to 30,000 hectares is now being maintained. At the same time the Government is taking steps to improve the quality of tobacco grown and to introduce standardisation. Better methods of cultivation and of drying the leaf are being adopted; artificial fertilisers and chemical spraying against pests are coming more and more into use. At the present time the Ministry of Agriculture has in preparation a Bill for improving the production and promoting the export of tobacco; in this measure provision is made for an increase in the number of special experimental tobacco farms.

Both climatic and soil conditions in Bulgaria are suitable to tobacco cultivation, particularly in the southern and south-western portions—the valleys of the Struma and Mesta rivers. Here are also grown cotton, sesame,

poppies, and aniseed—all plants flourishing under Mediterranean littoral conditions, and in calcareous soils.*

The number of tobacco cultivators in Bulgaria has undergone a rapid increase. In 1910 it stood at 14,247; in 1915 it was 44,098; it rose to 104,505 in 1918, and three years later attained the record figure of 199,733, which represented almost a quarter of the total number of households in the country. Owing to the fall in prices and the difficulty of marketing the tobacco, some of these cultivators will have turned their attention to other crops; but while the area under tobacco has decreased, the plant still figures as an item in the crops of the bulk of the cultivators in the favoured districts, but only the most suitable land is now given up to it. The mean annual production per hectare shows the inevitable fluctuations, ranging, in the eight years from 1920 to 1927, between 6.61 quintals per hectare (588 lb. per acre) to 9.91 quintals (881 lb. per acre), the average being 8.23 quintals.

Tobacco Exports.

The value of the tobacco crop as a factor in the maintenance of Bulgaria's trade balance and in the stability of the lev is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Total Exports.		Tobacco Exported.	
	Millions of leva.	Millions of leva.	Percentage of Total Export.	
1912	...	156.4	1.4	0.9
1918	...	415.4	331.2	79.8
1919	...	552.3	374.7	67.9
1920	...	1,642.9	801.0	48.8
1921	...	1,217.3	568.6	25.6
1922	...	4,329.7	1,168.9	27.0
1923	...	3,557.1	1,064.8	30.1
1924	...	4,902.2	1,828.1	37.1
1925	...	5,642.5	2,329.0	41.5
1926	...	5,617.6	2,060.5	39.7
1927	...	6,684.2	1,117.1	32.4
1928	...	6,379.4	2,111.7	33.1

The exceptional high percentage in 1918 and 1919 was due to the accumulation of stocks in Bulgaria during the War and the general depletion of world stocks. The main export is in the form of tobacco leaf. Among the chief purchasers of this leaf are the following countries:—

	Millions of kilograms.				
	1928.	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.
1. Germany	8.9	9.2	9.3	11.9	10.9
2. Austria	3.1	4.0	1.4	4.4	3.2
3. Czechoslovakia	0.6	3.3	3.8	4.5	6.3
4. Holland	1.4	3.2	4.4	0.9	1.5
5. Italy	2.1	2.6	5.1	6.3	4.6
6. Hungary	0.9	1.5	1.0	0.8	1.1
7. Belgium	2.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
8. Poland	2.4	0.7	1.5	2.6	2.0

The market for Bulgarian tobacco, however, is steadily being expanded. Exports to Egypt, for instance, have increased from 53,200 kilograms in 1923 to 693,730 kgs. in 1927 and to 901,312 kgs. in 1928. In regard to other countries it is not always possible to determine the ultimate destination of some of the tobacco sold in view of the tendency for buyers to purchase through the big depôts in Antwerp, Amsterdam, Hamburg, etc., where Bulgarian tobacco may be merged with those of other countries. For this reason tobacco merchants in Great Britain, America and elsewhere are urged to buy direct from Bulgarian firms, both for the sake of eliminating the middleman, and in order to be sure of obtaining the best type of Bulgarian tobacco. In this connexion it may be mentioned that several of the largest tobacco-purchasing institutions are now establishing permanent agencies in Bulgaria, among them several German firms, and the Austrian and Polish Tobacco Régies.

* N. Stoyanoff, "Tobacco in Relation to the Mediterranean Flora in Southern Bulgaria," Sofia, 1922.

THE BULGARIAN TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

The tobacco industry in Bulgaria has not only suffered from the general economic crisis which the country has shared with rest of the world; but it is also the victim of special disabilities of its own, which have acted as a check on its development. Being subject to taxation as a luxury, tobacco has proved one of the most lucrative sources of revenue for the State. The Budget for the year 1929-30 amounting to 7,000,000,000 leva, estimates a revenue of 780,000,000 leva from tobacco banderoles, or rather more than one tenth of the total revenue of the State. To obtain this sum, the taxes on cigarettes are fixed at 75 per cent. of the retail price, 70 per cent. being accounted for by the banderole, with an additional 5 per cent. for the monopoly. The following table gives the quantities of tobacco produced during the last five years, together with the revenue derived by the State from the banderole tax:—

Year.	Factories.	Tobacco Produced.		Banderole Revenue.
		Kilograms.	Leva.	
1924	...	56	4,197,062	521,082,513
1925	...	56	5,213,088	659,245,150
1926	...	52	4,690,106	675,832,037
1927	...	52	4,599,600	695,608,739
1928	...	50	5,037,457	752,629,085

The decrease in the number of tobacco factories is evidence of the unsettled economic conditions that have prevailed since the War. As in other spheres, so in the case of the tobacco industry the situation immediately after the War led to the establishment of more enterprises than the real capacity of the market justified; and when competition became intensified the weaker went to the wall. The production during the five years shows marked fluctuations. In 1925 there was a big jump of 25 per cent., (1,016,026 kilograms) over the figure for 1924. In the next year there was a substantial decrease as a result of the increase in the banderole charges, which checked consumption. A further diminution took place in 1927, but in 1928 there was an increase of 437,857 kilograms, owing mainly to the better prices obtained by producers. In that year the banderole charges for third-quality cigarettes were increased by 10 leva per kilogram, but without any corresponding increase in the retail price, the additional burden being borne by the manufacturers.

For the proper development of an enterprise a steady increase in production is necessary, but in this respect the tobacco industry is independent of ordinary business principles and is placed at the mercy of the State finances. The State intervenes to raise the banderole charges, with the resultant increase in the retail prices of tobacco products, as happened in 1926, and the industry experiences a considerable set-back to its normal development. The steady increase in the banderole revenue accruing to the Treasury over the five years will be noted. In this connexion a table showing the changes in the local consumption of different qualities of tobacco products during the last four years is of interest:—

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	Kilograms.			
Special Cigarettes	1,985	1,809	1,702	2,008
Double Extra "	4,335	2,609	1,917	1,806
Extra "	162,774	106,547	86,827	78,400
1st Quality "	878,799	671,598	583,473	492,887
2nd Quality "	1,153,108	778,616	526,400	415,084
3rd Quality "	2,993,984	3,101,809	3,373,139	4,009,150
Pipe Tobacco and Snuff	...	18,103	27,118	26,072

During the four years under review there has been each year a gradual diminution in the consumption of cigarettes of the three higher grades, with a single exception in the case of Special Cigarettes, which were made chiefly for private export. On the other hand the production of what are known as the Third-Quality cigarettes—the cheapest kind—has steadily increased, and there has been a marked advance in the production of pipe tobacco. Although there can be no doubt that the purchasing power of the Bulgarian people has diminished during the last few years, as indicated by the changes in cigarette smoking, it must also be pointed out that the consumption of “contraband” tobacco has probably made great strides. It is difficult to prevent the producer from smoking tobacco grown by himself, although the use of cut tobacco which has not been made into cigarettes in the factories is forbidden. Various measures have been adopted to restrict the use of contraband tobacco, such as restrictions on the importation of cigarette paper or paper that might be used in cigarette-smoking; frequent checks on the quantity of tobacco stored by producers and in warehouses; and more rigid control by excise officials. These steps are understood to have had some measure of success, but it is unlikely that the contraband smoking will be wholly eliminated until there has been a general improvement in the economic conditions of the country.

In proportion to other industries the tobacco industry in Bulgaria has outgrown its strength. As the capacity of the fifty factories exceeds the requirements of the market, there is considerable competition, and wholesale prices, (retail prices are fixed by the State) in Bulgaria have been cut to the lowest possible limit. When to this narrow margin long credit is added, in order to insure sales, the position of some manufacturers is often critical, as the banderole tax, representing three-quarters of the total investment, has to be paid in cash.

In foreign markets there is only a small demand for Bulgarian cigarettes owing to the high duties now imposed in most States on goods that can be manufactured in the country. The export of tobacco products—mainly cigarettes, as the export of pipe tobacco is insignificant—is shown in the following table:—

	Cigarettes, Kgs.	Value, Leva.	Average Price per kg.
1924	... 33,549	... 3,138,671	... 93.55 leva.
1925	... 42,913	... 3,807,253	... 88.72 "
1926	... 41,802	... 14,566,312	... 348.45 "
1927	... 35,580	... 18,286,575	... 513.95 "

The sudden rise in the value of the cigarettes exported in 1926 and 1927 was due to the opening of markets for high-grade cigarettes in Western Europe and America. Austria has so far been the largest purchaser of Bulgarian cigarettes; imports into Germany have diminished, but a factory, known as Bulgaria, has been established at Dresden for the manufacture of cigarettes exclusively from Bulgarian tobacco. The output of this factory is from 60,000 to 70,000 kilograms per month. Germany, it may be mentioned, is the largest importer of Bulgarian tobacco leaf, as appears from the following table of the principal countries importing Bulgarian tobacco in 1928:—

Country.	Kilograms.	Country.	Kilograms.
Germany	... 8,543,507	Egypt	... 897,472
Austria	... 2,932,902	Hungary	... 886,417
Poland	... 2,402,763	Czechoslovakia	... 792,702
Belgium	... 2,319,791	Greece	... 51,863
Italy	... 2,073,114	Great Britain	... 31,996
Holland	... 1,355,022		

With a view to fostering the export of cigarettes the export duty was abolished on May 12, 1926; but owing to the heavy duties levied on tobacco in the importing States, the demand of foreign markets is likely to be restricted to high-grade cigarettes.

SABI NENOFF.

Cyprus

TOBACCO GROWING IN CYPRUS.

The history of tobacco growing in Cyprus is a record of vicissitudes. Many years ago the industry was one of some importance for the Island, but it declined owing to a variety of causes. It was revived to a considerable extent owing to the arrival of a number of Syrian refugees at the beginning of the War, and in recent years, as a result of official and private efforts, substantial progress has been made in the industry, which is once again becoming a factor in the Island's economics. Modern methods of cultivation and curing have been introduced, and last year six itinerant instructors were appointed, responsible to the Government Tobacco Expert, to give advice and instruction to growers. For the past eight years there has been an almost continuous tendency for an increase in the area under the crop. The following table gives the area under tobacco and the production for that period (a dunam equals 0.227 acre, and an oke equals 2.82 lb.):—

	Area.		Production.	
	(Dunams)		(Okes)	
1921	...	93	...	4,887
1922	...	568	...	17,095
1923	...	615	...	11,834
1924	...	609	...	7,037
1925	...	694	...	6,493
1926	...	1,634	...	56,725
1927	...	3,145	...	141,302
1928	...	3,140	...	167,963

These figures throw an illuminating light on the expansion of the industry. The position with regard to the crop came under review last year at a Conference held at the offices of the Agricultural Department when measures were discussed for the encouragement of the better cultivation of, and preparation of, tobacco for export. The project of settling Greek and Turkish and other tobacco-growing families in the Island came under consideration, but it was subsequently found impossible to carry it into effect owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable families, so recourse was had instead to the appointment of itinerant tobacco instructors, reference to whom is made above. Of the six instructors one is at Larnaca to supervise the Larnaca District and part of Famagusta and Nicosia, one is in the Limassol District, one is in the Paphos District, while there are three in the Karpas District. One of the most important points calling for attention has been the question of the provision of suitable seed. It has been desired to obtain seed of some of the best types of the tobaccos grown in Greece and Turkey, but this has proved a difficult matter as there are restrictions on the export of seed from these countries. Small quantities of seed of the Kavalla, Agrinion, Sari, Giaourkeui, and Samsoun types of tobacco have, however, been procured, and in consequence it is anticipated that this year's shipments will show a marked advance both in quality and quantity. It may be mentioned that, besides the yellow leaf tobacco, Cyprus grows the Latakia type. As the Island is believed to be the only Empire source of this type, the Cyprus product is important for manufacturers, through its being entitled to the preferential rate of import duty.

Cyprus cigarettes made from imported Macedonian leaf or a blend of Macedonian and Cypriot leaf have for many years been popular abroad, and now several brands of all-Empire cigarettes made from pure Cyprus grown leaf are on the English market, as well as cigarettes which are made in London from imported Cyprus tobacco and are retailed at the low price of 4s. per 100.

Turkey's Tobacco Industry

Tobacco is Turkey's premier export. The tobacco plant is cultivated in all parts of Asia Minor, but the best tobacco comes from the coast line of the Black Sea—the principal centres being Samsoun, Bafra, Sinope and Trebizond and from the district of Smyrna. Large crops are also grown along the southern coast of the Sea of Marmora, where Brussa, Ismid and Balikesir are the chief producing districts. The production of tobacco in Turkey has experienced the usual seasonal fluctuations, but has also reflected the political vicissitudes of the country. The high-water mark was reached just prior to the Balkan War with crops estimated at 58,000,000 and 63,000,000 kilograms in 1910 and 1911 respectively. At that time the best Turkish tobacco was grown in Macedonia, and the loss of the Macedonian fields as a result of the Balkan War caused a drop of twenty million kilograms in the annual production of tobacco. After the setback of the Great War there was a marked increase in 1920 with a crop of nearly 30,000,000 kilograms, followed by a fresh relapse as a result of the Greek invasion of Asia Minor. By 1924, however, Turkey had not only recovered from this invasion, but was reaping the benefit of the presence of expert tobacco-growers from Macedonia, who had come to Anatolia as refugees or in exchange for the expelled Greek population, and were able to take the place of the Greek tobacco cultivators whom Turkey had lost. From this date onwards the rivalry was set between Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey, for the exclusive heritage of "Turkish" tobacco, the first two basing their claim on their possession of the Macedonian fields, the latter maintaining that tobacco grown in Turkey can alone be Turkish. As a tribute to the cogency of this latter argument comes the suggestion that the tobaccos of the Near East should be known as Oriental, and be graded on their actual merits, rather than on virtues supposed to be inherent in any particular name.

Zones and Varieties.

Four main zones for the production of tobacco are recognised in Turkey:—

1. Samsoun. The most important centre of cultivation which includes the following localities: Samsoun, Bafra, Alasham, Sinope, Ghered, Gumush, Hadjikeui and Tashova.
2. Smyrna, including Akhissar, Karagatch, Ephesus, Focœa, Giaourkeui, Bouja and other districts.
3. Trebizond, comprising Trebizond, Ordu, Olti and Ardahan.
4. Marmora Basin, including Brussa, Ismid, Hendek, Dusje, Gieve. This zone generally grows the largest crop, but the tobacco is inferior to that of the other zones.

It is in the Samsoun district, which produces the highest quality tobacco in Anatolia, that the future of Turkish tobacco may be said to rest.

The Bafra district also produces a tobacco of high quality, the prices of which are from 20 to 30 per cent. lower than those of Samsoun tobacco. The tobacco of Bafra is stronger and has a less fine leaf than that of Samsoun. The tobacco of Sinope is inferior and in little demand.

Trebizond produces a tobacco specially suited for blending with inferior brands produced elsewhere. Its chief customer in the past has been Egypt, but the demand from that country is decreasing with the growing popularity of the manufactured cigarette. Similar in kind to Trebizond tobacco, but inferior in quality, is Hendek tobacco. Since the demand for Trebizond tobacco has fallen off in Egypt a similar difficulty has been experienced

in the sale of Hendek, the only market now remaining open being Central Europe, where the prices paid are below the former Egyptian prices.

The best brands of Ismid tobacco resemble in appearance Bafra tobacco, but are inferior. The best tobacco of this district is Dusje, which is cheap and has a fine leaf, and is used as a substitute for Bafra. The cheapest Turkish tobacco, which is used mainly for blending, is that of Brussa and Balikesir.

The region of Smyrna produces three separate kinds of tobacco: (1) scented tobacco en caloup; (2) scented tobacco en basinas (pressed tobacco); (3) Yerlis tobacco. The first is that most generally in demand, the best brands being those of Seydikeui and Giaourkeui. The largest buyers of superior caloups are Egypt and America. Inferior caloups are bought mainly by Central Europe. Tobacco en basinas is chiefly grown in Odemish, Lygda, and Thyra, and is mainly bought by Germany. This method of manufacture is being slowly displaced by the caloup. Yerlis tobacco is a local growth cultivated in the districts of Kassaba and Magnesia. Smyrna tobacco is at present bought by the Government for blending with the stronger mixtures of Anatolia, which are thereby improved. The Smyrna industry, like that of Samsoun, would yield far greater produce if fully developed.

It is estimated that the consumption of tobacco in Turkey itself is about 10 million kilograms, while the amount available for export in 1922, 1923 and 1924 was respectively 13 million, 15 million, and 50 million kilograms. The largest importer of Turkish tobacco is the United States, but Italy, Austria, Germany, and Holland are all regular buyers, and in recent years Poland and Czechoslovakia have become so.

Government Monopoly.

In 1879 the tobacco revenues of Turkey were ceded to the services of the Public Debt, and in 1883 a tobacco monopoly was granted to a consortium of banks including the Ottoman Bank, which for the administration of the monopoly formed a company known as the Régie Co-intéressée des Tabacs. The company had powers to regulate the cultivation of tobacco and had the exclusive rights of manufacture and sale of tobacco in Turkey. Taking advantage of the expiry of the concession, the Government abolished the Régie and assumed control of the tobacco industry on March 1, 1925, converting the Régie into a State monopoly. Restrictions on the cultivation of tobacco were removed, but a State monopoly for the sale of cigarette papers was established.

Experience is teaching the Turkish Government, as it has already taught those of Bulgaria and Greece, that in these days of fierce competition it will not do to entrust the tobacco industry entirely to the whims or the instinct of the unenlightened cultivator. Left to his own devices, the latter has in certain districts been known to indulge in the introduction of "foreign matter" as a make-weight for his tobacco bales, while a steady deterioration of the leaf has emphasized the necessity for careful and more scientific methods of cultivation. While such measures may require time to produce a marked effect, the Turkish Government is paying attention to the problem of opening up markets abroad for Turkish tobacco. To this end it is announced that a concession has been granted to a British syndicate for the manufacture of Turkish cigarettes in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe. At the same time a Turkish tobacco monopoly will also be established in the United States of America for the exclusive manufacture of Turkish Régie cigarettes.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Cotton Growing in Egypt.

As was to be expected, questions connected with cotton growing in Egypt have taken an important place in the discussions at the International Cotton Congress at Barcelona. Of particular interest was the speech by Mr. William Howarth, managing director of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association. He paid a well-deserved tribute to the attention that the Egyptian Government devotes to cotton. In this connexion we need only refer to the work done with regard to new strains and the maintenance of the purity of varieties. The question of output is, of course, all important for Egypt, particularly in view of the steady increase in the population, and in recent years the Government has found it necessary to take steps to limit the acreage. It was pointed out that if Egyptian producers determine to increase their output, other costs besides labour costs (which are much lower in Egypt than in the United States) will have to be reduced. The importance of this reduction was emphasised particularly in view of the competition with cotton of artificial silk. It is believed that the opening up of new areas in Upper Egypt will have a marked effect on costs, owing to land being much cheaper there than in the Delta. Mr. Howarth's assurance that, given low-priced cotton, Lancashire will use every pound of it, should be a great encouragement to the Egyptian authorities to extend the area under the crop.

The Question of Supply.

That Egypt has the question of an increase in supply in view was made clear by the statement of an official of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture that he is looking forward to the time when Egypt will produce 10,000,000 kantars per year. At the present time a crop of between seven and eight million kantars occasions considerable anxiety because of the effect on prices and the existing situation in the world markets. The solution is, of course, to be found in the reduction of costs, to which I have already referred, and besides the effect of cheaper land on the crop it is believed that the development of new high-yielding strains will conduce to make cotton growing in Egypt more profitable than it is in any other cotton-growing region. Maarad and Nahda are two of the important new strains that are now available, and there are others that will soon be making their appearance. It is in this ceaseless quest for ever better strains that Egypt will achieve the success she desires for her staple crop. It must be emphasised, however, that a low price for Egyptian cotton is only one side of the equation, and that if Lancashire, as Mr. Howarth says, is to take every pound that Egypt produces it can only be as a result of the reorganisation of manufacturing and selling methods.

A Notable Exhibition.

Like the recent Aero Exhibition, the Shipping, Engineering, and Machinery Exhibition, which is now being held at Olympia, is notable for the wealth of evidence that it affords of new developments in these important branches of industry. While the Exhibition may lack the appeal which is bound to attach to a display of the latest aircraft, it has many attractions which serve to give it a popular interest. I need only instance the motor boat "Miss England" and the extensive display of outboard motor boats, which seem to be a never-

ending source of attraction for the youth of the present day. The engineering and machinery exhibits seem to cover every aspect of these industries. There are, for example, large numbers of internal combustion engines, while pumps, compressors and air tools are to be seen in variety. There are some interesting exhibits of refrigerating machinery, also of furnaces and boilers, among the firms showing boilers being Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox, whose exhibit includes a complete scale model of a marine boiler with oil-firing equipment. Altogether it is one of the best exhibitions of the kind that I have seen.

Nizam's State Railways.

The board of directors of the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways is to be commended for losing no time in informing the stockholders of the possibility that the Government of H.E.H. the Nizam may make an offer to take over the line before the anticipated period. The Government have an option under their contract with the company to purchase the broad and narrow gauge lines on January 1, 1934, on giving twelve months' notice. The directors state that though no definite proposal has been made, they have reason to believe that the Government are anxious to anticipate the purchase date and are not unlikely to make an offer to buy up the company's lines and take them over on March 31. If such an offer is made and the terms are such as the directors can recommend, the stockholders will be consulted before a final decision is arrived at. Obviously the offer will have to be a good one to obtain the acquiescence of the stockholders, for the company has done consistently well in recent years and the ordinary stock is now quoted round about 240. For the year ended March 31 last the proposed final dividend is 8 per cent. plus a bonus of 4 per cent., making 12 per cent., which compares with 16 per cent. for the previous year plus 2 per cent. on account of a refund of surcharge imposed on certain goods traffic in 1921-22.

Imperial Airways.

The particulars of the past year's working of Imperial Airways given in the preliminary statement were elaborated in the full report which was forthcoming last week. As already recorded, the profits amounted to £78,861, as compared with £72,567 for the year ended March 31, 1928. The profits from the trading account at £141,000

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showed an increase of £8,400, this total including the Government subsidy and an amount for the sale of aircraft and engines. The all-important fact is that mail and passenger traffic is now steadily growing, as it was bound to do once the benefits of air communications became realised. It is bound to take a considerable time to establish air services, and it is very satisfactory that thus early Imperial Airways have made such notable progress.

COMMENTATOR.

PERSIAN FINANCES.

The reports of the Persian Ministry of Finance have hitherto been issued every three months, but that now forthcoming covers the first six months of the Persian year 1307 (1st Farvardin to the end of the month of Shahrivar or March 21, 1928, to the following September 22). This change has been introduced because it is held that half-yearly reports present a more correct picture of the facts.

Of the events in the period dealt with special mention is made of the important change introduced in the method of dealing with the country's finances by the approval of the 1307 Budget in the early months of the year. This step, which is unique in the history of the country, has put an end to the system of requisitioning a credit of one-twelfth each month. Thus Persia has taken an important advance towards regularising her finances, a departure which is justly characterised in the report as a "great step." Other measures passed in the Majliss were the "Government Monopoly of Opium" Law to secure greater revenues from this source and the law for the punishment of opium smugglers.

The total of the State revenues for the period was 110,068,997 krans as against 96,036,701 krans for the corresponding period of the previous year, an increase of 14,032,296 krans. Notable increases took place in Customs, 10,789,661 krans, Posts and Telegraphs, 14,349,852 krans and Excise 1,020,514 krans. The revenue from tobacco increased by 91,935 krans which is attributed partly to the increased use of cigarettes. It is pointed out that the use of pipe and Kalia tobacco is continually decreasing while that of cigarette tobacco, which pays a heavier duty, is on the upgrade, and it is anticipated that the introduction of the new tobacco law will result in doubling the yield from the Tobacco Tax. The revenue from opium showed a decrease of 490,059 krans which is held to be due to the exceptional circumstances arising from the introduction of a new régime.

As from September 30 the London office of James Finlay and Co., Ltd., will be at 9, St. Helen's Place, E.C.3.

BULGARIA'S TOBACCO CROP IN 1929.

As is known, Bulgaria's tobacco crop of last year was excellent in quality but insufficient in quantity as a result of the very dry summer. Owing to the manufacturers of cigarettes throughout the world having to obtain supplies of aromatic tobaccos, called "Oriental," without which the best quality cigarettes cannot be manufactured, Bulgarian tobaccos, which occupy a place of honour among aromatic tobaccos, have been sold from the autumn, which is very much earlier than usual, at very high prices. These tobaccos, bought in 1928, have been exported after manipulation, principally this year. During the first five months of the current year the exports totalled over eleven million kilograms of tobacco, of the value of 1,525 million leva, which shows that a kilogram of these tobaccos has fetched on an average 136 leva; while during the first five months of the previous year the exports totalled about 12½ million kilograms, for which the payment was only 1,146 million leva, or an average of 91 leva per kilogram. Thus the foreign buyers have paid 45 leva more for the 1928 crop than for that of the previous year, or nearly 50 per cent.

In 1928 about 25,000 hectares (one hectare equals 2.47 acres) were planted with tobacco in Bulgaria, and the yield was only 15.7 million kilograms, owing to the drought. The high prices at which these tobaccos were sold have encouraged the planters to increase the area under tobacco this year. It is believed that this increase has been very considerable, and that nearly 40,000 hectares have been put under tobacco. What will be the yield? The normal return per hectare is 750 kilograms of leaf, and from this it can be anticipated that the crop this year will be from 30 to 32 million kilograms, or nearly double that of the past year. The annual local consumption does not exceed 5 million kilograms, so that the amount available for export will be about 25 million kilograms.

As regards the quality of this year's crop, all the information available points to its being exceptionally good. Following the belated cold weather of the spring, the sowing of the plants was carried out much later than usual, but the months of May and June were sufficiently wet and sunny, and it was possible to transplant the plants in excellent conditions. The terrain where the transplanting took place was soft and damp, and this fact made it possible for the plants to take root easily. So the cultivation was begun this year in satisfactory auspices and proceeded normally up to the middle of July. At that period the whole country suffered from drought, which stopped the growth of the plants to some extent; but even in July rain fell in many parts of Bulgaria, and this was also the case in the first half of August. In these conditions a sufficiently abundant crop can be looked for this year, and one, too, of very good quality. Two circumstances have particularly favoured tobacco cultivation in Bulgaria this year: the first is that the hail has almost everywhere spared the plants. The second is that from no part has the terrible tobacco disease called "Thrips" been reported. The high temperature in July has permitted the tobacco to ripen in good time, and the gathering of the first leaves was begun throughout the country from July 10. Since then developments have been normal, despite the storms of recent weeks, which have caused considerable damage in certain districts.

IMPERIAL AND EMPIRADIO TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Imperial and International Communications, Ltd., announce that on and after September 30 they will operate the cable and radio systems of the Eastern Associated Telegraph Companies and of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Ltd., together with the direct Empiradio and Imperial Cable Services which are at present under the control of the General Post Office.

Telegrams for the "Via Imperial," "Via Eastern" (cable routes), and "Via Empiradio," "Via Marconi" (radio routes), will be accepted at all offices in Great Britain of the Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., and Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Ltd.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Drachms to £	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.48	20.85½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.15½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 55/64—57/64
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.87½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	816½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.79
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 55/64—57/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1,005½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84½—11/16
Paris	Francs to £.....	124.21	123.85
Prague	Kronen to £.....	164.25	163½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.65
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	669½
Tehran	Krans to £	48	55½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.46
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 3/16—7/16

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, September 24.

The Stock Exchange has passed a dull week, the uneasiness resulting from the continued uncertainty of the monetary situation being added to by the discomfort caused by the collapse in a group of speculative shares, to which further reference is made below. A rise in Bank Rate is still generally regarded as a probability, but it is still felt that the Bank of England will not take such a step unless and until it is forced to do so by a heavier gold efflux than at present. A feature of the foreign bond market was a rise in Chinese issues. The slump in the Hatry group of shares had no real significance for the industrial market as a whole, but naturally caused general uneasiness, and small falls were general. Oil shares were a bright spot at the beginning of the week but became irregular later.

Hatry Group Slump.

The sensation of the Stock Markets this week has been the slump in the shares and the group of companies associated with Mr. Clarence Hatry, culminating in the unprecedented suspension of dealings on Friday. The market valuations of the ordinary shares of the five concerns affected—Photomaton Parent, Associated Automatic, Retail Trade Securities, Corporation and General Securities and Oak Investment—had fallen by amounts varying from 2s. to 10s. in two days, and a very large number of shareholders suffered a substantial depreciation owing to the collapse, but its immediate cause was pressure to sell on an unwilling market, and some of the later markings were purely nominal. Those associated with the companies must, however, be blamed for the delay in publishing the accounts of two of the concerns, which helped to weaken confidence in the group as a whole. The fall probably went further than the true position of the companies justifies, but the collapse must be regarded as a sequel to the "boom" finance of last year. Investments in new companies operating patent or novel processes are always liable to extreme fluctuations upwards or downward, on favourable or adverse market rumours, owing to the speculative nature of the business, coupled with the inability of accurately assessing the prospects for the future of the individual concerns in question.

Rhodesians Prospects Analysed.

The feature of the Stock Markets this summer has been the continued activity in the shares of the Rhodesian copper companies. Although this activity has been largely professional it would not have been maintained for so long had the public not been attracted by the undoubted possibilities of this great mining field. There are other considerations, however, which suggest that prospects are somewhat discounted in the market values. In the

Economist of last Saturday it is shown that before a reasonable return is obtained on the shares at current prices, a tonnage of ore estimated to amount to 6,500,000 tons in the case of Bwana M'Kubwa, 3,400,000 tons in that of Roan Antelope, and 1,000,000 in that of N'Changa will have to be treated. If allowance were made for the probable need of raising further capital, and the fact that for some time a loss of interest on the capital has to be faced, much larger figures would be required to give a "reasonable" return. There are no insuperable difficulties preventing such an output being achieved, but the task of raising the necessary labour force, and the technical problem of treating varying types of ore have to be solved first. Moreover, as we have explained before, this great increase in production must inevitably have some effect on the commodity price. Current production is in excess of consumption, though the latter may be expected to grow, and in the older fields metallurgical progress is increasing the amounts of ore which can be worked profitably. While there is no gainsaying the likelihood of Rhodesian copper shares rising to still higher values, the market is one which the ordinary investor should enter only after careful thought.

First Co-operative Trust Interim.

The accounts of the First Co-operative Investment Trust, Ltd., are of interest, not only because of the fact that its members number 22,000, but because several similar institutions have followed its policy of paying relatively high dividends. Since its inception the Trust has paid 7 per cent. per annum, but the current interim dividend which was declared on Wednesday is at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. Although it is stated that the intention is to pay a higher rate at the close of the year it is clear from the half-yearly report, that this would not have been possible on this occasion without exceeding the revenue earned. During the six months to July 31, 1929, the capital was raised from £1,555,268 to £1,663,487 and gross earnings rose from £64,380 to £76,934. After deducting all expenses and paying the interim dividend the carry forward is £10,874 compared with £1,955 brought in. It appears, however, to be desirable that the company should strengthen its reserves, although this may involve a further reduction in the dividend. On July 31, the market value of the Trust's investments was £87,296 below their book value. It is true that this is covered by reserves amounting to £89,000, including the carry forward, but of these the entrance fees reserve of £38,202 has been accumulated from the premiums paid by the shareholders, and is strictly part of the capital. The reduction of the dividend is, therefore, fully justified, and it is arguable that it did not go far enough.

The new Yugoslav education law, providing for three types of secondary school, namely, classical, scientific, and mixed, has received the Royal assent.

EGYPTIAN STATE RAILWAYS

TRAINS DE LUXE, PULLMAN, RESTAURANT AND SLEEPING CARS
VISIT LUXOR AND ASSUAN.

Combined Railway, Sleeping Car and Hotel Coupons at reduced rates from October 1st to January 15th and from April 1st to May 31st. These Coupons will include hotel accommodation for 2 days and 1 night, 5 days and 4 nights, 7 days and 6 nights, or 10 days and 9 nights.

STATIONS.	2 days				5 days				7 days				10 days			
	1st Class		2nd Class		1st Class		2nd Class		1st Class		2nd Class		1st Class		2nd Class	
	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.
From Cairo to Luxor and Return	8	—	3	900	11	600	6	900	14	—	8	900	17	600	11	900
From Cairo to Assuan and Return	9	500	4	400	13	100	7	400	15	500	9	400	19	100	12	400
From Alexandria or Port-Said to Luxor and Return	—	—	—	—	12	600	7	500	15	—	9	500	18	600	12	500
From Alexandria or Port-Said to Assuan and Return	—	—	—	—	14	100	8	—	16	500	10	—	20	100	13	—

For more details, apply to the Publicity Department, E.S.R., Cairo Station.

THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES FAIR.

15-Acre Addition to Site.

Exhibitors and trade buyers alike will find important additions to the arrangements for their comfort and convenience at the forthcoming British Industries Fair to take place in Birmingham next February. Among the developments for the 1930 Heavy Section is an entirely new building, now in course of construction, on the north side of the present 11-acre Fair. This will comprise a dining-room specially for exhibitors, another for trade buyers, a large Conference Hall, and a series of private dining-rooms for the use of the numerous trade and professional societies and institutions which have made it their practice for many years to forgather at the Birmingham display. Two spacious passages, each 72 ft. by 40 ft., connecting the new block with the main building, will be arranged and furnished as comfortable lounges for exhibitors and their visitors, the whole occupying over an acre.

The plan of rearrangement now decided upon has the further advantage of solving—for the present, at any rate—the problem of the ever-increasing demands for space made by exhibitors in the engineering, gas, and general hardware sections of the Heavy Fair. It is also so adapted that the manufacturers of building materials, which will be even more than usually a prominent feature next spring, are provided with considerable additions to space. The electricity section, too, whose rapid growth since its inauguration as a comprehensive display, a few years ago, has severely taxed the resources of the management, will share the benefit of the general extension scheme.

Exhibitors at the Heavy Industries Fair, appreciating the progressive policy of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (Inc.) in erecting permanent new buildings to the limits of the original site, will be particularly interested in the announcement that negotiations are practically completed for the acquisition of a further 15 acres of land immediately adjoining—an enterprise which will permit of expansions year by year, as circumstances demand, to an aggregate of nearly one-and-a-half times its present immense size.

Stand lettings in Birmingham for 1930 already beat all previous records, nearly the whole of the accommodation, including the year's extensions, having been booked six months in advance of the opening date—February 17. This year, for the first time in Birmingham, in response to requests from overseas and home buyers, an advance catalogue will be issued, giving particulars of the principal new or improved products to be displayed. A minimum of ten thousand free copies will be issued early in December to prospective purchasers of 1930 British-made goods, this being, of course, supplementary to the full classified catalogue in English, French, and Spanish available at the opening of the Fair, giving details of the numerous services extended to trade visitors.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Sewage System.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, No. 2, Sharia El Maleka Nazli, Cairo, invites tenders for Contract No. 1, Giza Main Drainage—rising sealed sewage and air mains. (1) Supplying, laying, jointing and testing approximately 16,300 metres lineal of 30 inches diameter cast-iron pipes (British standard and all accessories at and between the sites of the proposed new Sewage Pumping Station, Giza, and the proposed Sewage Purification Works and Farm in the Western desert, north-west of the village of Abu Rawwash. (2) The supply and laying of approximately 16,300 metres lineal of 0.60 metre gauge light railway, and the construction of masonry and steel bridges over irrigation canals and drains and the formation of an earth embankment across Hod El Esward basin area. (3) Supplying, laying, jointing and testing approximately 15,000 metres lineal of cast-iron sealed sewage and air mains (British standard) varying in diameter from 4 inches to 12 inches, and all accessories at Giza, Roda, and Ghazirah Islands complete with crossing at river bridges and syphons under the River Nile at the opening spans of the Abbas and English Bridges. (4) Supplying special castings, spare parts, and materials at the site of the Giza Pumping Station. November 13.

ROUMANIA.

Copper Wire.—The Roumanian General Post Office invites tenders for the supply of 31,500 kilograms of hard copper wire, 3 mm. diameter. October 18. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Turntables.—The Administration Générale des Chemins de fer et des ports d'Etat invites tenders for the supply of five turntables. October 10. (D.O.T.)

Tin.—The Administration Générale des Chemins de fer et des Ports de l'Etat invites tenders for the supply of 5 tons of tin. October 12. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Britannia for Bombay (Glasgow, September 28; Manchester, October 4; Birkenhead, October 5). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakuta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 30); s.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Glasgow, September 26; Birkenhead, October 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Staffordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 2).

British India Line.—S.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 5); s.s. Dumana for Bombay (London, October 12).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia, closing Glasgow, September 26 for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; and also at Gruz if sufficient inducement; closing Liverpool, September 28 and Swansea, October 1 for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, and Gruz, if sufficient inducement; s.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Glasgow, October 15; Swansea, October 17; and Liverpool, October 16); s.s. Bosnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, and Gruz if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, October 26; Swansea, October 26).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 5); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 16).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Razmak for Bombay (London, October 4); s.s. Nagoya for Calcutta (London, October 11).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Limassol, Larnaca, Famagusta, Mersin, and Alexandretta (London, October 2).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Piræus, Patras, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 28; Swansea, September 28); s.s. Serbino for Malta, Alexandria, Haifa*, and Jaffa* (Glasgow, October 1; Liverpool, October 3); s.s. Oporto for Algiers*, Oran*, Piræus, Patras, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 12; Swansea*, October 12); s.s. Algerian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, October 12; Swansea, October 17). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

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LARGE STEAMSHIPS, UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.

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Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

ASSYRIA ...	Sept. 27	CALIFORNIA ...	Oct. 22
BRITANNIA ...	Oct. 11	ELYSIA ...	Nov. 12

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.

‡First and Third class passengers.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLES, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

New Light Goods Chassis.

It will be news to readers to learn that Singer's are entering the commercial vehicle market with a light goods chassis. The firm are one of the biggest and oldest British manufacturers, and the fact that they are now to start to make trade vehicles emphasises what some of us have been thinking for some time, which is that the private car field has now been almost entirely covered; about all the people who are likely to want to own and drive cars are supplied, and the bulk of new sales will be either to replace vehicles worn out or to young people. That may sound blunt, but it is probably quite true. We have talked so loudly about the future being the age for the motor that we have never stopped to consider whether everyone would want to motor in the future. As a matter of fact, quite an army of people do not want to motor to-day and—well, there are hundred of motorists who do not do anything like the amount of annual mileage they did.

Singer's state that the truck turns the scale at 39½ cwt., and so just comes within the two-ton class, and they add that the price of the chassis will be £425. A glance at the specifications shows that the new commercial venture has its full share of refinements hitherto mainly associated with pleasure cars. It has, for instance, Marles type steering, "one-shot" chassis lubrication, servo-operated brakes, and engine self-starter. The right-hand controlled gear-box gives four speeds, with ratios of 6.5, 10.5, 17.9 and 34.8 to 1. An optional fitting is an alternative rear-axle, giving a reduction of 7.25 to one.

The engine is a four cylinder unit, integral with the gear box, and as regards fixing, is bolted to a sub-frame at six points, which is bolted to the chassis at three points. This makes a thoroughly rigid job, and no trouble is likely to ensue at any time through engine fixing. The cylinder dimensions are 90 mm. bore by 120 mm. stroke, the cubic capacity of each cylinder being 3.053 c.c. The valves are overhead, operated by push

rod, and the cylinder head, which is detachable, is of the turbulent type. I am informed that at a speed of 3,000 r.p.m. the engine will develop nearly 60 brake horse-power. Further dimensions are as follows:—Track, 4 ft. 11 in.; wheel base, 11 ft. 1½ in.; body length, 9 ft. 1½ in.; body width, 5 ft. 8 in.; and floor space, 52 sq. ft.

The new Singer industrial chassis has evidently been designed on sound lines throughout, with a view to a maximum of speed, efficiency, convenience, and economy in running at a minimum of expense. It has certainly been built to satisfy all modern requirements, and must be regarded as a very fine production. At the price mentioned for chassis, with full equipment, it evidently means to compete against the cheaper Continental and American productions. I understand that Singer's have also on the market a very handsome 20-seater, low loaded saloon. The engine capacity and general details of the chassis are the same as those given above for the light commercial vehicle.

By the way, I omitted to mention that the lubrication is forced to all bearings, including the overhead valve gear. This result is achieved without a single pipe, and consequently there is no danger of internal breakage in the oil circulating system. The oil passes through two filters of which one is a suction filter in the sump and the other an "Auto-Klean" filter which removes every particle of dirt and carbon, no matter how small, and which can be cleaned without trouble and in a fraction of a moment, by merely turning a handle.

The chassis equipment includes: Front wings and step-board; instrument board with speedometer, lighting and starting switches, oil pressure gauge, petrol gauge, ammeter, ignition switch, and dash lamp; 12 volt lighting and starting set complete with side lamps, tail lamp, and head lamps, electric horn operated from steering column; spare wheel with pneumatic tyre; kit of tools; number plates.

Lubrication to all points of the chassis, with the exception of the main units, is provided for by the Luvax central foot-operated lubrication system, which not only prolongs the life of the moving parts, such as the shackles, steering joints, etc., but saves the time which the operator would normally have to spend with a grease gun. I may add that the chassis is designed to carry a gross load of 48 cwt. With a lorry body of approximately 8 cwt. weight, net loads of two tons can be handled.

A New Rolls-Royce Model.

Rolls-Royce, Ltd., announce that they are bringing out a new model, and I have just received particulars of the "Phantom Two." Lest there should be any misunderstanding, I would say that the "II." does not refer to horse-power. When I told a friend that the Rolls people were bringing out a "Phantom II.," he said, at once: "Why, that's smaller than the Austin Seven!" Well, it isn't.

Actually it is of the 40/50 h.p. rating, and I understand that the original chassis of this type was that "Silver Ghost" which I remember writing about so many years ago. Then, in 1925, we had the Phantom, and now we have its successor. Like the very first Phantom, it is fitted with a six-cylinder engine with a bore of 4½ inches and a stroke of 5½ inches, which gives a total cylinder volume of 7.668 cubic inches. The R.A.C. rating is 43.3 h.p., and the annual tax £44.

A number of new features have been introduced, and before going on to specify these I may say that the joint effect has been to provide a car of reduced height and a lower centre of gravity, improved appearance, greatly

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To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
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Excellent Passenger Accommodation.

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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
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CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Shrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T.
Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn
& Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn
& Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.
Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson,
Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line,
Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co.,
Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros.
& Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

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CAPITAL (fully paid) £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £610,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):— Bagdad, Basra, Kirkuk.
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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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ESTABLISHED 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £1,000,000
Capital Paid up - - - £600,000
Reserve Fund - - - £250,000
Total Assets - - - £6,028,832

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A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

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Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£3,000,000

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Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tatooia	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandaly	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

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improved suspension at all speeds, steering control giving greater selectivity, greater ease of operation of steering control, lighter weight, and increased acceleration and maximum speed. The method of lubrication has also been improved, giving less trouble and taking up less time, and in practically every detail of the chassis there is what the firm call "greater refinement."

Most readers will recollect the chassis and other particulars of the present model Rolls-Royce, and the prices of the new long and short chassis models are the same as those asked for "Phantom." The price for "Phantom II." include the same equipment as given with the Phantom chassis, and, in addition, an instrument board, speedometer, clock, spare tyre for the spare wheel and locks to the bonnet. The engine and gear box are unit construction, which means that they are made in one piece, instead of being separate units; the springing is semi-elliptic on the rear wheels instead of being cantilever, although, candidly, I do not know what the firm have achieved by the change; the springing of the front wheels is still semi-elliptic as in the earlier model, and there is forced lubrication to the leaf springs, which is all to the good. The chassis used to be lubricated by an oil gun to each part, but the new model has a centralised system, the body is mounted on a separate sub-frame, thus eliminating all body distortion, and a larger diameter steering-wheel, having a slightly thinner rim, has been fitted. Other changes include an open propellor shaft of lighter construction, an autovac petrol feed with engine-driven vacuum pump; a water-heated induction system, and the petrol gauge is on the instrument board instead of on the tank.

POOR OUTLOOK FOR SMYRNA FRUIT CROPS.

In their report for the week ended September 7 Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, describe the "unprecedented" weather conditions in the fruit belt, and express grave apprehensions as to the effect on the sultana and fig crops. The report states:—

Sultanas.

The sales this week amount to 6,130 tons. Approximate closing prices, Smyrna, c.i.f. U.K.:—Type 12, 29s. to 33s.; type 13, 35s. to 38s.; type 14, 38s. to 42s.; type 15, 44s. to 51s.; type 16, 56s. to 63s.; type 17, 65s. to 80s. It is impossible to give true valuations of closing prices. To-day's sales exceed 1,000 tons and prices paid for each quality varied between above limits. The higher levels were mainly paid in the afternoon.

Prices opened this week at the lowest point touched this season. Rain commenced falling on Monday and has been continuous, with short intervals of sunshine, throughout the week. The damage to the crop increases with each successive day's rain, and has attained the proportions of an unprecedented disaster. The position, approximately as it stands to-day, is as follows:—Sales to date, 13,500 tons; estimated unsold stock of sound fruit in the interior and in dealers' hands, 12,000 tons; estimated quantity exposed on the drying sheds, 20,000 tons; uncut fruit on the vines, 17,000 tons; total, 62,500 tons.

Rains continue, and the apprehensions entertained that whatever fruit remained on the vines would be entirely lost threaten to become an accomplished fact. Furthermore, a heavy proportion of fruit exposed on the drying

sheds, which, it was reckoned, would be only damaged in quality, is also rotting and being lost. Market values since Monday have followed a very irregular course, and, as explained above, it is difficult if not impossible to compute closing prices accurately. The general trend of values continues upward.

Figs.

The estimated arrivals at the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 4,711 tons, and the sales to date are estimated at 4,531 tons.

The abnormal weather we have had over the raisin and fig belt during the past week is threatening an unprecedented disaster to these fruits. In the case of figs, the crop has been very late in maturing, and the bulk of the yield was still on the trees when rain commenced falling six days ago. The first two days' rain was of minor consequence, but the successive downpours have converted the whole fig belt into a mud field practically submerged by water.

Up to date arrivals have been of relatively sound fruit, and the total stock on the market has been absorbed at progressively advancing rates. Henceforward, all arrivals will be of unsound fruit, damaged by rain, fermented or liable to fermentation, and the best of these figs will be unsuitable for packing purposes. Packing houses are closing down for an indefinite period, and will only reopen dependent on the quality of the figs that may be available after an interval of a week or ten days of dry weather. Conditions such as have obtained over the past week are unprecedented in the memory of living man, and it would be an idle forecast to advance an opinion on the resulting consequences to the figs which may remain on the trees after rain has passed off and the ground has dried up.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN ROUMANIA.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended September 14:—

Grain.—Grain markets abroad continued to fall during the greater part of the week, and local prices, in face of the large daily arrivals of grain at shipping ports, declined almost to a parity with those ruling on consuming markets. This favoured negotiations in respect of fresh sales and at the same time facilitated shippers in the fulfilment of their old engagements. An improvement in wheat having set in on Thursday, a fair quantity of this commodity was sold, mostly for Antwerp. The position in the freight market somewhat improved this week, partly as a result of the amount of prompt tonnage having rather unexpectedly run short of the demand. Several steamers have been chartered for end September/beginning October loading, as well as for later positions, at rates varying between 17s. 6d. and 18s. 3d. Antwerp/Rotterdam, and 18s. to 18s. 9d. Antwerp/Hamburg range, full terms. Local berth rates for these destinations were from 15s. 6d. to 16s. net. As regards Constantza, steamers have been experiencing a certain difficulty, and some delay, in completing, owing to rather quieter conditions in that market.

Timber.—Business is still in a state of comparative stagnation, and the demand for freight is limited, but as suitable tonnage for the Near Eastern and Mediterranean timber trade is scanty, rates of freight have been maintained at about the same levels as those reported recently. For Alexandria £8 per waggon is quoted, whilst for Syria £8 10s./£8 15s. is indicated. Other rates are £7 5s./

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Weather and Crops.—The approach of autumn has announced itself by a decided fall in the temperature which has been more pronounced at nights, the days having been still warm, except occasionally when the sky was overcast. Since last week-end, the weather has been generally fine and dry, only a few light local showers having been reported from the south-eastern part of the country, and it has been favourable for the early ripening of the maize, some of which is already being gathered. Consequently there are prospects of an unusually large area being ploughed in good time to be available for autumn sowings, so as to allow the young plants to become well established before being subjected to severe winter frosts, such as caused so much damage to late sowings last season.

Sulina.—Bar depth 23 feet, passage 22 feet.—On Monday, September 9, a fall of 6 inches (from 23 ft. 6 in. to 23 ft.) was reported, and rough weather prevented a prompt improvement. It is expected, however, that, with better weather, the three dredgers available will be able to restore the depth to 24 feet, although the river continues to carry a large quantity of alluvium.

Constantza.—Grain arrivals this week amounted to about 14,000 tons, and about the same quantity was shipped for Antwerp/Rotterdam/Hamburg. Six steamers, totalling about 30,000 tons, are available, or expected, to load for Hamburg, Weser, Hull, etc.

Petroleum.—Thirteen vessels loaded over 42,000 tons of petroleum products, and four took oil fuel for bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, September 7.—There is no change to report in the situation: For immediate shipment only insignificant quantities of grain are available, but there are hopes that larger arrivals of barley and sunflower seed will come forward for the end of this month.

Weather and Crops.—There were good rains in most parts of the country, but in the Varna and Bourgas districts only very light showers.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 18:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—We have had a series of quiet and somewhat featureless markets during the past week, and with both trade and speculative interests adopting a watching policy for the time being values here have been governed mainly by the action of Alexandria, and, in a lesser degree, the American departments. Very little alteration in the level took place during the sessions up to the week-end, and the trading during that period calls for little comment. On Monday, values broke 40 points sharply on a moderate amount of liquidation, due, in the first place, to weakness in New York, and subsequently to poor reports from Alexandria. However, there has since been no sustained pressure; in fact, under the encouragement of somewhat improved trade support and firmer overseas advices, part of the earlier losses have been recovered, to-night's close being 34 to 37 points lower for near and 37 to 39 points for more distant positions on the week. No fresh crop news has come to hand, and, judging from the course of values in Egypt, we are passing through the period when the majority of the various interests are awaiting developments. Markets at present are meeting little pressure, as it is yet rather early for hedging operations, and whilst the trade off-take is disappointing, and the Sakel premium over other cotton seemingly excessive, there is little inclination on the part of those who hold a

"bearish" view of the outlook to pursue an active policy. Liverpool/Alexandria differences show practically no alteration on the week, but once the crop starts to move we look for some closing in to take place; local near positions have again met more support than later deliveries, with the result that November/January have narrowed to 7 points. Whilst there appears a healthier undercurrent in trade circles, business in fine cottons is slow in developing and spinners' bookings for new crop qualities are abnormally small for this period of the season. At the moment there is nothing in the situation to warrant the adoption of a very decided view; certainly we would not advise working on the "short" side between now and the end of the month.

Upper Contract.—A series of quiet markets have been experienced during the past week, and with Alexandria reports beginning to show an increasing crop movement, the undertone has rather inclined to the heavy side. Local spinners have been consistent buyers out of the local stock, and the resultant repurchasing of hedges has helped to widen slightly our premium over the Alexandria contract. Competitive outsiders, especially Brazils and East Africans, are offered at a cheap basis and are attracting business that otherwise would be transacted in the shorter Egyptian varieties. New crop offers are not finding much business, and the weight of the crop movement may force values lower unless the American markets begin to develop an advancing tendency.

Egyptian Spot.

A better tone has been noticeable during the past week and confidence amongst traders appears to be slowly returning. The demand for spot cotton has shown signs of broadening, and in certain qualities, notably Good Fair Upper, quite a good business has taken place on several occasions. Quotations have remained very steady and the basis for both Sakel and Upper has hardened.

Sakel has been in fair request and the daily inquiry continues to expand slowly. The local selection is of a moderate character, and this fact has hampered would-be buyers.

Uppers.—A good business has taken place in the medium qualities and the local stock is being thoroughly sifted. Alexandria is at present apparently unable to meet spinners' requirements, with the result that business which would normally go there has been transferred temporarily to this market. The better qualities are still slow in attracting attention.

Pilion has been in fair request up to 200 on November Upper, but purchases have been restricted as regards quantity.

Nahda and White.—Little attention has been paid to these two growths this week.

Maarad.—More business has taken place at firm rates.

Sudan Sakel has been in fair request at steady rates.

Tokar Sakel.—One or two inquiries have cropped up, but sales are difficult to trace, and there is, as yet, no enthusiasm evinced for this cotton. C.i.f. business has again been more lively, and some interest has been shown this week in new crops. Forwardings to the trade last week were returned as 3,878 bales Egyptians and 1,284 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales, 3,800 bales Egyptians and 550 bales Sudans. Quotations of Sakel have eased 5 to 15 points, whilst those of Upper and Pilion show no change on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 17.45d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.69d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.75d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company report as follows for the week ended September 12:—Since our last report the futures market has been exceptionally active, but the tendency has been irregular. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakel-aridis: November, 33.80 dollars, 0.12 dollars down; January, 34.16 dollars, 0.12 dollars down; March, 34.60 dollars, 0.12 dollars down; May, 34.95 dollars, 0.12 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 21.37 dollars, 0.45 dollars down; December, 21.71 dollars, 0.51 dollars down; February, 22.22 dollars, 0.45 dollars down; April, 22.62 dollars, 0.33 dollars down; June, 22.95 dollars, 0.48 dollars down.

Junkers Company has started a bi-weekly aeroplane service between Teheran and Baghdad.

Following the practice of the last three years, an advance edition of the catalogue of the London section of the British Industries Fair is being prepared with a classified index to goods in nine languages. It will be ready on December 31, in time for it to be in the hands of most overseas buyers before they leave their homes for the Fair, which is to be held simultaneously in London and Birmingham from February 17 to 28. This advance edition will run to 11,000 copies.

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Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) announce that they have received the following cable from their Cairo office:—The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Finance announces that the total imports for Egypt for the month ended August 31 are £E4,613,852, against £E3,897,586 for the corresponding month last year, and exports £E2,803,700, against £E3,300,767 for August, 1928. Cotton exports amounted to £E2,309,553, against £E2,763,585 last year.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	361	INDIAN NOTES ...	363	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Notes and News ...	377
Roumania at Work ...	364	India and the Income-Tax ...	371	Shipping Intelligence ...	380
SPECIAL LETTERS—		PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	373	The Week's Finance ...	381
Turkey ...	365	CORRESPONDENCE ...	369	Engineering Topics ...	382
Egypt ...	366	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	374	Motor Show Prospects ...	383
Roumania ...	367			Near East Markets ...	384
Yugoslavia ...	368			Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	385
Calcutta ...	370			Company Meeting—	
				Imperial Airways ...	387

Notes of the Week.

The Position in Egypt.

In spite of audiences and interviews the situation in Egypt in regard to the proposed Anglo-Egyptian treaty shows so far no signs of becoming clarified. Nahas Pasha has seen both King Fuad and Sir Percy Loraine, British High Commissioner, and it must be supposed that he has seized these opportunities to state the reasons which have determined the attitude of the Wafd towards the proposals for a settlement of the relations between Egypt and Great Britain. It might be well if the Wafd were to issue an official statement setting forth in detail those reasons, in order that they could be appraised at their real worth both in Egypt and in Great Britain. As far as it has been possible to gauge the Wafd's attitude from the unofficial but stereotyped statements of its organs and spokesmen—both more concerned to denounce Mahmoud Pasha than to throw light on the Wafd's mentality—the only line of argument that the leaders have allowed the members to adopt is that Egypt can be independent only under constitutional government, and that independence under a Dictatorship entails a contradiction in terms. Whether Nahas Pasha made himself responsible for this curious reasoning we have no means of knowing; but, if he sponsored it before King Fuad and Sir Percy Loraine, the subsequent statement that the situation in Egypt remained unchanged after the two meetings would be explained. The independence of a nation has, clearly, nothing to do with the form of internal administration that it decides to adopt; otherwise no country would have been independent before the era of constitutionalism. Neither Italy nor Turkey would admit that its independence has suffered from the establishment of an all-powerful dictatorship. On the other hand, it is not difficult to understand the dilemma in which the Wafd finds itself, for it shrewdly realises that the conclusion of an Anglo-Egyptian treaty negotiated by Mahmoud Pasha might well render its own return to power, after a more prolonged stay in the political wilderness, still more problematical. Its attempt to use Great Britain's interest in an Anglo-Egyptian settlement to secure the downfall of Mahmoud Pasha's Government would seem to be a tribute to the strong position of the latter as far as the Egyptian public is concerned. If the Wafd occupied in Egypt the position that it claims, it would press for the immediate ratification of an Anglo-Egyptian treaty on the lines proposed and would

then leave it to the intelligence of the people to restore the popular idols to power. With the conclusion of the treaty, however, the Wafd's hold on the electorate must be weakened, for it has no constructive policy to offer in the place of the slogan "Out with the British," and during the last fifteen months the country has learned to appreciate the advantage of efficient government and freedom from an excess of politics.

Treaty v. Good Government.

It is a matter for sincere regret that, all unintentionally, the British Government should have rendered such a signal disservice to Egypt as this offer of a treaty has proved to be. For, whatever opinion may be held regarding the sanctity of constitutional government, there can be no doubt that Mahmoud Pasha's Government has set the country a good example of honest and energetic administration and that it was gradually establishing new standards of honesty and efficiency for all grades of the Egyptian Civil Service. The staunchest supporter of the Wafd would be compelled to admit that hitherto the Wafdists have given no thought to efficiency of administration. Their organisation existed for the definite purpose of countering British influence, and to this end sound administration had to be subordinated to Party exigencies. Wafdist members of Parliament were encouraged to override the civil service where necessary; official posts were filled in virtue of party considerations rather than by merit. The end was held to justify the means, and presumably the Wafd still has the courage of its convictions and would be prepared to maintain that it was rendering a greater service to Egypt than the most efficient Administration which tolerated the British presence in Egypt. Outside Egypt, however, no one will be found to support this view, and there must be many Egyptians, Wafdist as well as non-Wafdist, who appreciate its fallacy. One effect of the thrusting of a treaty by Great Britain on Egypt has been, it is to be feared, to paralyse the efficiency movement in the Egyptian Civil Service, at least in the lower grades. For seven or eight years Egyptian officialdom was taught to take its cue from politicians; for a little more than a year it has been trained to set an example to the country of single-minded loyalty to State interests alone. To-day it suddenly sees a prospect of an early reintroduction of the old system, and it would

require exceptional courage for any subordinate official not to step back into the old ways. If the British Government had realised that it would have to choose between an Anglo-Egyptian treaty on the one hand and the efficiency of the Egyptian administration on the other, there can be little doubt that it would not have pressed the former on the country with the conviction that it was necessarily doing Egypt a good turn.

The Second Pirot Conference.

Negotiations between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria have been resumed at Pirot, and after a few sittings agreement was reached on the subjects of frontier traffic and the regulation of police measures on both sides of the frontier. The conference has now to deal with the difficult problem of properties across the frontier belonging either to Yugoslav subjects or to Bulgarians. The Yugoslav Government is anxious to enforce compulsory expropriation, with compensation; but the Bulgarian Government, although willing to agree to voluntary sale, cannot bring itself to acquiesce in compulsory sales. A further demand on the part of Yugoslavia is that a strip of territory five kilometres wide on each side of the frontier should be declared a neutral or "dead" zone, to which only actual property-holders in the zone and officials should be allowed access. To this suggestion the Bulgarian Government opposes an emphatic refusal, on the ground of the distress that such a scheme would entail, and because instead of making for peace it would create additional bitterness and unrest. The Bulgarians would like to see further steps left in abeyance until there has been time to have the two agreements already reached carried into practice with complete good will on both sides and in friendly co-operation, in the belief that these measures of themselves will go a long way towards the establishment of satisfactory conditions on the frontier.

Petty Bickerings.

It is significant of the difficulty of the problem that at the first sign of the two countries coming to an understanding fresh outrages are reported. A bomb explosion is heard on the Kotchani-Shtip railway, and an unexploded bomb is found still in position on the line. Footprints are discovered leading to the frontier "two kilometres away," and the wrath of the Yugoslav Press is again set in motion against Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Press points out that the village where the incident is said to have occurred is forty kilometres from the frontier, and discovers, as a much more serious matter, that Yugoslav aeroplanes are flying over Bulgarian territory. This charge is repudiated by Yugoslavia, and the explanation is given that a single aeroplane lost its way flying from Pirot, and immediately it found itself over Bulgarian territory returned to Yugoslavia. Neither party seems to realise that neighbourly relations require that mountains should not be made out of molehills. The Bulgarian Government and people are not to be regarded as responsible for a bomb explosion on a Yugoslav railway, whether two or forty kilometres from the frontier, any more than the flight of a single aeroplane, that has lost its way, over Bulgarian territory needs to be exaggerated into a grave violation of territory by Yugoslav aeroplanes. Until, however, each country can bring itself to pass over in silence certain things that cannot be helped by either, Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations are likely to remain troubled.

Sport in Turkey.

The fiat has gone forth from Angora that a higher standard in the world of sport must be reached by Turkey. The present state of sport in the country, according to a statement of the President of the Grand National Assembly, in no way corresponds with the ideals that the Government has set itself. These embody "a robust youth, conscious of its duty, and a strong army of sportsmen." Apparently, little has been done so far to reach this goal. The country, Kiazim Pasha declares, has failed to understand that sport constitutes the most effective

weapon to ensure the defence of a society, of a nation, of a State. The Government wants "all the children and all citizens to excel in sports." The General Staff of the Army had issued an order that everyone engaged in sport could have the benefit of the military organisation of the country, and was to be encouraged to take up riding. No one, it would seem had taken advantage of this generous offer, and the Government was tired of extracting subsidies for sport "from its meagre Budgets, at the expense of its defensive armaments" for the poor results that had so far been attained. What had happened, indeed, was that sport in Turkey had given rise to "disastrous propaganda prejudicial to the country." The reference seemed to include incidents at the last Olympiad, and possibly occasional football matches (some time ago now) in Constantinople that ended in free fights. The upshot of the matter was that the Government intended to interest itself in the organisation of sport, to see that it was properly taken up throughout the country. Turkey would be divided into sport areas; there would be championships held at Angora, and the different areas would have to send representatives to these meetings. Kiazim Pasha did not definitely say that the Government would expect all the competitors in each event to participate in a dead heat, but he left it to be inferred that Turkey did not propose to breed the "also ran" type of "sportsman."

The Situation in Palestine.

It is quite obvious that for some time to come the situation in Palestine will cause anxiety, for the general verdict of independent observers is that relations between Arabs and Jews are so strained that, without the presence of troops, another outbreak would be probable. Minor incidents, or isolated cases of murder and of looting, still occur; the Arab boycott of Jewish goods is still effective; and there is an ugly feeling of resentment all round. In particular, the Jewish Day of Atonement, which falls on October 14, is being awaited with anxiety. It is in such an atmosphere of ill-will and suspicion that the Commission of Inquiry, which leaves England about the middle of this month, will have to pursue its labours. Already disappointment has been expressed on both the Arab and the Jewish side that the terms of reference for this Commission do not include questions of major policy, but at least this can be said: that major policy, as an immediate cause of the disturbances, is not absolutely excluded from the conceivable subjects to be touched on by the Commission. Presumably the Commission will be sitting in Palestine, at such centres as Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Safed, for something like two months, and its actual report might perhaps be expected in the spring. The best that can be hoped is that, in the interval, feelings will so have quietened down that its findings will be accepted with good grace. One thing is certain: that it will preserve a perfectly impartial attitude. Its members are men of intelligence and of common sense, and their Report will at least be the result of independent observation and thinking. But certain things will have to be done, before their recommendations are published, on such urgent matters as the Wailing Wall. If the Commission on the Holy Places of Jerusalem, which was originally provided for, is unable to assemble, could there not be appointed a special Commission for determining this knotty problem of the Wailing Wall, which in our view was most immediately the cause of these disturbances in Palestine?

What is the Solution?

Now "workability" is the only criterion by which any proffered solution for this Palestinian problem may be judged. It is easy, in theory, to defend either the Arab point of view or the Jewish point of view: it is easy, also, to point out the contradiction between the apparent British promises to either side. But theoretical paradoxes are not always actual paradoxes: oxymorons are not unknown to politics. It has been the duty of British officials in Palestine to attempt to reconcile two

seemingly irreconcilable policies. They had no cut and dried formula by which that aim might be achieved, but held on, hoping that a workable policy might evolve. Their mistake, or rather, the British Government's mistake, lay in supposing that the peaceful record of Palestine from 1921 to 1929 implied that a workable policy had been found; and it is at any rate a tenable opinion that but for the Jewish claims made on the last Day of Atonement at the Wailing Wall, and the consequent steps by the Muslims to safeguard their rights in this region, peace would yet have been maintained in the Holy Land. Administratively speaking, that would indeed appear to have been so. But the milk has been spilt; most of it, indeed, has now turned sour. Whatever the explanation of those disturbances, it is perfectly plain that advantage has been taken of them to revive old claims, or to formulate new ones. We in this country may take it for granted that neither the claim of the Arabs to self-government nor the claim of the Jews to an advance upon the Churchill Memorandum of 1922 will be granted, but the Commission of Inquiry will, we imagine, find abundant evidence that this opinion is not yet shared widely in Palestine. The solution upon which the British Government would seem to have resolved is, then, not one involving a change of policy but possibly one involving a change in administrative methods. The instructive feature of the situation will be to see how great a force is required to secure effective administration.

Troubles in Najd.

It is not necessary to accept at their face value all the reports which have recently been spread concerning fighting in Najd to understand that King Ibn Saoud is at the moment very seriously exercised how to maintain order in the eastern section of his Kingdom. The Mutair, under Faisal al Duwish, who, incidentally, is certainly having more than his fair share of the lives even of the ordinary Arab shaikh to whom death in the journalistic sense comes often, the Ajman, and a section of the all-important Ataibah, are not now accepting the Wahhabi King's fiat, and the problem before King Ibn Saoud is how to compel them to obey his commands without losing them altogether to his cause. Quite obviously he cannot crush them, for he has no regular army in the normal sense of the word. Had he a small, mechanised force, a few aeroplanes, armed cars, and the rest of it, the crushing of such a force as that which Faisal al Duwish is able to muster might not be so difficult an affair. But King Ibn Saoud can bring against the rebels only tribesmen equipped in a similar manner: the dangers, moreover, of using to conquer al Duwish and his friends such a force as the Shammar, who have had but eight years of the blessings of Wahhabi administration and to whom even now the restoration of the Rashid régime might not be utterly distasteful, will certainly not be lost on so perspicacious an Arab chieftain as is King Ibn Saoud. It is particularly interesting, therefore, to note the report that some ex-R.A.F. officers are shortly to go out to the Hijaz to assist the Wahhabi King in the training of an Air Force. This force, obviously, will be used primarily for maintaining law and order within his wide-flung dominions, and, if the report is accurate, it may be that King Ibn Saoud has chosen the psychological moment for securing means whereby to re-establish his authority. It is no secret that recent developments in Najd have given rise to anxiety on the duration of King Ibn Saoud's régime, and elsewhere in this issue we give details of actions between tribes loyal to King Ibn Saoud and the rebels. But if the King can counter the rebels' activities with means of punishment swifter than the camel, peace may yet reign again in the Dual Monarchy of the Hijaz and Najd. No general action against them, however, is to be expected before the rains start in November. But the economic aspect of the problem in Najd should never be forgotten, and unless compensations can be supplied for the suppression of the *ghazzu*, which is not only a sport but has been hitherto also a necessity, the indigent

Badawin will always be tempted to kick against the pricks. More light is urgently needed upon the progress made in the agricultural settlements established in the desert by King Ibn Saoud; so far they would seem to have been inadequate to their purpose.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Simla Session.

On account both of the period of the year at which it falls and the long and uncomfortable journey which attendance involves, the brief Simla session of the Central Legislature is unpopular with the provincial members—official and non-official. In consequence it is generally most sparsely attended and usually devoid of outstanding incident. The session which has just closed—the Legislative Assembly was prorogued last week and the Council of State yesterday—has, however, been noteworthy for at least one event of exceptional interest and importance. This was, of course, the passage through both Houses of the Hindu Child Marriage Bill. The Select Committee's report on the Bill, it may be recalled, was presented early in the last Delhi session, when further consideration was postponed pending the publication of the recommendations of the Age of Consent Committee. The appalling conditions brought to light in the report of the latter body have already been the subject of comment in these columns. Little surprise was therefore created when in the adjourned debate on the second reading the Home Member announced that the Government, which has hitherto adopted a strictly neutral attitude, supported the measure which, as amended by the Select Committee, raises the minimum age at marriage to fourteen and the age of consent to sixteen years, respectively. The difficult position of the Government, to whose help, notwithstanding, in reaching the present compromise many notable tributes were paid, is shown by the attitude of the Muslim members who walked out of the House in protest when it was apparent that the Bill would be passed by a large majority. The following day a deputation of their number, headed by the Deputy President of the Assembly, actually waited on the Viceroy to urge him to withhold his assent to the Bill on the time-honoured ground that it is an unjustifiable interference with the observance of their personal laws and religious convictions. While Lord Goschen has promised to consider carefully the points raised by the deputation, there can be little doubt what his reply will be, the more so as the Bill has since been passed without amendment by the Council of State and accordingly only awaits his consent before being placed on the Statute Book.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1929.

ROUMANIA AT WORK.

No impartial observer can fail to be struck by the grim determination with which the present Roumanian Government is facing the task of rehabilitating the country, both in the moral and in the economic sphere. There can be no question that until the change of Administration towards the end of last year Roumania was steadily losing ground in the onward march of European countries; her economic position was deteriorating, and foreign confidence had been undermined by the internal conditions of the country, as well as by a policy that seemed unable to draw any line between the legitimate promotion of Roumanian interests and indiscriminate hostility to everything foreign. The problem, therefore, before the Maniu Cabinet was the more difficult, because, whereas rehabilitation was dependent upon an improvement in domestic affairs and a restoration abroad of confidence in Roumania, each of these in turn seemed dependent upon the previous achievement of the other. Concentration upon one or the other was thus impossible, and the Government has had to make what tentative advances it can in each direction, trusting to its ability to inspire confidence both at home and abroad by the obvious honesty of its intentions, and in this way to gain more time for carrying through a task which the passing of the days for a long period showed no sign of lightening. The foreign policy of former Governments had almost entirely checked the flow of foreign capital into Roumania. An essential preliminary to enable the flow to be resumed was the stabilisation of the currency. The latter, however, was useless without the restoration of budgetary equilibrium, and it was found that the Budget which the Government had taken over from its predecessors would show a serious deficit. This had to be removed at all costs, and there was no alternative to increased taxation and a general tightening up of the whole fiscal machinery of the State. Accordingly, a Government which had acquired power largely on the confidence that the nation held in its capacity to improve conditions in the country, among other ways by the remission of taxation, found itself obliged to adopt the unpopular course of adding to the people's burdens. The novelty, however, of a Government manifestly legislating for the interests of the country as a whole and not for the benefit of a party has helped the Maniu Cabinet so far to retain the loyal co-operation of the great mass of the Roumanian people. Although compelled to revise radically the economic policy of the country, the Government has shown that it is not actuated by any unreasoning hostility to the measures introduced by its political opponents, and has exercised a wise discrimination in its reforms. Thus, while the interests of agriculture are no longer being neglected, the claims of industries that were artificially created or unduly fostered by previous Governments for the personal advantage of their supporters have been considered from the point of view of a national asset, and established industrial interests have not been overlooked in the framing of the new Customs tariff.

Both morally and technically the economic policy of the Maniu Government has shown itself to be an improvement on that of its predecessors; but a considerable time may be required for its full advantages to be felt by the country. The peoples of South-Eastern Europe are even less endowed than others with the temperament that patiently accords an exhaustive trial to political experiments of which the immediate advantages are not apparent. For the present, therefore, the main consideration in regard to Roumania is whether the large majority of the people who rallied to the support of the National-Peasant Party at the last General Election will show sufficient political steadiness to give the Maniu Government time to complete the structure the foundations of which it is laying so carefully. No concern for the country's interests tempers the hostility of the Liberals, the viciousness of which is reflected in the Party's organ to an increasing degree as the days pass; but it may be inferred that Liberal exasperation grows with the fading of the hope, confidently formed a year ago, that a National-Peasant Cabinet was doomed to an early collapse. A favourable harvest has come to the help of the Government at an opportune moment. Its effect will be seen not only in the State coffers, but also, it may be expected, in the restoration of public confidence, which has been sorely tried under the severe economic crisis that has prevailed throughout the year.

Neither the country nor the Government, however, can yet regard itself as out of the wood. The economic crisis has been too severe to allow for the recovery to be otherwise than slow. An abundant harvest finds the world's prices for grain low and a consequent difficulty in obtaining markets. Roumania has her own troubles in regard to the movement of crops, owing to the shortage of rolling stock on her railways and to credit stringency. To meet the latter the Government has raised a short-term loan abroad, but the re-conditioning of the railways must necessarily be a gradual process. There has, however, been sufficient improvement of late in this respect to make it possible that the storage of grain may prove to be a greater immediate problem than the transport of the crops to the ports. Sooner or later the countries of South-Eastern Europe will realise that the days when the world markets waited expectantly for their surplus grain have passed, and that in bumper years the disposal of their crops in the face of world competition will call for something in the nature of scientific organisation. The first move in this direction, it will be noted, has been made by Hungary. This subject is only one aspect of the big economic problem that confronts the States of South-Eastern Europe and demands their serious consideration and co-operation in the place of mutual bickerings. In most of the countries one political party at least is to be found which has begun to appreciate the necessity for devoting to economic subjects some of the time and energy hitherto wasted on party politics. The Roumanian Government, as a result of its overwhelming majority in the Chamber, has been able to avoid the barren political discussion that under previous Cabinets occupied the greater part of every session and has encouraged the Deputies to concentrate their attention on urgent economic questions. It will need, however, to press home this policy for a considerable period, as far as can be judged from the attitude of the Liberal Party, before the whole Roumanian people resolves to establish it as a national tradition. For this reason among others the fate of the Maniu Government has an interest outside the boundaries of Roumania. There are signs that the peoples of South-Eastern Europe are wearying of conditions that have been crystallised in the term of reproach "Balkanisation" and would welcome a lead to a better and more profitable state of affairs. So far, however, no country has shown itself able to put its own house sufficiently in order to aspire to the leadership of the Peninsula, and no political leader has proved strong enough or endowed with the requisite statesmanship to take any practical steps towards the goal of the realisation of Balkan unity.

'The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



TURKEY.

Constantinople, September 19.

Bench versus Press.

Hikmet Bey, the Turkish Magistrate to whom it fell to try Kadrie Hanoum on a charge of conspiring with others to do grievous bodily harm to the President of the Republic, has instituted proceedings for libel against the Editor of the *Assyr* ("Century"), a daily paper published in Smyrna.

It will be recalled, in this connexion, that Kadrie Hanoum was acquitted on all counts of the Public Prosecutor's indictment after being twice tried by successive Judges. The libel action came on for hearing yesterday before the Second Criminal Court of Stamboul, Hikmet Bey claiming damages in the sum of £10,000 Turkish liras (£1,000).

The Editor of the *Assyr* who was responsible for penning the leader which Hikmet Bey considers incriminating and calculated to impugn his personal honour, rejected the competency of the Court to try the issue on the ground that the *Assyr* is published in Smyrna, which lies outside of the jurisdiction of the Criminal Court of Stamboul. The Tribunal, curiously enough, upheld this view, despite the fact that complimentary copies of the *Assyr* containing the libel complained of had been freely circulated in Constantinople. Hikmet Bey thus found himself non-suited.

In a subsequent interview with a Press reporter, the Magistrate declared his resolute intention of carrying matters further by lodging an appeal against the decision delivered by the Criminal Court.

Executive versus Press.

Six Turkish newspaper Editors, among them those of the *Milliyet* ("National") and *Ikdam* ("Perseverance") also appeared in Court yesterday to answer a charge of wilfully publishing gross misstatements, calculated to disturb public order, in respect of an impeachment for corruption and malfeasance which the Turkish Treasury are bringing against certain highly placed persons, and this while the matter is still *sub judice*.

The line of defence taken up by Emin Bey, Counsel for another Emin Bey, Editor of the *Vakkı* ("Times") was based on the fact that, as the Criminal Court had not yet pronounced judgment on the charges of corruption and malfeasance, it was obviously impossible for the Tribunal before which his mandatory had been subpoenaed, to decide whether the incriminating newspaper articles did in effect represent gross misstatements of the facts. The President of the Court found that, to say the least of it, the Press articles complained of were certainly calculated to cast suspicion on a number of innocent persons, and that the prosecution must, therefore, be proceeded with.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

As the Editors of the *Son Sa'at* ("Latest Hour"), the *Jumhouriet* ("Republic") and *Vakkı* had failed to put in an appearance, however, further proceedings were postponed until September 21.

Greco-Turkish Relations.

There is, unfortunately, no improvement to report in the delicate matter of Greco-Turkish relations. Ismet Pasha, after being closeted with the Ghazi at Dolma-Baghtche Palace on two successive days, left hurriedly for Angora, where, after a long interview with the Foreign Minister and the Minister for National Defence, the Premier summoned a Cabinet Council. A Note, reported to be comminatory in character, has been drawn up as a result of these meetings and conferences, and it is anticipated in official circles that the document will be presented to the Greek Foreign Office to-day.

The meeting at Geneva between M. Venizelos and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald would not appear to have greatly improved matters. The two statesmen, at all events, cannot be said to enjoy *une bonne presse* in Turkey at the present juncture, as the construction which the Turkish Editors have placed upon the Geneva meeting is that, in the event of serious friction between Greece and Turkey, Great Britain will undoubtedly be found on the side of Greece.

If this view, however erroneous, could be construed as a warning note which political hotheads would do well not to disregard, the meeting at Geneva may possibly have done more good than harm.

The Emancipation of Women.

Except in the political arena, in which Turkish women, so far at least, must admit defeat at the hands of their male relations, the enfranchisement of the distaff side of the Turkish family proceeds by leaps and bounds. The liberal professions which, not long ago, were the jealously guarded patrimony of the "Effendis," have now been thrown open to the "Hanoums," and it is no longer an uncommon occurrence for Turkish Portias to stand up at the bar and enter into a learned discussion of complex legal mysteries.

Medicine, dentistry and hospital nursing are professions which the fair sex have made peculiarly their own. And now the Turkish papers announce the appointment of a Turkish woman to the Civil Service: the post is not a very lucrative one, it is true, merely that of Government Cashier in an obscure Anatolian administrative district—but a precedent is being created.

Turkey's First Beauty Queen.

The Turkish Bey who last week undertook the rôle of Paris and awarded the golden apple to one among a whole bevy of fair "Miss Turkeys," must have been a very bold man. His valour, fortunately, was tempered by infinite tact, as he took the precaution of soothing the ruffled spirits of those who were about to experience the fate of Hera and Athene by impressing upon the luckless ones that on no account must they attribute their failure

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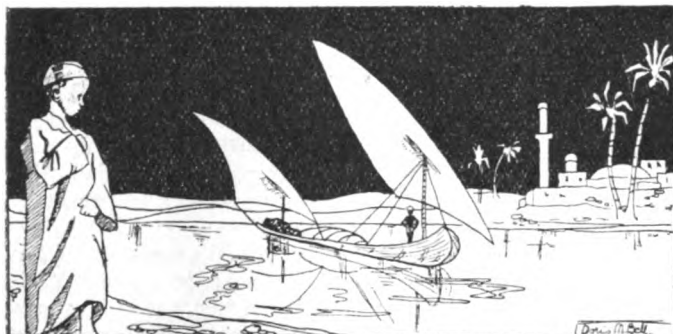
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to any blemish in their personal charms, which, indeed, had been found flawless, but must lay their want of success entirely at the door of that fickle jade Fortune—Kismet!

Feriha Tewfik Hanoum, an "unbobbed" lady, who was solemnly elected Beauty Queen of Turkey, unequivocally stated to a Press reporter in a subsequent interview that she was quite unable to conceive how the judges could possibly have arrived at any other decision. The second prize fell to another "unbobbed" Hanoum, whilst the third selection fell upon an olive-skinned Armenian beauty infinitely more Oriental in appearance than either of her Turkish sisters.



EGYPT.

Cairo, September 21.

The "Impasse."

A week of much coming and going, much gossip, much interchange of views, and yet no solution, at any rate at the time of writing, to the *impasse* in which Egypt has found itself for over a fortnight now. There has been much activity since my last letter in the high circles most concerned with the political situation. Both the High Commissioner and Adly Pasha have had long audiences with the King, who has also received the Prime Minister. Adly Pasha has lunched at the Residency, and has had conversations with most of the leading Egyptians who are now in Alexandria; while Nahas Pasha, whose sudden irruption during the week on the scenes and whose long-delayed call at Ras el-Tine Palace to sign in the Royal book and at the Residency to leave a card on Sir Percy Loraine caused much comment, has had interviews with Tewfik Nessim Pasha and Said Zulfikar Pasha. Nothing has come of all this except a hardening of the conviction that there is no hope of the necessary Coalition of parties, and that the best course would be some form of postponement in order to give a chance to the feeling of irritation that now exists everywhere to die down.

Everyone, indeed, adheres to his point of view—except perhaps the Ittihadists, who have realised the *faux pas* they committed in their decision of the 10th, and have now come out into the open, and, like the Liberals, have announced that they accept the Treaty without reserve. Thus, the two parties who represent the bulk of the vested interests in the country, are in favour of the Treaty, which makes the attitude of the Wafd even more unreasonable than ever.

In this connexion, the public statements of the leaders

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

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of the Wafd, and the manner in which they have tried to get round the three Labour M.P.'s, who have been out here since the beginning of the month, have done the Wafd little good. It is stated on good authority that these three men have perceived the real state of affairs in a remarkably quick manner, and that their views may not altogether be what Nahas, Ebeid, Nukrashy and the others, who now run the Wafd, would quite desire to be conveyed to their friends in England. While the presence of such people out here at the present juncture has certainly strengthened the position of the Wafd, in that it has given the general public the impression that its leaders have the support of the party in power at home, yet in the long run it will have its compensating advantages, if it results in a proper judgment of the situation in Egypt being conveyed to the powers that be and particularly the Labour Party by men in whom they have confidence, and if it can be brought home to the latter that the Wafd, which so appeals to them on grounds of its anxiety to defend the Constitution and to obtain for the people of Egypt the right to express their opinions, are doing so merely to serve their own ends and that, if they came to power, they would institute, as they did before, a dictatorship, nay a reign of terror, which would be nothing compared with what they complain is happening in Egypt to-day.

Effects of Uncertainty.

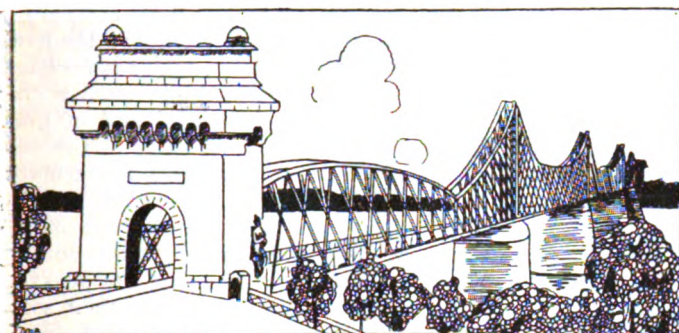
The uncertainty on the future is not unnaturally having a very bad effect everywhere. Business is at a standstill. The Bourse is depressed as it has rarely been. Except in the most urgent matters, as for instance, irrigation projects, little or nothing of a constructive nature is being done in the Government offices, where the heads are all fully occupied with the political situation. Moreover, in consequence of the desire in higher quarters that no action should be taken for the present that might in any way increase the tension and the irritation existing on all sides, the authority of the Government, and particularly of its provincial personnel, is gradually being undermined and the contrast between the present state of affairs with that which reigned before there was any talk of the Treaty is most marked.

The persistent rumours that the Cabinet has resigned or is about to resign are, in particular, affecting the internal situation. As an example one might cite what happened at Damanhur, where, on receipt of a mere rumour that the Cabinet had resigned, a Wafdist demonstration was made outside the property of a well-known Liberal whose factory was somewhat damaged. This incidentally gives a foretaste of what would probably happen everywhere if the Cabinet did actually resign—for that would be taken as a triumph for the Wafd which would adopt its timeworn tactics to record that fact. The position of the subordinate officials is indeed becoming most difficult. However loyal they may wish to be to Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha and the present régime, the knowledge of what they will suffer, born of past bitter experience, if the Wafd comes to power, and if they have in the meanwhile done anything to displease its adherents, must cause them to hesitate to deal with Wafdist activities even when these are against public security. A condition of things like the present is good for no one, and the sooner a decision is taken, and one that means the restoration of Government authority, the better.

New Banks.

The Council of Ministers has under consideration a request from the Minister of Finance for permission to enter into negotiations with a foreign group in which the local foreign banks are interested for the creation of an agricultural bank, and with an Egyptian group for the creation of an industrial bank in which the Government would participate by supplying half the capital. The need for the latter institution is evident, but for the former there

is no apparent need. There is already a bank of this description in Egypt, viz., The Agricultural Bank of Egypt, and, if its statutes do not enable it to transact all the business for which the modern development of the country calls, it would surely be possible to amend those statutes to meet the new conditions, instead of having to create an entirely new institution and so add to the already too long list of banks operating in Egypt. Since the National Bank of Egypt, which is interested in the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, is understood to be in the foreign group mentioned, there must be some very good reason for this new departure, and it would be interesting, both for the shareholders of the existing bank as well as for those interested in the general question of the financial organisation of the country, if an authoritative statement on the subject could be made.



ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, September 19.

Political Affairs.

Political affairs are stagnant for the moment after the intense activity of the long session which closed in July,

everyone having felt the need of a rest. Meanwhile, the Government has not been inactive, and has taken advantage of the holidays to put the finishing touches to the Administrative Reform Law. Nor has the Opposition laid down its arms, for it evidently has no intention of allowing the Government to continue its work of reform in peace. It continues its heckling and harrying policy, not with the aim of overthrowing the Government, whose popularity it knows well it is powerless to shake, but simply to prevent the Administration from working in peace and to paralyse as far as possible its means of putting its policy into execution.

Several by-elections have amply proved that the Government has lost none of its popularity, in spite of the unusually drastic measures it has been obliged to adopt in the collection of taxes, having in view the absolute necessity of balancing the Budget. With the aim, too, of assuring the stabilisation, it has been found necessary to have resort to measures hitherto unknown, both to bring defaulters to task and to expose irregularities in the fiscal department. In this connexion the Government has not hesitated to resort to legal proceedings, and several important industrial companies have by these means been obliged to disburse large sums long overdue for taxation. Needless to say, the same strictness has been applied to the peasant classes, although in the past they had always been more or less protected in this respect. It is clear that such measures are not calculated to increase the popularity of the Government. The National-Peasant Party are well aware of the possible results of their action, but they feel strong enough to face the results, and, their perception of the need of such measures was one of their chief reasons for claiming the right to come into power, as they were convinced that they alone would be able to impose such measures upon all classes of society. This form of discipline was absolutely necessary for the restoration of the financial situation and the balancing of the Budget. As was to

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be expected, the Opposition have not been slow to exploit the situation in every possible way and by all means in their power. Nevertheless, the Treasury encashments are greatly in advance of those of last year at the same period, and are well in keeping with the budgetary estimates for the first time for many years.

The Harvest.

No doubt the excellent harvest has largely contributed to bring about this happy state of affairs. Still the abundant crops have so far produced no reaction on the cost of living and general prosperity of the population. One of the principal reasons for this is that competition on world markets has brought down the prices for grain to very low figures. Everywhere the harvest has been abundant, and every country naturally consumes its own produce before resorting to importation. Moreover, the lack of credit is keenly felt. Landowners have often been obliged to sell the produce at once at the ruling low prices in order to meet their engagements and to pay the fiscal taxes. Consequently large quantities of grain have flowed towards the ports, where the State silos are filled to overflowing. This situation is rendered more acute by the fact that the peasants have nowhere to store their grain; they are obliged to transport it at once to the ports or other distributing centres and are unable to wait for a few months for more favourable prices. It should not be forgotten that this is the first really good harvest since the War and the application of the Expropriation Law, the full consequences of which are, therefore, being felt now for the first time.

Formerly the large landowners could dispose of important personal credit, and they were provided with the necessary plant and means to enable them to store their crops. The small proprietors will be in a position to do this only when they have gradually united in a common effort, and for this they would require long term agricultural credits at low interest rates. The development of the Agricultural Co-operatives will be a great help in this direction, and also the organisation of adequate storage facilities all over the country. It is for this reason that the Minister of Agriculture, M. Mihalaki, was so anxious to create at once the Autonomous Bank of Co-operatives, so as to give these institutions the possibility of dealing with international financial institutions independently of the State.

General Depression.

But the results of this action cannot be immediate, and in the meantime the agricultural depression and the financial crisis remain serious. One of the consequences is a marked industrial depression. The large mining, metallurgical and textile enterprises depend entirely on the State, to which they are obliged to sell their products, and the State is at present compelled to reduce all orders to a minimum, so as to keep its expenditure well within the limits of the Budget estimates.

Government economists, however, are of opinion that the obligation accepted by the State to obtain all its supplies in these branches of industry from the home factories and mines, is an extremely onerous one from the financial point of view. The lack of outside competition, enables the home industries to retain out-of-date methods of production and exploitation, as well as machinery and plant, which fall far short of the required modern standards. Interesting developments may, therefore, be predicted in the near future.

Health of the Patriarch.

The rumours which have been circulated regarding the bad health of the Patriarch and Regent, caused much agitation and not a little intrigue, especially in Opposition quarters, in regard to the succession. Happily all discussion on this subject is premature, as his Holiness was only suffering from a temporary indisposition, and is now completely restored to health.



A Bountiful Harvest.

Belgrade, September 25.

After four successive bad harvests, and the series of economic crises which inevitably followed in an eighty per cent. agricultural country, it is with enormous relief that the people have garnered in this year's excellent crops. Throughout the whole country, even in the normally "passive" regions, the yield has been extraordinarily good. Wheat, oats and barley were above the average in quantity and of excellent quality, maize is excellent in every respect, tobacco has given a good quality crop of fair weight, grapes are fairly plentiful and of good quality, good hay crops were gathered early in the year and in many parts good first and even second aftermaths are now being saved. While it is very probable that the prices of agricultural products will fall and the money value of these crops be very little greater than normal, the important point for this country is that the peasants everywhere will have food for themselves and their stock for the whole of the coming winter. This will do much to satisfy them, while the considerable surplus for export should also lead to a revival of trade and the rescuing of Yugoslav commerce from the slump of the last few years.

The Need for Scientific Development.

While the traveller passing through the rich plains of the Voivodina is impressed by the high standard of cultivation and the wealth of produce, it is when the beaten paths are left and he passes through the mountains and forests of Bosnia and Croatia that he gains a true appreciation of the untapped potential wealth of the country. The hundreds of miles of almost virgin forest, gradually being destroyed by pilferers, but containing enormous quantities of first-class timber still, await rational exploitation by a firm with sufficient capital to construct the necessary lines and to market the products scientifically. The comparatively insignificant workings on the enormous beds of mineral ores, the fertile valleys farmed in primitive fashion, the rich grain still trodden out by plodding oxen and winnowed by the wind, the razor-backed pigs which never get fat, however much food they are given, all point to the enormous waste of potential wealth and of human labour by neglect of the discoveries of modern science in methods of production and distribution. Co-operation, which is essential for the success of scientific agriculture in a land of small peasant holdings, is at present, in many provinces, almost entirely confined to finance, and the peasant still sell their produce one by one to travelling merchants at excessively low prices, and so lose the greater part of the fruits of their labour. With the spread of scientific methods, the co-operative purchase and use of machines, co-operative sale of produce and purchase of necessities, the interior of Yugoslavia will become far more prosperous, and with economic security will come also political stability and satisfaction.

Influences for Balkan Peace.

The pacific effect of economic interests is beginning to be felt with increasing force in the Balkans now that national feeling, enormously overdeveloped by centuries of oppression, by the War and the subsequent Peace Treaties, is tending gradually to become less aggressive. It was recently proposed by Hungary that a scheme should be drawn up for the joint sale of the agricultural produce of the Balkan countries, Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, to enable them to compete with

America. This proposition is to be considered by a joint commission of exporters from the countries involved and may bring about a realisation of the enormous number of interests which these States have in common and of the waste caused by neglect of these interests as a result of futile political squabbles.

Another great influence for peace is sport. "Yugoslavia," one of the best Belgrade football teams, went last week to Sofia, where they were most enthusiastically welcomed. They defeated one Sofia team and drew with another, and returned to Belgrade laden with Bulgarian cigarettes and greatly impressed by the hospitality and sporting spirit shown by the people of Sofia. Sport is making great headway in Yugoslavia. Her eight came second only to Italy in the European championships this year, her athletes were third in the Balkan Athletic contests recently held in Athens, her water polo teams completely outclassed those of that section of the British Navy which visited the Adriatic ports this summer.

The Renewed Conference.

Much good will was necessary on both sides to bring about the conference of Yugoslav and Bulgarian frontier experts now meeting at Pirot. Questions of frontier traffic have already been discussed, and a considerable measure of agreement reached. Now the delicate and difficult matter of estates divided by the frontier line is being discussed. Agreement on this question and on that of a neutral zone to make komitaji action more difficult is essential to any improvement of relations between the two countries.

As is usual when such conferences are proposed or begun, the unruly elements in Bulgarian Macedonia have tried to demonstrate their dissatisfaction by attacks on Yugoslav territory. Most of these failed owing to the excellent organisation of the defence of this frontier now, but one "troika" managed to get through and an unsuccessful attempt was made yesterday morning to blow up the railway line between Shtip and Kotehani. A bomb which had been fixed to the line apparently exploded prematurely, and, when the gendarmes and peasant guards arrived on the scene of the explosion, they found another infernal machine fixed so that whoever tried to lift it would explode it. It had not yet been properly set so that it was safely removed.

Macedonia.

In connexion with the exaggerated claims made by certain sections of Bulgarians with respect to Yugoslav Macedonia it is interesting to notice that the statement of Dr. Max Fischer, the well-known German publicist, to the *Belgrade Vreme*. He states that on his visit to South Serbia this year he was greatly impressed by the tremendous advances made, especially from a hygienic point of view, since he was last there four years ago. He notes the work for the development of the great mineral wealth of the district, the abundance and excellence of fish and fruit in the Ochrid district, whose wines he specially recommends for export, and the general satisfaction of the people. He says also that the relations between the authorities and the populace "are quite satisfactory and normal for a country which is not homogeneous from the point of view of nationality." He compares the beauties of South Serbia with those of the Black Forest district of Germany and foretells a great future for it when tourists discover it.

King Alexander.

After a prolonged tour of Bosnia, including a visit to Sarajevo, and a stay on his estate at Belye, King Alexander returned to Belgrade to-day. He is reported to be suffering from a slight cold and has been recommended not to leave his room for some days. Preparations are being made in Split for his visit there on September 29, when he is to unveil the enormous monument to Grgur Ninski, designed by Meshtrovitch, which is to stand before the famous Peristyle, part of the relics of the beautiful Palace of Diocletian.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE TROUBLES IN PALESTINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I shall be much obliged if you will allow me to comment upon the letter of Miss Margaret M. Farquharson published in your issue of September 12, in which she sets forth what she describes as a "series of unprecedented and fundamental injustices" suffered by the Arabs in Palestine.

(1) According to Miss Farquharson the first of these injustices is that "they are unrepresented in the Administration of their country." According to the latest figures published by the Palestine Government, the Administration is made up of the following:—

In the Senior Service: 299 Christian officials (including Arab Christians), 87 Muslims, 68 Jews; in the Junior Service: 1,220 Christians (including Arab Christians), 1,025 Muslims, and 699 Jews. As, of the total of 3,398 officials, only 343 are British Christians and 767 Jews (British and Palestinian), the other two-thirds of the Government machinery are in the hands of the Arabs.

(2) Miss Farquharson says that "their economic rights are not safeguarded" but does not explain what this means. It may, therefore, be stated that while the Palestine Administration has not yet carried out Article 6 of the Mandate, which promises Jews State and waste lands for the purpose of close settlement, the same Administration a few years ago handed over a vast area of State land at Beisan to Arab squatters, who were unable either to cultivate it or even to pay the Government dues upon it, and who are trying to dispose of a large proportion of their land which is useless to themselves at speculative prices. It required repeated representations to the Government of Palestine to secure even the legal possibility of the Jewish Agency to buy from these Arabs any part of their surplus.

(3) The "30,000 of their energetic sons" (what authority is there for this number?) "temporarily absent from Palestine," have been away—unless I am much mistaken—since before the outbreak of the Great War. They have not been "deprived of Palestinian Nationality." Before the War they were Arabs of Ottoman citizenship, and such they still are. It has been open to them to return to Palestine and to acquire Palestinian citizenship there under the same conditions under which it has been acquired by "Russian and European Jews."

(4) Miss Farquharson refers to "the tampering with the *status quo* declared inviolable by the British Government and the League of Nations." If she means the *status quo* as regards the mode of Jewish worship at the Wailing Wall, I deny that there has been any departure from the observances allowed under the Turks for nearly four centuries. If the Arabs thought that there was a violation of a long-recognised right in the manner in which the Jews prayed on a pavement which Arabs persistently defiled, they could have protested to the Government. But why massacre defenceless Jews all over the country and then cry out that the Jews were the aggressors and that the Arabs are suffering from "unprecedented and fundamental injustices"?

(5) Miss Farquharson says that the Wailing Wall was raised "as a political issue" at the Zionist Congress. She is utterly mistaken. The resolution adopted by the Congress simply claimed the right of the Jews to continue to worship undisturbed at the Wall in a manner consonant with the decencies of religion. To describe this as "raising a political issue" is, to say the least, a misrepresentation.

(6) Miss Farquharson's reference to the Jewish Agency shows that she is not familiar with Article 4 of the Palestine Mandate (which she would do well to study), nor with the fact that the British Government gave its consent to the enlargement of the Jewish Agency by the inclusion of non-Zionist representatives of the principal Jewish communities of the world. She is apparently likewise unacquainted with the fact that the Arabs have derived considerable advantages from the activities of the Jewish Agency during the last seven or eight years, inasmuch as, for instance, they have sold lands at a great profit to Jews, benefited by the medical services of the Zionist Organisation, and found employment in many Jewish settlements, otherwise she would realise that the activities of an enlarged Jewish Agency would inevitably confer still greater benefits upon the Arabs. The functions of the Jewish Agency are confined to advising and co-operating with the Government solely in matters affecting the establishment of the Jewish National Home and the interests of the Jewish population in Palestine, and they do not concern the administration of the country in general.

(7) The inquiry for which Miss Farquharson pleads "into Arab grievances" can do nothing but good if it is carried out by an impartial tribunal. It will show that those "grievances" are purely imaginary. It will show that the Arabs of Palestine were no allies of the British during the War, for they remained passive throughout Lord Allenby's campaign. And it will also show that the "spurious Internationalism," if this is the bogey that the Arab "really fears," has nothing whatsoever to do with Zionism.—I am, etc.,

ISRAEL COHEN,

The Zionist Organisation,
77, Great Russell Street, W.1.

September 17.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 12.

The Round Table Conference.

A cablegram of a week ago from the London Correspondent of the *Pioneer* repeats what I had been told a fortnight earlier by a former member of the Central Government—that as soon as Parliament re-assembles the Prime Minister will re-affirm the Declaration of 1917, “with the Labour Party’s interpretation of ‘responsible self-government,’ which is Dominion status,” and that he will issue invitations, over his personal signature, for a Round Table Conference. I have been told this morning that the Hartog Committee’s Report, which is all in print, will be presented to Parliament very shortly by Sir John Simon, with an interim report from the Statutory Commission. That should facilitate things for the Prime Minister. It is satisfactory to feel that the great Indian affairs are in his hands. The latest utterances, now two days old, of the Secretary of State for India and the Under-Secretary impress us no more favourably than the earlier did.

Platitudes.

The Secretary of State is reported as having said that “in their hearts there was one desire, namely, that, as long as they were charged with the conduct of those very difficult matters, to do their duty in the best possible way and in the interest of India.” The Under-Secretary said “he hoped that as long as he and Mr. Wedgwood Benn were in office, it would be said of them that they really and sincerely attempted a solution of the Indian problems, which they hoped ultimately successfully to accomplish with the co-operation and assistance of every section of the Indian community.” The newspaper containing those reports was picked up by a visitor in my room. He read the paragraph aloud, and exclaimed: “The emptiness of the things that public men will say!” The utterances do provoke that comment. They might also lead one to exclaim: “Those men will do nothing. Men who have got things in them to do, do not think it worth while to say things so empty.”

The Congress and the Muslims.

Though they are somewhat lengthy, I should like to quote in full three resolutions passed this week by the Executive Board of the All-India Muslim Conference:—

“Whereas the Indian National Congress, having succumbed to the influence of the Hindu Mahasabha, has now abandoned its constitutional ideal of a federal system of government with full provincial autonomy, which it had consistently advocated since 1904;

“Whereas owing to the same influence the Congress has now adopted a Constitution embodied in the Nehru report which, as has been rightly stated by Mr. Kelkar in his recent address delivered at the Dacca Provincial Hindu Sabha, is practically identical with that advocated by the Hindu Mahasabha at Jubbulpore and elsewhere, and is entirely opposed to the unanimous opinion of Muslim India; and

“Whereas the Congress Session to be held at Lahore during the forthcoming Christmas will in these circumstances be essentially a gathering of the Hindu Mahasabha, the Executive Board of the All-Indian Muslim Conference deems it in the highest degree detrimental to the best interest of the country in general and the Muslim community in particular for any Mussalman to attend the forthcoming session of the National Congress and earnestly hopes that the Indian Mussalmans will at this critical juncture show a united front by abstaining from participation in the Congress session, as by such participation they would only be lending support to the Nehru Constitution.”

Muslim Support for the Congress.

It is not true that the opinion of Muslim India is unanimously opposed to the constitutional proposals of the Nehru Report; for the Maharaja of Mahmudabad, Sir Ali Imam, and others whom I have recently met are still in favour of it; but it is true that Muslim opinion is very strongly opposed. One of the least hopeful signs of the times is that there are apparently insuperable difficulties in the way of a lasting understanding between the rival claimants to power in India, if one may put it so when speaking, not of persons, but of great masses of men. In the Punjab one hears the same kind of general charge brought by Sikh against Muslim that one hears throughout India brought by Muslim against Hindu. There does at times seem as much need for ever for an outside Power to keep the peace amongst them.

The Child Marriage Bill.

The Government of India’s intention to support Mr. Sarda’s Child Marriage Bill was reported here last week. It is supported by Pandit Motilal Nehru, who had this, in a telegram to the Congress, Nationalist, Independent and Central Muslim Parties: “We are to-day on our trial before the civilised nations of the world, and the measure of the Assembly’s support of the Sarda Bill will be the measure of our fitness to rank among those nations. The custom of early marriage is undoubtedly a curse, and must be completely abolished at all costs, the supposed sanction of religion notwithstanding.” There is little doubt in most men’s minds that the Bill will become law, but there will be bitter feeling against the law, and those costs that the Pandit speaks of will be heavy. They must be borne, however.

The Financial Position.

On my asking a professional economist, whom I met, how much importance one ought to attach to the view that, if India had a popular government, the raising of a considerably larger revenue would be possible, I was told to study the report of Mr. Layton, the financial expert who was sent out from England to advise the Statutory Commission. My interlocutor was himself of opinion that Mr. Layton’s report will show that many things that the Indian leaders want done simply cannot be done, for the money will never be forthcoming. That was my own impression long enough before Mr. Layton’s connexion with India was dreamt of. Mr. Layton’s report has, of course, still to be published. There would seem to be an advantage to secure in publishing it before the Round Table Conference begins.

The Banking Inquiry.

Within a day or two of reading that it had been suggested that still another should be added to the number of those who form the Central Committee to which the banking inquiry has been entrusted, I learnt, as others did, that the British Government has appointed a committee of three persons to advise it regarding the electrification of the main railway lines in Great Britain. The electrification of railways is ever so much simpler a matter than banking and currency. It is so much easier, therefore, to find someone who understands it, and whose advice it would be valuable to have. The advice on currency questions of half a small congregation—what could it be worth?

Miscellaneous.

Though they cannot keep Calcutta’s streets from being flooded, nor the *maidan*, whenever there is exceptionally heavy rain, or six or seven times a year, one supposes that it would be possible to keep the water out of a tube railway. The tube would have to be watertight. They are boring in Dalhousie Square and elsewhere, and sending the sands, marls, etc., to London for examination, all with a view to ascertaining if a tube railway would be possible. To build one ought not to be more difficult—but that was difficult enough—than to build St. George’s Dock; but

then the dock was intended to be full of water, while the intention of the tube railway will be that it should be full of dry people, except for perspiration, in dry trains. That may not be possible. Talking of the dock reminds one that the Calcutta Port Commissioners have published accounts for last year that make a very good showing.

Mr. Horne, the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh University, has arrived at the scene of his new labours, and the new Vice-Chancellor is expected there about the middle of October.

ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION, LONDON.

Annual General Meeting.

The sixth Annual General Meeting of the Anglo-Indian Association, London, was held at the India Restaurant, Regent Street, on September 21. Over 80 members were present, including Sir Reginald Craddock (late Governor of Burma) and Lady Craddock, Sir John Henry (late Commandant, Simla Defence Force) and Lady Henry, and Sir John Cumming (late Member of the Bengal Executive Council). The Hon. Secretary having read the proceedings of the fifth annual general meeting, Sir Cecil Walsh, the President, in presenting the sixth annual report, thanked the guests for their presence there and the interest they showed in the Association and complimented the Council of the Association on the methods and results of their work, of which the Memorandum to the Simon Commission was an outstanding example, though, altogether, the work of the London Association spoke for itself.

At the same time, in addition to larger issues, the Association, he pointed out, performed much solid and useful work on a smaller scale: for instance, it had been instrumental in securing a Kitchener Scholarship, and another pupil from the Sanawar School had won an Empire Scholarship at the Loughborough College, which information was received too late for incorporation in the annual report. Sir Cecil regretted that there had been casualties among the friends of the Association, the most noteworthy being Colonel Dowden, a great friend of the Association. He also congratulated Mr. Kenneth Fink (Member of the Council) on his son's successful entry into Sandhurst.

Continuing, he added that one advantage of his not being a member of the community was that it gave him a certain independence of speech, and accordingly he was appropriately able to refer to two things. The first was his admiration of the devotion to duty, earnestness and selflessness of Mr. Gibbon, the Hon. Secretary and, the second, his appreciation of the sober judgment and earnest desire to serve the interests of the community which was always evinced by the Council. The members of the Council had recently been referred to as Elders, and Sir Cecil considered that they had shown themselves to be the elders, or wise men, of the Association, in London. He emphasised the fact that their decisions were not dictated by the President but were arrived at by the judgment of the members of the Council themselves and he was in a position to testify to the moderating influence the Council always endeavoured to exercise. Sir Cecil next expressed a sense of the gratitude the Association owed to Mr. Palmer not only for his readiness in placing the splendid apartments of the India Restaurant at their disposal for their meetings but for the help he was always ready to afford in their discussions. This centre in the heart of London was, Sir Cecil considered, invaluable to the Association.

After thanking the ladies of the community for their help and support, Sir Cecil referred briefly to certain variances with the All-India Association which were indicated in the annual report, where also, he said, would be found a specific statement of the aims and objects of the London Association and a definite expression of the desire of the London Association for friendship and co-operation with the other Anglo-Indian Associations. Personally he was ready, he said, to sink any differences there had been and he earnestly appealed to India and London to turn over a new leaf and work together in peace and harmony for the common interests of the community. No remarks were offered on the report, which was therefore considered as passed *nem. con.* From the Council Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Bason, who retired by rotation, having offered themselves for re-election, were duly re-elected and Major H. Mansfield was elected in place of Mr. George, resigned. Mr. Wood proposed that two new members be co-opted on the Council to help to encourage the social side of the Association. The motion was carried. The Secretary proposed the confirmation of the supplementary rule empowering the Council to invite a Past President and an Honorary Member to be members of the Council in addition to the number laid down in Rule 5, which was duly confirmed. As no member put forward any further proposals the President declared the meeting closed. The members and guests lingered for some time renewing acquaintances and discussing old times and absent friends.

An India Office *communiqué* announces that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Sarat Kumar Ghose, Indian Civil Service, as Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Calcutta in the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Justice Panton.

LIABILITY OF VISITORS TO UNITED KINGDOM INCOME TAX.

The question of the liability of visitors from the overseas Dominions to income tax during their stay in the United Kingdom continues to arouse keen discussion in India. Although many letters which have appeared in the Press both in this country and in India appear to have been written under a misconception of the position, the assurance given by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in May last, and reproduced in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of May 16, that the circular issued by the Board of Inland Revenue in February, the bone of contention, was not capable of bearing the interpretation placed upon its provisions, as we anticipated, has by no means allayed the widespread anxiety felt by British residents in India, and which has undoubtedly caused many to spend their leave this year outside Great Britain. In its issue of July 25, THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA was able to announce that further representations had been made on the subject to the Board of Inland Revenue which had again emphasised that the circular was not a declaration of policy, but merely a statement of the law as it appeared to the Board, and that the latter was not in a position to express any opinion as to either the necessity for, or the probability of, the law being altered in the desired direction.

The latest protest comes from the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which, in a letter to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire, points out that: "there is a very strong feeling, on the part of people from home whose careers lie in India, that the position as explained in the circular operates on them with considerable harshness." The Committee then proceed to state the position with admirable clarity, explaining that the particular portion of the statement to which the criticism relates is paragraph 3 (b).

"Paragraph 3 (a)" the letter proceeds, "explains that a visitor who maintains no place of abode in the United Kingdom, and whose visits are not habitual, but occasional only, is not regarded as resident unless he has been in the United Kingdom for a period or periods equal in the whole to six months in the income tax year. But paragraph 3 (b) is to the effect that if he maintains a place of abode in the United Kingdom, available for his use, he is regarded as resident for any year in which he pays a visit, of whatever length, to the United Kingdom.

"As is well known, it is the aim of the average Britisher in this country who has children to give them a home education such as he has himself had. In a very large number of cases, especially where there are several children, this aim can be achieved only by the maintenance of a home where the children can be cared for by their mother or some other relative. The man who thus, himself living and working in India, settles his family at home employs home labour and pays home rates; and he take furlough every three or four years, not only for the necessary purpose of recruiting his health, but also of course to see his children and keep in touch with them and their education. As a rule, the length of his visit to the United Kingdom does not exceed six months, and if he were not compelled to maintain a home for his family in the circumstances explained, he would not be regarded as liable to home income tax. But he is, in point of fact, by reason of the ruling of the income tax authorities, most unfairly penalised as compared with the man who either has no family or, if he has one, either educates them abroad or sends them to a boarding school and himself, when on leave, stays in hotels and thus escapes being regarded as a resident for the purpose of income tax. Such a man pays no rates, he gives little employment to home labour, and the fact that this is so throws into greater relief the harshness of the distinction.

"As has been stated, the position has been much discussed in this country, and it has given rise to a great deal of heartburning particularly, as is natural, on the part of the very large number of persons—and these

constitute the majority of those affected—who draw fixed salaries either as Government servants or as employees of commercial firms and companies. British residents in India would greatly appreciate any assistance which the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire could give by way of representing the position to the Board of Inland Revenue at home with a view to having some modification introduced in the ruling, and I am directed to express the hope that the Federation will consider the question of taking the matter up with the Board, and endeavouring to obtain an alteration in the law should such be necessary."

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

The Provincial Reports.

(Continued from page 308.)

In a recent issue we outlined the more important features of the reports which have been framed by the Committees appointed, by the Madras, Bengal and Bombay Legislatures respectively, to confer with Sir John Simon and his colleagues. We now summarise the reports framed by the United Provinces, the Punjab, and the Burma Councils.

The United Provinces Committee have issued a unanimous report, but a Muslim member has added certain explanatory notes to which the Chairman has appended a rejoinder. The Committee contemplate the grant of Dominion status in the near future; and they have framed their recommendations on the assumption that the Indian Constitution will be on the Canadian model. Dyarchy is condemned as unworkable, and full provincial autonomy is proposed, but, during the transition period, the Governor would retain substantial powers of control. There would be a Cabinet of six Ministers, of whom one would be Chief Minister. The Ministers would be jointly responsible to the Legislature. The Governor would select the Chief Minister, on whose recommendation he would appoint the others. An Upper Chamber is contemplated with a membership of about fifty or sixty. The Lower House would consist of 182 members. A certain number of seats would be reserved for Muslims, as provided for by the Lucknow pact of 1916. The landowning classes, namely, the *Zemindars* and *Taluqdars*, would be given separate representation in both Houses; and the depressed and backward classes would be provided for in both Houses by nomination. In respect of the Upper House the franchise would be on similar lines to that of the Council of State; and the franchise for the Lower House would be reduced to about one-half of its present level. The Governor would not be vested with power to certify legislation.

The Punjab Committee failed to agree and they have accordingly issued a majority report with a dissenting minute by the two Hindu members. The majority favour the grant of full provincial autonomy, that is to say, the transfer to Ministers of all provincial subjects. As regards Law and Order the majority take the view that when this subject is transferred to a Minister the Police will be no longer regarded as a weapon in the hands of the bureaucracy to be used against politicians with advanced views. On the contrary the Police will be regarded as an agency for ensuring internal peace and security. Separate electorates should, the Committee think, be continued. The strength of the Legislative Council should be increased to 165 members; nominated members would disappear; and special constituencies would be abolished. The Legislature would be unicameral. The Executive would consist of the Governor with a Cabinet of not fewer than four, and not more than seven Ministers including a Chief Minister. The Ministers would be jointly responsible to the Legislature. The Governor would appoint the Chief Minister, on whose recommendation he would also appoint the other Ministers. It is

suggested in the majority report that autonomy in the provinces should not wait for the introduction of the principle of responsibility in the Central Government. As regards the form of the Central Government the federal system is considered to be the safest and most proper form of government for India. Under it, the majority state, the provinces would have complete control over all subjects entrusted to them under the Constitution, while subjects of all-India importance such as the Army, Foreign Affairs, Railways, etc., would remain with the Central Government. The Committee also recommend that Sind should be separated from Bombay, and that reforms should be introduced in the North-West Frontier Province and in Baluchistan. The majority report is severely criticised by the dissenting Hindu members on the ground that it is based on communal feelings.

The Burma report deals primarily with the question of separation from India, to which reference was made recently in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*. It strongly recommends separation immediately, although one member dissents from this recommendation. Opinion is divided on the point whether the provincial Legislature should be unicameral or bicameral, but the majority favour a single House. The majority would also retain the official *bloc*; and would maintain the existing franchise unchanged. Executive power would be vested in the Governor under the advice of Ministers, of whom five would be non-officials. The Ministers would be jointly responsible to the Legislature. (To be concluded.)

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE OPEN COMPETITION.

List of Successful Candidates.

The list of successful candidates for the first 48 places at the recent open competition for the Indian Civil Service was published last week. Thirty-six are Europeans and twelve Indians, the former including the sons of three members of the Indian Civil Service, namely, Mr. J. P. Brander, Mr. J. M. Dunnett, and Mr. L. M. Stubbs. The total entries comprised 92 Europeans and 175 Indians, as compared with 103 Europeans and 148 Indians last year.

The list, in order of merit, is as follows:—

Dean, M. J.; Williams, J. B.; Langford, J. B.; Compton, E. G.; Bakhlé, D. S.; Brander, G. M.; Cunningham, C. C.; Walley, J.; Dunnett, G. S.; Vaughan, J.; Lloyd, S.; Morton, K. V. F.; Guthrie-Smith, F. J.; George, F.; Bromfield, G. S.; Lasrado, J. P.; Venkatasubramanian, V.; Damié, K. R.; Tural, G. R.; Siva Raman, M. S.; James, J. H.; Georgeson, W. W.; Cadman, S. P. H.; Rangaswamy, K. R.; Prideaux, E. T.; Ronson, H.; MacDermot, D. F.; Day, B. W.; Weston, W. G.; Bhargava, V.; Carnish, W. H.; Varghese, T. A.; Bell, F. O.; Luke, S. E. V.; Morris, F. W. A.; Nayar, K. K.; Kamath, H. V.; Gracie, C. F.; Storr, N.; Booth, J.; Stewart, G. P.; Lambert, J. H. U.; Chapple, F. G.; Pradhan, D. R.; Cole, F. N.; Dey, S. K.; Mitchell, A. N.; Stubbs, J. L. C.

Of the successful European candidates 19 were at Oxford, 12 at Cambridge, three at Trinity College, Dublin, and one each at St. Andrews' and Glasgow Universities. Twenty-four out of the 31 Oxford and Cambridge men were scholars or exhibitioners of their colleges, and twenty-five secured a First or Second Class in their Schools or Triposes.

It is understood that in official circles the result of this year's competition is regarded as very satisfactory from the standpoint alike of the numerical proportions and quality of the British candidature. There is no sign, it will be noted, at any rate, of a return to the unfortunate state of affairs which prevailed when recruitment by open competition was restored soon after the War. In this connexion it will be recalled that the representatives of the Indian Civil Service (retired) Association, comprising a large majority of retired members of the Service, in their evidence recently before the Statutory Commission emphasised the necessity for a British element in the security and development services. The status of the British official in India, they also contended, should be guaranteed on certain lines, not solely or even mainly in his personal interests, but for reasons of efficiency and integrity.

RAIDING IN NAJD.

It appears to be beyond dispute that there is trouble in Najd. Rebel tribes are carrying on intensive raiding operations against the tribes still loyal to King Ibn Saoud. The reports which we publish below have been received from Arab sources, and while it is possible that they may not be strictly accurate, it is hardly to be doubted that some serious engagements have recently taken place. For example, we learn that a raid on Sinjara Shammar was undertaken on August 25 by Mutair, led by Jaber Ibn Ashwan. The Shammar were camped at Al Aah. A considerable number of camels were looted, and heavy casualties were inflicted. The Shammar immediately sent in information to the Iraq Government post at Salman; upon which, two armed police cars were dispatched in pursuit. The raiders were caught up at Jokha (within Iraq territory), and all the loot was recovered and handed back to the Shammar. The raiders left eleven corpses on the scene of action, and fourteen camels were captured from them, in addition to which twenty of their raiding camels were killed.

These details are not yet confirmed, but it is particularly interesting to note that the Najdi Shammar appealed for aid to the Iraqi police.

Another raid, led by Azaiyiz, eldest son of Faisal al Duwish, of the Mutair, with about 800 camel-men, took place on September 1, on some mixed tribes, including Sherarat, Anaiza, and Shammar, who were camped at Al Hazul, in Najdi territory. A large proportion of the flocks belonging to these tribesmen were taken by the Mutair, but meanwhile Abdul Aziz Ibn Musaad, King Ibn Saoud's Governor at Hayil, having received information of this raid, marched from his camp at Ajibba to Umm Al Rudhulla, to intercept the return of the Mutair. When the raiders arrived at Umm Al Rudhulla, driving their loot in front of them, they were suddenly attacked by Ibn Musaad's force, and were completely defeated, all the stolen flocks being recovered. It is rumoured that Azaiyiz Ibn Duwish was killed.

Faisal al Duwish is reported to be camped at a place called Al Tawil, on the southern frontier of Kuwait, and with him (in addition to his own Mutair), are Ibn Hithlain of the Ajman, and Farhan Ibn Mashhur of the Ruwallah.

Hamid Kholussy Bey, Egyptian Minister to Persia, died on September 23 from a heart attack.

Mr. Geoffrey Parker has been appointed Inspector-General of Irrigation for Egypt in the Sudan, a post which he has filled in an acting capacity for some time.

The appointment of Malik Mansur Khan, son of the former Ilkhani, the Sovlet-ed-Dowleh, as Ilkhani of the lately insurgent Kashgais has been announced in Teheran.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, arrived in Berlin on September 29 on an official visit as the guest of the German Government.

It is stated from Constantinople that the Œcumenical Patriarch Mgr. Basil III. died in the Phanar on September 29. His All-Holiness was in his 93rd year.

A beginning has been made at Angora in the study of foreign languages with the opening, on October 1, of an English class, which is being attended by 25 students. Classes in other languages, it is stated, will be formed subsequently.

The death occurred last week of Mr. John Freeman, poet and critic. Among Mr. Freeman's publications were "Prince Absalom," published in 1925, and "Solomon and Balkis," published in 1926. These works were highly judged in the review pages of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

The death occurred last week of Cardinal Dubois, a very eminent figure in the Roman Catholic world. In 1919 and 1920 Cardinal Dubois visited the Levant, going to Jerusalem, Syria, Smyrna, Constantinople, Athens, and other Balkan centres, for the purpose of investigating the effect of the War on the Catholic cause in the Levant.

THE Y.M.C.A. IN YUGOSLAVIA.

On Sunday, September 22, Mr. P. H. Sitters, National Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Yugoslavia, gave an Address at the Evening Service in Exeter Cathedral, taking as his subject "The Young Men's Christian Association in its relationship with the Churches and in international life." He pointed out that during the Great War Serbia had had two important contacts with the British—her soldiers had fought with our soldiers on the Salonika Front, and over three hundred of her young students, invited by Lord Davidson, then Archbishop of Canterbury, came over to England and were sheltered and educated at Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Birmingham, and elsewhere. These two groups, soldiers and students, both came across the Y.M.C.A., with the result that, when they returned to their own country, they desired to have a Y.M.C.A. of their own. The movement was started with the help of British war-workers and six years ago the call came to him to help the development of the movement. Mr. Sitters continued:—

"During those six years the Y.M.C.A. has grown considerably. There are now fifteen or sixteen Associations in Yugoslavia. Some of them, for instance the one in Belgrade, are in Serbia, amongst the people who belong to the Orthodox or Eastern Church: one in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia: some are amongst the Protestant Churches in the northern district, known as the Voivodina.

It is only since the Great War that these different provinces have been united into one country, and that the people who worship in these different Churches find themselves to be fellow-subjects. It is not easy for them, with their different languages and traditions, to understand each other all at once. The Y.M.C.A. provides them with common meeting-places: buildings where there is a welcome for all, equal trust, and love, and sympathy for all. In February last we had in Belgrade Y.M.C.A. a Training School in which Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, and Reformed Churchmen spent a week together in prayer, Bible study, lectures and games.

This year, on the beautiful Dalmatian coast, we organised a camp in which young people of many nationalities took part. Serb, Croat and Slovene joined with Russian, French, Greek, Hungarian and English in swimming and games, in expedition and camp fire, in Bible study circle and family prayer. As this sort of thing extends, prejudice must be overcome and old scars forgotten: each must recognise in the other the human quality, and learn to call him, and think of him as, 'Brother.'

SCOTSWOMAN'S WORK IN BELGRADE.

An appeal is made by a number of members of the British Legion who have just returned from the congress of the Inter-Allied Federation of Ex-Service Men (Fidac) at Belgrade, on behalf of the hospital established there, after much hard work, by Dr. Katherine Macphail, daughter of a well-known Scottish medical man. Dr. Katherine Macphail went to Serbia early in the Great War, and at its close, "with £25 and a bottle of aspirin," as a friend declared, set about establishing the hospital through which, in ten years, more than 100,000 children have passed. Towards a much-needed sum of £2,000, one-third has been subscribed by the Serbian Lamp Relief Fund Endowment, and the appeal is for the balance. Help should be sent to the Belgrade Children's Hospital Committee, 26, Gordon Street, W.C.1.

Members of the British Salonika Force will meet on the Horse Guards Parade on October 6 at 10.30 a.m., under Brigadier-General H. E. T. Kelly, C.B., C.M.G., President of the Salonika Reunion Association. At 11 a.m. there will be an inspection by Field-Marshal Sir George Milne, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, the Commander of the British Salonika Forces, and a short service, conducted by the Chaplain-General, will be followed by a march past the Cenotaph.

The Colonial Office announced on September 29 that the departure of the Palestine Inquiry Commission (of which Sir Walter Shaw is Chairman), fixed for to-day (Thursday) has been postponed. The Commission will probably leave London about the middle of October. This decision, it is explained, has been made in order that all the parties principally concerned in the inquiry may have ample time to make adequate arrangements for the representation of their interests during the course of the investigation.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Political Conferences.

One generally finds the political conferences of the autumn a dreary affair. The Labour Party, quite justifiably, is cock-a-hoop, but the talk of forcing a General Election within a year is apparently extravagant. At the end of two years, perhaps, when the Labour Party may have done something in the domestic as well as in the international sphere, an appeal may be made to the country, and there is no orthodox Labour man who does not think that an absolute majority is then assured.

The Liberals are sorrowful, and will prate of organisation. The electoral system, which happened to hit them so hard in the last election, is certain to be fiercely condemned. But what can they do?

The highest depression, however, has to be registered among the Tories, who really are all at sixes and sevens upon why they should have been defeated last May. Some of them are profoundly dissatisfied with the operations of the Central Office: a very bitter attack is being made on Mr. J. C. C. Davidson; and yet another section in effect demands Mr. Baldwin's head upon a charger.

Their internal organisation is the Conservatives' own affair, but it becomes increasingly apparent that on the whole they are scarcely deserving of so fine a man as Mr. Baldwin as leader. Even his action the other day in calling upon the Prime Minister just before Mr. MacDonald left for America—a very sporting and most laudable step—has been characterised as a fatal and characteristic error in a man who professes to be a party-leader. But perhaps these critics are not to be blamed. Perhaps it is all Mr. Baldwin's fault; I suspect that it is. He should never have called himself a Conservative, and is, indeed, a poor party man. For he never forgets that "the ship is more than the crew."

The Bank Rate.

How closely England's fortunes or misfortunes are now tied to those of America was made plain even to the man-in-the-street last week, when the Bank Rate was raised to six and a-half per cent. For the draining of our gold reserve could be stopped by no other means than this very unpopular method.

Speculation in stocks and shares in New York is regarded as the main cause, and until this feature becomes normal, one supposes that all Europe will suffer. The

raising of the Bank Rate is designed to safeguard the Bank's reserve of gold and at the same time to improve the value of sterling. But the "dearer money" has caused gloom in a thousand breasts. A half-hearted effort was made during the last few days to ascribe the raising of the Bank Rate to "cosmopolitan" influences at the Bank of England: as if "cosmopolitan" influences were not at work in every sphere of finance!

The Celtic Languages.

It is perhaps the habit of the Celts to dwell on the gloomy side of things, partly because they have longer memories and more poetical natures than the Sassenach who, in theory, rules over them. But their plaint, made last week at the Celtic Congress in Glasgow, that there was danger of the Celtic languages disappearing, was one which must strike a sympathetic chord even in their conquerors' hearts.

For it is undeniably a sad thing that languages such as Welsh and Gaelic should be receding before the invasion of English, whose sole reason of penetration derives from materialism—not necessarily a bad materialism, but certainly not a cultural improvement. It is unquestionably good that Scotsmen and Welshmen should remain bilingual, and the decay of such men, and their substitution by a characterless and colourless race, should be, and fortunately is, a matter of national concern.

There is immense enthusiasm in Scotland and Wales at the moment for spreading Gaelic and Welsh. More people in Scotland have a cultural knowledge of Gaelic than ever before—which does not mean much, but still is something. And the Welsh educationists are working to ensure that by 1931 every teacher in Wales will be qualified to teach Welsh.

It was by no means only sentimentality which prompted the Manx poet to write, forty-two years ago, of preserving

... whate'er is left to us
Of ancient heritage,
Of manners, speech, of humours, polity,
The limited horizon of our stage,

so that the coming age would know of their fathers—

... And, as the time-flood onward rolls,
Secure an anchor for their Keltic souls.

England's Vanishing Beauty.

Slowly but quite surely alarm is spreading at the disappearance of beauty from our countryside. The vandals, whether trippers or builders, are almost everywhere, nor is there any sign of their decrease. Chars-a-bancs discharge their motley cargoes with terrible regularity, and the jerry-builder erects his monstrous bungalow with sickening repetition. Fortunately, however, there is a greater increase in the number of people who at last are becoming aware of the menace, and what is chiefly required now is the organisation of public opinion.

Some criterion of how genuine the fear is that beauty may be wantonly destroyed is provided by the space given recently in the Press to the dangers threatening Friday Street, in Surrey, and the Lake District. Papers do not harp on exploded or stale matter, and while they exist to ventilate grievances there is yet hope. The organisation for the preservation of beauty in England is broaching on sensible, realist lines; it is acknowledged, for instance, that merely dilettante criticism is more harmful than helpful. What seems inevitable is a closer co-operation between the various societies which exist for preserving some particular aspect of the visible beauty of England. Each in its own sphere does admirable work, but often enough does not of itself command sufficient resources to ward off the blows of the Philistine. It would, one thinks, harm no one but the crank or narrow specialist if the activities of these societies were in some way more closely correlated than they are at present. The massing of culture and tradition against the purely utilitarian and ugly is almost bound, if properly done, to gain a victory.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

October 3, 1929 (New Style).

September 21, 1929 (Old Style).

Rabia II., 28 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Ellul 28, 5689, of the Jewish Calendar.

Annie Viscountess Cowdray left London on September 28 for Venice and Belgrade.

Sir Bernard and Lady Darley left England on September 27 in the Ranpura, on their return to Allahabad.

Captain Dimitri Papalexopoulos arrived at Claridge's Hotel last week from the Continent.

Nouri Pasha al Said, Iraqi Minister of Defence, leaves London (to-morrow) Friday, for Baghdad.

Lord and Lady Irwin arrived at Sandringham on September 26 on a few days' visit to the King and Queen.

The American Minister to Egypt and Mrs. Franklin Mott Gunther arrived last week at Claridge's Hotel.

Sir Maurice and Lady de Bunsen left 43, Ennismore Gardens on September 25 for Syria. They will be away for two months.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby arrived at 24, Wetherby Gardens on October 2, from Stanley, Perthshire.

The Raja Saheb of Dharampur, of the Presidency of Bombay, who arrived in London, is staying at the Hotel Cecil.

The Earl of Morley left London on September 27 for Egypt, sailing from Tilbury in the P. and O. s.s. Ranpura for Port Said.

Air Vice-Marshal H. C. T. Dowding, C.M.G., who arrived in Jerusalem last week to take over command of the forces, is staying at Government House.

Field-Marshal Viscount Plumer and Viscountess Plumer returned to 22, Ennismore Gardens on September 28 from Scotland.

Ex-King George, of Greece, who has been paying visits in Scotland, after a stay of about three months in England, left London on September 23 for Roumania.

Lady Brooke-Popham, who left London on September 30 for Baghdad to join Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Air Officer Commanding Iraq, will be away eight months.

Sir Victor Sassoon left London on September 26 for Bombay, joining at Marseilles the s.s. Naldera, in which Sir Frank Moulden and General Sir Beauvoir and Lady de Lisle are among the passengers.

The Greek Minister, on behalf of the President of Greece, last week conferred upon Mr. James Malcolm the insignia of Commander of the Order of the Phoenix, for his long services to the Christians of the East.

Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Peto and Miss Pamela Peto left London on September 26 to join the s.s. Naldera at Marseilles, and will be away in India and Kenya until April.

Lady Chetwode and Miss Penelope Chetwode have left 44, Grove End Road this week on their way to Bombay to join General Sir Philip Chetwode, Chief of the General Staff, India.

THE LATE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR IRAQ.

Sir Harry Verney (Groom-in-Waiting) represented the King at the memorial service for Sir Gilbert Clayton, which was held at St. Mark's Church, Peaslake, near Guildford, on September 27. The Rev. Sir Paget Bowman (Rector of Shere) officiated, assisted by the Rev. H. E. G. Aldridge.

Those present included Lady Clayton (widow), Major and Mrs. I. N. Clayton (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs. Lace (sister), Mrs. Thorowgood (mother-in-law), Mrs. Hunter-Blair, Mrs. Eliot-Lockhart, Mrs. R. G. Clayton, Miss Parry, Mrs. Stocker, and Miss Stocker. Others present included :—

Jaafar Pasha al Askari (the Iraq Minister), Nouri Pasha al Said (the Iraq Minister of Defence), Mr. Nevill Bland (representing the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Office), Wing-Commander R. Peel Willock (representing the Air Ministry), Air Vice-Marshal R. Clark-Hall (representing the Air Council), Squadron-Leader G. G. A. Williams (representing Sir Hugh Trenchard), Major-General Sir Alfred and Lady Edwards, Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Jennings-Bramley, the Rev. C. T. Horan, the Hon. Mrs. Victor Gibson, Mr. E. H. Keeling (representing the Central Asian Society, with which is incorporated the Persia Society), Mr. H. T. Montague Bell, Mr. Kenneth Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Sartorius, Mrs. and Miss Shrapnell-Smith, Colonel Murray, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Chardin, Mr. Charles Woods, and the Rev. Donald and Mrs. Matheson.

Lord Passfield, Secretary of State for the Colonies, deputed Sir John Shuckburgh and Mr. Edgecumbe to represent him at the service, but owing to a motor accident they were unable to arrive at Peaslake until after the service was over.

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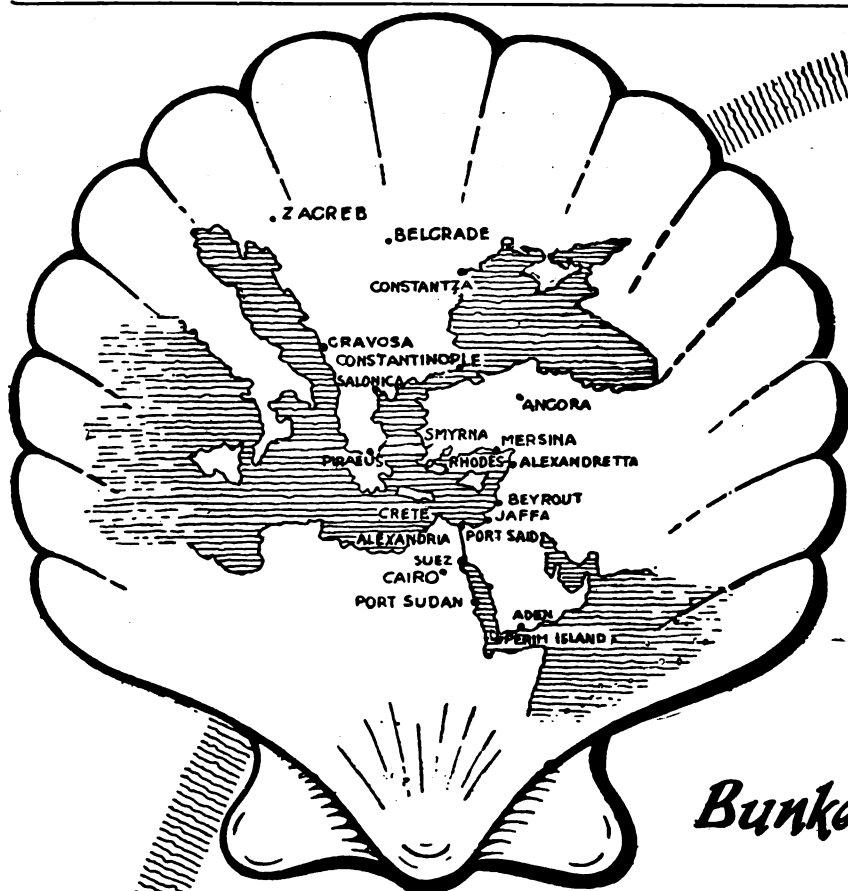
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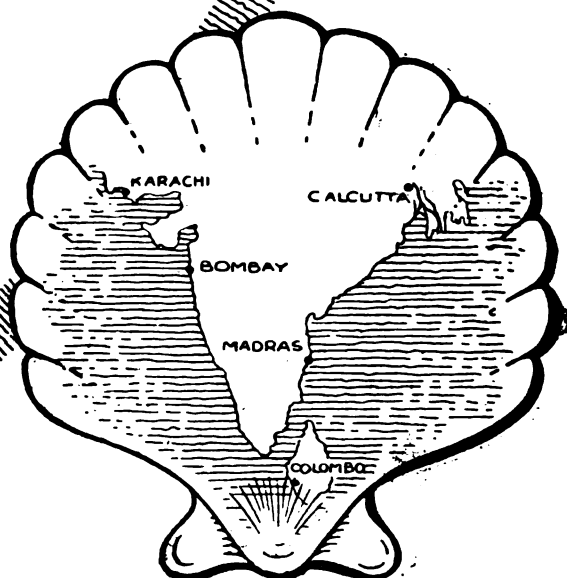
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

New Greek Ships.

Like Yugoslavia, Greece is now concentrating on the question of the development of her ports and mercantile marine. An important series of works is now being carried out at the Piræus, where, among other things, a new harbour is being developed at St. George's Bay. These developments are designed to make the Piræus a fitting port for the increased trade that awaits Greece in the new era on the threshold of which she now seems to be. As recorded recently in these columns, Yugoslavia has added a number of important vessels to her mercantile marine, and Greece is now to follow her example by giving contracts in the near future for a number of new ships. Greece's mercantile marine has always played an important part in the Mediterranean trade, but its weakness, as I have pointed out, has lain in the fact that a large proportion of the ships are old, the average age of the fleet being over twenty years. The orders now to be placed are intended to remedy this state of affairs, and if Greece adheres to her usual practice of coming to this country for her ships it will mean substantial and much-needed business for British shipyards.

Improving Conditions in the Balkans.

It is a poor summer that brings no one any good, and while the close of the best summer since 1921 finds Great Britain with a higher Bank rate and a rather uncertain outlook, some of the Balkan countries have every reason to congratulate themselves and to look forward to the next twelve months with almost whole-hearted optimism. The different outlook in these cases arises, of course, from the fact that we are wholly an industrial country while they depend on the soil for success, and this year Nature has happily been in a most beneficent mood. A year ago Yugoslavia and Roumania both had good harvests with the exception of maize, but the exception in both cases happened to be an all-important factor, while the surplus of wheat was not of the use that it should have been, because wheat harvests throughout the world were splendid and prices fell. This year both countries have had a good maize and wheat harvest, and as the wheat situation is believed to have altered though at the moment prices are low, both these crops should ultimately contribute their due yield to the export trade, improving the financial position of the countries concerned, increasing purchasing power, and last, but not least, strengthening the position of the dictatorship in the one and the Maniu Administration in the other country. If the forecasts of succeeding summers are borne out it may well prove that 1929 was the turning point in Balkan reconstruction since the War. The fact that the Balkan markets have lacked purchasing power has been an important contributing factor to the world trade depression, and if henceforward they are able to resume something of their normal trade the consequences will be all-important to their country and to the world in general. The change that may be effected by one harvest may be illustrated by a few figures. Yugoslavia's exports of maize in 1925 were valued at 2,000,000,000 dinars, but last year there was an excess of imports over exports of 180,000,000 dinars. This year it is estimated that the exports of maize will amount in value to 2,000,000,000 dinars, and when to that is added the wheat that is available for export consisting of 75,000 trucks, a third of which represents the unsold surplus of

the previous year, the change that may take place in the situation will readily be realised.

Sudan Trade Figures.

The trade of the Sudan for the first half of this year has not quite fulfilled the promise of the early months, the increase on the same period of the previous year being £E1,489,382, as compared with one of £E1,676,198 for the first five months and one of £E1,538,128 for the first four months. Still, the figures are quite satisfactory as they stand, and indicate very plainly the economic progress which is being made in the Sudan. It is worth recalling that only a few years ago it was a matter of considerable interest whether the country's trade for the year would amount to ten million pounds, but now that amount is almost reached in six months, the total for the period under review being £E9,329,802. All the chief categories show increases for the six months, the principal one being, of course, in respect of exports, which are £E1,248,342 up at £E5,765,493. Cotton was responsible for 84 per cent. of this amount, the exports of ginned cotton amounting in value to £E4,491,100, as against £E3,257,613 for the previous year, and those of cotton seed to £E354,710, as against £E316,698. These excellent figures invest with special interest the report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, which will be forthcoming in a few weeks' time. Imports at £E3,223,163 show an increase of £E168,300, public imports totalling £E2,184,288, an increase of £E123,020. A significant factor in the increase in public imports was the development of the trade in cotton piece-goods, the imports amounting to £E670,198, an increase of £E125,943 or 23.1 per cent. on the figures for the previous year. This speaks eloquently of the improvement in general conditions in the Sudan.

Imperial Airways.

Sir Eric Geddes was able to give a most encouraging survey of the progress made in the establishment of public air services at last week's meeting of Imperial Airways. There was an increase of 29½ per cent. in the traffic revenue on the European services, and in the three years from March 31, 1926, the turnover of these services has more than doubled. Then the traffic revenue on the Cairo-Baghdad-Basrah service, which now forms a section of the England-India route, increased by 48 per cent. On the

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**FEBRUARY
17TH-28TH
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European services the mileage flown was 94 per cent. above the minimum required to earn the subsidy, while the non-subsidised flying in Palestine and Iraq totalled 12,500 miles, or not far short of double the figures for the previous year. During the year the company's aircraft flew 1,032,842 miles, 34,757 passengers and 873 tons of baggage being carried. Dealing with the question of the subsidy, Sir Eric Geddes said that the position has been reached when aircraft can be flown without subsidy to yield a gross profit, and he explained that by gross profit he meant provided that it was not debited with full obsolescence and overhead charges. The company has ten years by its main agreement in which to reach commercial independence, and it is impossible to doubt, in view of the increasing use now being made in business of air facilities, that that goal will not be readily achieved and probably in a shorter space of time than is now anticipated.

New Air Routes.

The question of new routes was discussed in detail by Sir Eric Geddes. The company has been criticised for not providing facilities for air travel in Great Britain, but in the present stage of flying it is over long distances and in sparsely populated areas that the aeroplane is really useful. In this country communications have been brought to a very high pitch of efficiency, and for a variety of reasons, among them weather conditions, it would present an unsatisfactory field for air services at present, but Sir Eric Geddes indicated that the possibility of services here in the future is being kept in sight. The company has now in view two main projects, both of outstanding importance both from the point of view of trade and of the development of Imperial communications. The first is the extension of the India service to Australia, and the second is for a service from Egypt to South Africa. The latter service, in which the company will have associated with it the Cobham-Blackburn Air Lines, Ltd., will, of course, serve Upper Egypt and the Sudan, and it is interesting to note that the northern half of the line, which will extend as far as Northern Tanganyika, is to be brought into operation about this time next year, while it is hoped that the southern half will be begun six months later.

COMMENTATOR.

THE ROUMANIAN MARKET.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended September 21:—

Grain.—Prices on grain markets in general continued on the "slump," and the reduced figures on this side became even more favourable to "bear" grain shippers, but at the same time caused almost a complete suspension of fresh and current transactions. It may also be mentioned that the shipment on spec. of a few fairly large parcels of barley tended to aggravate the situation. Freights continued very active and a large quantity of cargo was booked for Continental and U.K. destinations, especially for spot and September boats. As a matter of fact, the supply of September tonnage has continued to be under demand, and rates therefore were easily maintained at 16s. A considerable amount of chartering has been done for October and October-November loading, mainly for Continental ports, and up to 19s. Continent has been paid. Grain stocks at shipping centres are on the increase, and arrivals by rail, river and road are good.

Timber.—There is a better demand for tonnage at increased rates, shippers now offering for Greece £7 10s. to £7 15s.; Alexandria £8 5s.; Syria £9; Sicily £11; Western Mediterranean, including North African ports, £12; but ships are very difficult to find even at these advanced rates, and business continues to stagnate for the present.

Weather and Crops.—The temperature dropped further on Sunday the 15th instant when light rains fell in most parts of the country, measuring from 10 to 12 millimeters. There was a little further light rain in southern districts

on the 18th and 19th, but in general the week has been fine and dry with a gradually increasing temperature, yesterday and to-day having been quite warm. Some of the maize still requires further ripening, but the gathering is now in active progress in many districts, and will doubtless become general during the coming week. Very little ploughing for autumn sowings appears to have taken place so far in the Galatz and Braila districts, but in some parts of central Moldavia fairly considerable work has been done.

Sulina Bar.—As anticipated, the bar depth has been improved to 24 feet. The general conditions are reported to be good, and provided normally fine weather prevails it is hoped that this depth will be maintained. The minimum depth of water in the river has dropped to 23 ft. 6 in. at the 37½ milepost.

Constantza Grain.—This week about thirteen thousand tons arrived from the interior, and about 28,600 tons were shipped, mostly to the Continent, 1,200 tons going to Hull and Leith. At the time of writing four vessels are loading 26,000 tons, and eleven other steamers are expected to load over 36,000 tons mostly for Hamburg and the Weser. Nine vessels loaded over 29,000 tons petroleum products, and three took oil fuel for bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, September 14.—Business continues quiet and sunflower seed is the only commodity in which transactions of any importance have been concluded. About 3,000 tons of this seed are under loading, mostly for Rotterdam. Barley is being shipped in insignificant parcels only, and most of it is destined for Greece, a certain amount being transported to that country by rail. On the other hand, it is expected that there will be a considerable quantity of maize for export. In view of the dry weather experienced, it is expected that its condition will be good enough for shipment during the second half of October.



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to the Secretary

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SALT IN BULGARIA.

Hitherto salt has not been mined in Bulgaria. The local product has been obtained by evaporation of salt springs at Provadia, near Varna, and of sea-water at Anhialo and two other places near Bourgas. The Bulgarian Government has recently had the neighbourhood of Provadia prospected, with the result that a salt mine has been discovered. Not unnaturally the syndicate responsible for the exploitation of the salt springs set up a claim to the salt mine, but the fact that it was in debt to the Bank of Agriculture to the extent of twelve million leva has enabled the Government to come to a friendly arrangement on the subject. The State reserves to itself the right to work the salt mine, but undertakes to deliver 500 tons of salt annually to the Syndicate, which will continue to produce salt from the local springs. At the same time the Government makes itself responsible for the liquidation of the Syndicate's debt to the Bank of Agriculture. This arrangement will be subject to the approval of Parliament.

LAUNCHES IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

The Department of Overseas Trade publishes the following information, asking British firms that may be interested in the matter to forward copies of their catalogues to H.M. Consul-General, Bushire, for transmission to Captain Prior:—

H.M. Consul-General at Bushire has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade the following information which he has received from Captain C. G. Prior, I.A., Political Agent, Bahrein:

"A very fine launch built in Kuwait and provided with a 60-65 h.p. Kelvin engine by Khalil Kanoo, made its appearance here and attracted a great deal of attention.

"I examined the launch, and noticed that it was lit by electricity, which is, in itself, an innovation, but the electric generating set, without battery, was of American origin. I would be glad if you would put me into touch, via the Department of Overseas Trade, with makers of such generating sets in England, so that I may recommend their use in launches in preference to those of American manufacture. The launch engine market is at present entirely British, and it is our duty to see that it remains so.

"Further, the installation of electric light in Bahrein is going to give rise to a large market for electrical accessories, lamp fittings, small machines driven by electricity, etc., and I should like to have full particulars of firms that deal in such articles, with catalogues, so that I can introduce them to appropriate firms, etc. This should be done as soon as possible or they will look elsewhere for their supply, and once they have become accustomed to placing orders elsewhere they will turn less readily to the United Kingdom."

The Turkish Government has denounced the existing commercial treaty with Austria as from February 12 next.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal Company from September 14 to 20 amounted to 22,210,000 francs.

A NEW DUNLOP TYRE.

The feature of the Dunlop programme for the season which began on October 1 is the introduction of a new Dunlop tyre. It is known as the Dunlop Clipper, and it has an effective non-skid tread and buttressed walls. "This new tyre," said a Dunlop official in an interview, "has been produced for the motorist and motor cyclist who want at a cheap price a tyre that is not 'cheap' in quality. For the motorist we are making it in a range of popular sizes in the wired, straight side high pressure, and beaded edge high pressure types, for which the prices will range from £1 3s. 6d. for a 26 x 3.50 wired type cover to £1 7s. 3d. for a 710 x 90 beaded edge cover. It is also being made in a selection of popular sizes for the motor cyclist at prices ranging from 18s. for a 24 x 2½ sized cover to £1 4s. for a 26 x 3.25 cover." No changes are announced in the prices of Dunlop car, giant and motor cycle tyres. There are general reductions in the prices of solid tyres and a few minor changes in the prices of cycle tyres. A number of reductions are also made in the prices of accessories.

SUDAN GUM ARABIC SHORTAGE.

Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, in their report for August, state:—

Arrivals in Kordofan stations amounted during August to 80 tons, a large proportion of which was rain-damaged gum, as against 324 tons last year—a shortage of 244 tons or 75 per cent. This year's August arrivals are by far the smallest recorded for that month over the series of years from 1923 to 1928, during which period arrivals in August were from 3 to 12 times what they were this year. The shortage in Kordofan and Tendelti this season to date, as against last season, totals about 5,150 tons; with the shortage of inferior Hashab estimated at about 2,000 tons, the total shortage in Hashab gums as against last season would amount to date to about 7,150 tons.

El Obeid prices for gum free from rain damage have gone still higher during the month, having reached about 9s. per cwt. more than the closing price of July 31, but, as already pointed out, such small parcels of gum as were obtainable outside the auction markets sold at considerable premiums over the El Obeid price.

Demand has been relatively good for this time of the year; in fact, more orders were received than could be filled on a market which is, practically speaking, so bare of goods: arrivals, on the one hand, being altogether insignificant, and, on the other, stocks non-existent.

Talha.—Prices have gone up 5s. 3d. per cwt. during the month.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Britannia for Bombay (Glasgow, September 28; Manchester, October 4; Birkenhead, October 5). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 8); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Glasgow, October 10; Swansea, October 17; Birkenhead, October 22).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 9).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 19); s.s. Domala for Bombay (London, November 2).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bosnia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Glasgow, October 15; Swansea, October 17; and Liverpool, October 19); s.s. Brescia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, and Gruz, if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, October 26; Swansea, October 29).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 5); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 10).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, October 11); s.s. Nagoya for Calcutta (London, October 11).

Prince Line.—S.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, October 12).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Volturro for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa* (October 10); s.s. Oporto for Algiers*, Oran*, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 12; Swansea*, October 12); s.s. Algerian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, October 12; Swansea, October 17); s.s. Lesbian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 2; Swansea*, November 2).

*Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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LARGE STEAMSHIPS, UPPER DECK CABINS.

MODERATE FARES.

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Passenger sailing dates:—

BRITANNIA ...	Oct. 11	ELYSIA ...	Nov. 12
CALIFORNIA ...	Oct. 22	CIRCISSIA ...	Nov. 26

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan
‡First and Third class passengers.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA. 17,000 TONS, carrying FIRST-CLASS and THIRD CABIN passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL, Oct. 22, MARSEILLES, Oct. 28. All 1st class staterooms are fitted with Punka Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd cabin accommodation.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, October 1.

The Stock Exchange has passed an eventful week, the developments in connexion with the Hatry affair and the methods of dealing with the situation adopted by the Committee of the Stock Exchange and the raising of Bank Rate on Thursday to the highest figure touched since the spring of 1921, being of sufficient importance to the public generally to occupy considerable space in the news pages of the daily Press. Only one failure on the Stock Exchange was announced during the week, and the fortnightly settlement passed without the disclosure of further difficulties, but settlement in the Hatry group of securities has been postponed until October 24. The rise in Bank Rate, which on this occasion is entirely unconnected with happenings on the Stock Exchange and was dictated by international monetary events, had been fairly generally anticipated and discounted in advance, and the effect on prices was comparatively small. The ending of the period of suspense, which has hung over markets for so long is, indeed, welcomed.

Bank Rate.

In accordance with general anticipations the Bank of England has at last found it impossible to avoid raising the Bank Rate from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the highest level for eight years. In a sense, the decision has been welcomed as ending, at least for a time, the suspense which has so depressed dealings recently. Financial circles, nevertheless, as well as industrial, regret the necessity of adding to the burden on trade, but many of the statements attributed to various industrial associations, which have been echoed in some sections of the daily Press, greatly exaggerate the adverse effects which the rise is likely to cause. It should be remembered that, broadly speaking, it is only on that portion of a business's total capital resources which is borrowed from a bank that the additional interest will be payable. Moreover, the rise is after all only one per cent. per annum. The ration of turnover to capital varies greatly, of course, from business to business, but if for the sake of argument we assume that capital is turned over four times a year, the difference made by a rise in interest costs of one per cent.—even if it were on the whole of the capital—would be only $5s$.

per £100 of turnover. Even this increase is regrettable, but clearly it would not be sufficient in itself to form a vital handicap to trade. The species of economic defeatism reflected in the statements referred to is a far more serious hindrance to the continuance of the recovery in British trade, which the advance of February last has not hindered, than is the further increase in borrowing costs.

Hatry Developments.

The crisis arising from the collapse of the Hatry group of companies has proved to be less serious and less widespread than was at first feared. It is true that the losses caused must be considerable, and must take some time to estimate, but, in the main, they will fall on shoulders well able to bear them, though one or two provincial corporation will also be affected. The fortnightly settlement on the London Stock Exchange passed with only one default, but it must be remembered that settlement in the shares principally affected has been postponed for a month. Holders of some of these must expect to face a substantial "paper" loss, for the securities had been up to quite unwarranted prices. The decline in others, however, should be quite short lived. Among those of particular interest to ordinary investors, is the Drapery Trust, in whose ordinary shares dealings have again been permitted, while those in the preference are now suspended. The concern, it is true, is owed £60,000 by Austin Friars Trust, but this is not a large sum in relation to its total resources. Recent events cannot, of course, affect the earning power of its constituent businesses, which is the factor ultimately determining the value of its shares.

Breweries and the Licensing Commission.

The full list of the appointments to the Royal Commission on Licensing, on which the brewers are represented, was published this week, and presumably the Commission will commence its investigations in the near future. In view of its wide terms of reference, however, it must necessarily be a considerable time before its conclusions can be made known, but shareholders in brewery companies should not be in a hurry to sell their shares upon fears of a report adverse to their interests. It is, perhaps, rather cynical to suggest that in the past similar reports have been somewhat inconclusive, but if in the future public opinion is this country does become unfavourable to the breweries, fair compensation for any restrictions may be expected. Nevertheless, on a long view political considerations must make the ordinary shares in these concerns somewhat speculative, but well-secured prior charge securities are available giving satisfactory returns. Recent experience suggests, however, that the bigger companies are, in general, the best for the ordinary investor, since these concerns have the resources for the improvement and rebuilding of premises which is now a feature of the industry. Bass 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares yield £6 1s. per cent., while Watney, Combe and Reid 5 per cent. cumulative first preference return £5 16s. per cent. On Meux 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares a return of £6 3s. per cent. is obtained.

The first hundred newly-enrolled police from Great Britain arrived in Palestine on September 17.

Seventy-six students left Teheran on September 15 for Europe, in accordance with the new educational policy of the Persian Government, which has just appointed 15 French teachers to Persian colleges.

From November 1 air-mail stamps valid for the air mails only will be issued through the Indian post offices, though their use will be optional and in addition to the blue air mail labels.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1 to September 14, 1929, were £10,275,000, of which £2,775,000 was remitted by means of purchase of sterling in India and £7,500,000 transferred from the Paper Currency Reserve in England to the Home Treasury.

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Regular Passenger and Freight Service from
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To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
PORT ELIZABETH, MOSSEL BAY, and CAPE TOWN.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
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To SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T.
Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn
& Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn
& Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.
Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson,
Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line,
Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co.,
Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros.
& Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

Crushed Stone.

Now that road making work is likely to be considerably in evidence, it might with advantage be pointed out to municipal and county engineers that in the opinion of many contractors and civil engineers the present method of designating sizes of crushed rock and gravel is far from satisfactory. A correspondent writes to call renewed attention to this, and says that occasionally one hears crushed rock referred to as $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch rock, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch rock, screened rock and so forth. It must be admitted that these expressions are terse and concise, but they are by no means definite or uniform, as $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch rock seems to mean any mixture in which all the aggregate parts will pass through a $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch ring, whereas what is undoubtedly meant is a collection of rock fragments none of which is bigger and very few any smaller than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The same remark applies to every other size so loosely mentioned, and whilst it is true that in broken rock of specified size there is not a great number of pieces considerably smaller, yet there might be, and there is, an appreciable proportion half an inch or an inch smaller, or a corresponding fraction of those amounts, as the case may be. Some commercial firms have their bins numbered and the product of the plant is referred to by the number of the bin from which it is taken. Such a number system has a significance to those acquainted with the particular plant to which it applies, but there is a lack of uniformity amongst plants, both as to screen sizes and as to the numbering of the bins, and the number system of one firm is not necessarily indicative of the products of others.

Furthermore, it does not provide for changes in screen sizes that may be made from time to time. In specifications, the customary way of expressing the size of crushed rock or gravel is by giving it the diameter of the largest and smallest stones in the mass, or rather the diameter of the holes of a screen which will just past the largest stones and the diameter of a screen which will just retain the smallest stones. The dimensions are given in inches and most frequently used fractions of an inch.

Dimensions expressed in this way are, it must be admitted, somewhat cumbersome, and every engineer will agree that it would be simpler to express them in decimals by substituting decimal fractions for the common fractions. If decimal fractions are substituted they should be carried only to the nearest tenth of an inch and the decimal point should be dropped. Two and a half inch size would then be 2.5 inch size, and could be most conveniently written and spoken of as the "25 size." In just the same way the one-inch stone would become the "10 size" and mixed stones ranging between these two sizes, with the sizes as limits would be known as "10-25" stone, the smallest size, for convenience, being given first. In practice the hyphen between the 10 and the 25 could also be dropped so that the size became known as the 1025. By this system mixed stone ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 2 inch would be known as 520 stone and crushed run stone which would pass a 2 inch screen would be known as 020 stone. Whilst these expressions have not quite the brevity of ordinary bin numbering, they have the advantage of fixing definitely the limits of sizes, and they are sufficiently brief

in order to allow of the same designation being used in conversation as in specifications. Readers might note, also, the simplification of specifications with this system as compared with the unavoidable ambiguity of ordinary specifications.

During the period in which the suggested new method of specifying was being introduced to engineers, architects, buyers, and users, a brief general clause would, of course, be required in specifications to define the system of measurement, and this, on each reference in specifications to the size of crushed stone, would be somewhat as follows: Proposed specification: "All material shall be 1525 crushed rock." Compare that with the present form of specification which, in such a case would read: "All material shall be crushed rock which shall pass a screen with circular openings two and a half inches ($2\frac{1}{2}$ in.) in diameter and shall be retained on a screen with circular openings one and a half inches ($1\frac{1}{2}$ in.) in diameter." At any rate, the idea is well worth thinking about.

Fen Drainage.

During the past week-end I was at a Wisbech meeting of the Municipal and County Engineers, and after hearing the well-written paper on the "Drainage of the Fens," read by Captain G. E. Matthews, engineer to the Ouse Drainage Board, in the County Hall at March, was able to run over to Mepal to inspect the fine new reinforced concrete bridge which is being built across the Bedford River by Mr. R. S. W. Perkins, surveyor to the Isle of Ely County Council. The paper was the complete history of the work of fen drainage, from the days of the Romans. Perkins' bridge—well, it is sufficient to say that it is certainly the last word in civil engineering work of the kind, and combining, as it does, a massive concrete road viaduct across the western approach to the river, with the handsome bridge, it will remain for all time as a testimony to the foresight and skill of the Isle of Ely C.C. and their engineer and surveyor. Later, at Wisbech, we gathered to hear Messrs. Matthews and Perkins read papers on "Municipal Work in the Borough of Wisbech" and "Notes on the Work of the Highways Department of the Isle of Ely C.C." respectively.

An Important Combine.

I am informed that negotiations are nearing completion whereby Ruston and Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln, manufacturers of excavating machinery, oil engines, boilers, pumps, etc., will join with the Bucyrus-Erie Co., of South Milwaukee, in the formation of a new company to be known as Ruston Bucyrus, Ltd., with works at Lincoln. The head office will also be at that place and all readers

THE EGYPTIAN HOTELS, LIMITED.

ISSUE OF NEW ORDINARY SHARES.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS hereby announce that pursuant to the Extraordinary Resolution of the Company dated 24th July, 1929:—

1. There will be offered on and after 1st October, 1929, for subscription by the Ordinary Shareholders of the Company 125,000 unissued Ordinary Shares in the Capital of the Company of £1 each in the proportion of one new Ordinary Share for every existing Ordinary Share of £1.
2. The price of each new Ordinary Share is fixed at £1.
3. The new Ordinary Shares will rank for dividend *pari passu* with the existing Ordinary Shares as from the 1st May, 1929.

Forms of Application and the Conditions of Issue of the New Ordinary Shares may be obtained from the Bankers to the Issue:—
 BARCLAYS BANK (DOMINION COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS),
 Cairo: Kasr-el-Nil;
 Alexandria: Rue Cherif Pasha;
 London: 29, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

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 86, Cross Street, Manchester.
 and FURNESS, WITTHY & CO., Ltd., Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.

interested in heavy plant of the types mentioned should write for details of the new class of business. The chief line and, I understand, the only line for the time being, will be the manufacture of excavating machinery. Both the parent firms are well known as makers of that type of appliances and Bucyrus-Erie are said to be the world's largest builders outside the British Empire. The contribution of Messrs. Ruston Horsby, Ltd., to Ruston-Bucyrus will be their excavating business, including the whole of their excavator works and organisation. Bucyrus Erie, Co., Ltd., will contribute an equivalent value in cash, and will transfer to the new company the whole of their interests in countries outside North and South America, Japan and China. I am informed officially that Mr. William W. Coleman, of Bucyrus-Erie Co., will be Chairman of the Board. Col. Ruston, who is Chairman of Ruston-Horsby, Ltd., is to be vice-Chairman and Mr. Victor Bone, who is at present director of works of Ruston-Horsby, Ltd., will be managing director of the new concern, which, I understand, will commence operations on January 1, 1930.

A Noteworthy British Contract.

Some interesting information is now available concerning a contract that has been signed by Dr. Wu Pak Liang, Commissioner of the Canton Municipal Waterworks, and the Mayor of Canton, Mr. Lam Wankoi, with the Jardine Engineering Corporation, Ltd., of Hong Kong for the installation of a "Paterson" rapid filtration plant at Canton, to deal with 10,000,000 gallons of water per 24 hours. The raw water will be taken from the Canton River at Tsang Poo, about 6 miles from the city of Canton, and pumped to the "Paterson" patent rapid sand filters, the installation in this connexion consisting of three electrically driven low-lift pumps each with a capacity of 5,000,000 gallons of water per 24 hours, one being a stand-by. There will be a battery of 16 of these sand filters, operated in conjunction with the "Chloronome" apparatus for the complete sterilisation of the water by means of a measured trace of chlorine gas, and the whole installation is on the same general lines as the Shing Mun Valley scheme for the Hong Kong Corporation, and many others of course in the Far East. Also included, for example, is coagulent treatment by means of alumina with four very large sedimentation tanks, having a total capacity of 1,200,000 gallons, allowing three hours' settling before passing to the sand filters. The total cost of the whole equipment including the pumps, pipes, and other accessories, is approximately 2½ lakhs of Hong Kong dollars, the contract having been secured for Great Britain in the face of severe foreign competition.

When the installation is completed the important city of Canton will have a water supply equal in efficiency to that of the largest cities in Europe, while the important city of Canton will have a water supply equal in efficiency to that of the largest cities in Europe, while it may be mentioned that Canton is making progress in many other directions, including for example, the introduction of a complete automatic telephone system. The general method of this scheme is to treat the raw water with lime and alumina coagulents, pass to settling tanks, and then to filter through rapid gravity sand filters constructed of ferro-concrete and filled with graded sand, through which the water circulates generally at the rate of 80 gallons per square foot of filtering surface per hour, being collected at the bottom by a large number of gun-metal nozzles. The clear water is then treated by the "Chloronome" apparatus, which as a rule adds continuously about one part of chlorine gas to 2,000,000 gallons of water, although the amount is varied, giving complete sterilisation without any trace of taste or smell, the great value of the chlorine gas being of course that it is always a 100 per cent. product irrespective of climatic conditions.

The Money Order service with Roumania was resumed on October 1. The service is limited to ordinary money orders. Telegraph money orders will not be accepted for the present. The limit of amount for a single order will be £20.

MOTOR SHOW PROSPECTS.

The first of London's autumn attractions will begin the week after next with the opening, the day after the Cesarewitch, of the Motor Show at Olympia. That this annual event will be an even greater attraction this year than ever cannot be doubted, for whether trade is depressed or is improving the ranks of motorists continue to increase, and it is probable that there is still a large reserve of purchasers in this country, while there is the large body of motorists who will be renewing their cars and will visit Olympia to see the latest developments of the manufacturers' art.

So much by way of information has been available as to the plans of firms that there is more certainty than usual regarding the lines of next season's models. A large number of small "sixes," and a further increase in straight "eights" may be looked for, and in both categories the value offered will be unsurpassed. There is also an all-round promise of improved details of the kind which car owners attach importance to and have long desired. First and foremost in this connexion may be noted improved oil cooling and filtering, and filtration of air for carburation, and automatic control of radiator temperature; details which means so much to the daily car user, who necessarily begrudges time required for de-carbonising and internal overhaul. Next there will be improved and more accessible ignition details. Battery and coil ignition, in many cases with automatic advance and retard, will be much more in evidence than hitherto. There has been a steady increase in this development since 1927, when the ratio of coil ignition to magneto ignition was 23 per cent., and rose to near 45½ per cent. at the last Show. Higher engine speeds, and a small increase of compression, and more efficient cooling are other details in the new season's engines. Assisted water circulation, which was as high as 67 per cent. at the last Show, may be looked for to have increased with the preponderance of new "sixes."

Poppet Valves.

A return to favour of the side valve engine seems assured, marking a lessening of last year's 48 per cent. of overhead valve layouts. This is traceable to improved combustion chambers and to the necessity of keeping down the overall length of cylinders and crank-case, while improving and increasing valve and port areas for the higher speeds now required.

Improved carburation and fuel feed may be looked for, the latter, however, to only a limited extent, the improvement being mainly concerned with filtering the air and silencing the suction, and in a few cases, combining induction of the air through the crankcase for cooling purposes. Dry sump lubrication is likely to find favour among more expensive models in keeping with its similar progress for marine motors and aircraft. Of detail refinements concerning engine controls, there will be some novelties, and a general improvement making for more comfortable driving, and simplification of details. A greater use of the steering post and interior of the steering wheel for grouped fittings will be seen, correspondingly reducing the number hitherto grouped on the dash panel. All round, the net result of these refinements and improvements of engines should reduce maintenance costs and increase the mileage between repair periods.

More accessible batteries will be shown and the trend seems generally towards eliminating the small series of

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AND ALL ENGINE ROOM STORES.

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wiring which owner-drivers have complained of in their cars' electrical equipment. Standardisation and a bulk output by a limited number of makers of electrical equipment, has contributed more than any other cause to the great improvement to be looked for in this necessary equipment. Standardisation, too, applied to the position of the clutch and other pedals, and the order of the gear changes, will be welcomed by owners. Though any marked departure from the unit type of combined engine and gear-box, or as regards the prevalent form of wet or dry plate clutch need not be anticipated, there is likely to be a further reversion to the side position of gear and brake levers.

Free Wheels and Four Speeds.

Four speed gear-boxes are firmly established in favour among British motorists. Free wheels, too, may be looked for, their development in other directions having provided a useful stimulus to a wider interest in them. It seems that the chief surprise in car construction will centre in transmission details rather than in engines or other components, with the possible exception of suspension. Independently sprung wheels and front drives may be allied in this connexion that the development of both seems to be mutually dependent. It is along these and other lines involving increased manufacturing cost that the promised development will centre, mainly in the higher priced cars.

Improved brakes and brake adjustment will be an important feature of next season's cars. A larger use of hydraulic power is being demonstrated, and there has been a general overhauling of the means of adjusting brake shoes and the tension controls. Developments in vacuum-servo control may be looked for, since it is known that practical research has been busy on developments tending to reduce the already small amount of physical effort in driving even the largest cars. Steering layouts are much improved, in fact, some cars which steer too freely have been made a trifle stiffer. The cam and roller form of steering gear has gained popularity and will be found on popular priced cars.

Lubrication by pressure injection has been improved, both in the simple "gun" form, and in the "one-shot" or centralised distribution system. About a half dozen systems are now extant, some being pedal or hand applied and others operated by vacuum in the induction manifold, or by exhaust or air pressure. Something like standardisation is being attained for these fittings, which correspondingly increases the range of their application to cheaper cars. Development of this sort aptly illustrates the attention of car makers to owner-drivers' interests.

All that concerns the appearance of cars will be found improved. The sliding roof will be featured, thus preserving the popularity of the closed body while improving the attraction of the convertible car at will. The suppression of exhaust and oil fumes from car interiors, and exclusion of floor draughts from the driving quarters; a marked increase of unsplinterable glass for screens and body lights; shock absorbers and fenders; increased use of wire wheels—this item advanced from less than 38 per cent. at the Show for 1927 to 42 per cent. at the last Show—and chromium plating, are details which will be mostly standard in the next season's cars.

Superb Coachwork.

Some specially attractive types of body may be looked for in popular priced cars; makers this year seeming to concentrate on body refinements and improved details more than ever before. The result will be found in a larger use of pneumatic and detachable upholstery, adjustable seats of the bucket type, and bright and untarnishable interior fittings. There promises to be a larger use of plywood for certain types of body, combined with improved grades of fabric for panels. This construction will be one of the alternative means for preventing drumming and providing increased body girth and internal comfort without any increase of weight.

In accessories there promises to be a corresponding trend of improved finish and an increase of utility fittings. In this group may be noted fuel economisers, improved screen wipers, ventilators, air stranglers, and head lamp controls by electric or pneumatic devices, hydraulic jacks of the compact telescoping type, and new lines in oil and carburettor air filters and oil coolers and cleansers, radiators, thermostats or temperature controllers, and a larger use of both chromium treated fittings, and others cast in one or other of the new copper-nickel aluminium alloys, which are both non-rusting and untarnishable. In short, next season's cars, especially those in the popular categories, promise to be an unprecedented combination of elegance and comfort, designed for a low cost and easy up-keep, and fitted on lines which have been made possible by the big increase of motoring.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN THE SUDAN.

In 1928 experiments in tobacco growing were carried out by the Agricultural Department on Government Experimental Farms at Gendutta in Berber Province and at Shambat in Khartoum Province. Four varieties of tobacco were grown in each of these stations, viz., two American—White Birley and Maryland—one Turkish, and one native. The White Birley was the most successful and the native variety was comparatively a failure. Due to inadequate and unsuitable facilities for drying and curing the leaves, the resultant product lost a great deal of its value. Samples of all four varieties were forwarded to the Imperial Institute, London, for examination, and a report and commercial valuation has just come to hand (says the August report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government).

It appears that the samples had been packed in too dry a condition, with the result that the leaves had become badly broken during transit. The colour was, on the whole, poor and variable, and the leaves were in every case weak, which defect, more particularly noticeable in the samples from Shambat, was due to excessive fermentation. The samples, apart from damage caused by unsatisfactory packing, showed defects which would render them of low value in the United Kingdom. These were (1) lack of body, (2) weakness, and (3) the presence of sand. It was pointed out that the lack of body could probably be remedied by proper cultivation, greater care in curing would yield a finished leaf of better strength and elasticity, whilst proper precautions would eliminate sand.

The report states that, taking everything into consideration, the Birley and Maryland leaf may be considered as promising, their burning properties satisfactory, and the flavour of fair quality and free from objectionable features. The Birley leaf approaches the American type more than the Maryland sample. It is probable that proper curing would improve the flavour. Judging from the ash analyses the soil does not appear to possess any features rendering it unsuitable for tobacco growing under proper management. The amounts of chlorides and sulphates in the ash are satisfactorily low, whilst the potash, without being high, is sufficient to produce satisfactory burning, though subsequent crops would no doubt be benefited by the application of a potash manure.

CABLE AND WIRELESS MERGER.

Cables and Wireless, Ltd., announce that the Certificates of "Assents" deposited at the close of business on the 25th ult. were as follows:—

	Percentage of total.
Eastern Telegraph Co., Ltd.	97.86
Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Co., Ltd.	98.02
Western Telegraph Co., Ltd.	98.15
Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd.	92.14

The 92.14 per cent. of the shares in Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Ltd., assented represents 80.5 of its nominal issued capital. Assents are still coming in. The company points out that to secure the benefit provided under the Act for the relief from capital duty amounting to approximately £40,000 it is necessary to obtain assents for 90 per cent. of the issued capital. For this purpose, only an additional £10,962 in Marconi shares is now required to be assented.

MICA AND ALL ELECTRICAL INSULATING MATERIALS

Contractors to the British, American, French
and Italian Admiralty and War Office.

ATTWATER & SONS, PRESTON, England

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 25:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Values in this contract have declined substantially since we last wrote, poor Alexandria reports and the liquidation of a large stale "bull" holding realising more contracts than the market could absorb without the level being seriously affected. The weak tone shown latterly by the overseas market is due to the crop making satisfactory progress and to the commencement of hedging operations. Speculators, in view of their disastrous experiences on the "long" side last season, are not risking a repetition, and whilst trade support is improving as values work lower, the volume of business from this quarter is as yet in no way adequate to counterbalance the weight of the approaching crop movement. It rather appears that this season's values of Sakel cotton are going to be freer from manipulative operations than they have been for some time; wide differences with other varieties in the past have forced spinners to experiment with satisfactory results, and the increasing weight of outside staple cottons is now beginning to be an important factor. Trade reports continue to be more satisfactory, but there is nothing yet in the situation to cause spinners to cover more than their near-by commitments; the general idea is that at a basis in the neighbourhood of 31 dollars in Alexandria and 15½ locally, a considerable expansion in business would develop. Liverpool/Alexandria differences have closed in slightly on the week, and we consider the tendency will continue as the marketing movement matures. In the local market near cotton has depreciated somewhat in comparison with later deliveries, November/January at one time widening to 28 points; they have since closed again to 18 points, and will probably move in an erratic manner until "straddle" contracts commence to be released.

Upper Contract.—This market has shown a somewhat heavy undertone since we last wrote, and with selling against actual meeting a limited offtake, values on the week show declines of 18 to 34 points. The trade demand for spot cotton has hardly been as consistent as latterly, and new crop business continues to be moderate. Crop reports continue to be favourable, and we learn from the other side that whilst perhaps this season's grade will be slightly off in comparison with last year, the staple is rather better.

Egyptian Spot.

The better tone has been maintained, and once again we are able to report that a good business has been done in spot Egyptians. Values have eased considerably during the week, but this fact has not prevented spinners from freely entering the market, and we suspect that there is more business doing up-country than is generally believed, at all events in certain lines. We would much like to be in a position to state that the inquiry has shown signs of a general broadening, but, with the exception of Sudan Sakel, interest in which cotton has shown a progressive increase of late, this is unfortunately not the case, and the daily demand has run for the most part on the usual stereotyped lines.

Sakel has been in fair request, chiefly for cotton at from 25 to 100 points on November contracts. Lower qualities have received a certain amount of attention at from 10.50d. to 15d. As usual, the top qualities have been rather neglected.

Uppers.—A good business has again taken place in cotton at from pass to 20 points on November contracts. The combing out process continues unabated, and cotton which a week ago would have been passed over, to-day finds eager buyers. The better, and the lower qualities, have been slow of sale.

Pilion has been in moderate request at from 12d. to 13d.

Nahda, White, and Maarad.—These growths have met with very little inquiry.

Sudan Sakel has been in improved request, particularly for the lower qualities, which compare very favourably indeed with anything that can be found in the Sakel market at the same price.

Tokar Sakel.—A little more interest has been shown in this cotton, but actual sales have been isolated.

C.i.f. business has again shown some improvement, but the proportion of new crop business put through has been small. Forwardings to the trade last week were returned as 7,325 bales Egyptians and 1,181 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales, 3,000 bales Egyptian and 1,450 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel show a decline of 80 points. Uppers are 40 to 50, and Pilion 40 points lower on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 16.05d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.30d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.35d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company report as follows for the week ended September 10:—Since our last report the futures market has again been very active, but the tone has been somewhat weak. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakel-laridis: November, 33.28 dollars, 0.52 dollars down; January, 33.69 dollars, 0.47 dollars down; March, 34.14 dollars, 0.46 dollars down; May, 34.43 dollars, 0.52 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 20.93 dollars, 0.44 dollars down; December, 21.33 dollars, 0.38 dollars down; February, 21.85 dollars, 0.37 dollars down; April, 22.24 dollars, 0.38 dollars down; June, 22.63 dollars, 0.32 dollars down.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN GREECE.

Hambros Bank, Ltd., give the following details of conditions in Greece in their current weekly market report:—

In order to stimulate private building and cope with the shortage of houses, special tax and rate remissions on varying scales for 25 years, 10 years, 8 years, and 4 years, according to the type of the building and the object, have been granted to owners of newly built houses. The Ministry of Finance have just issued a circular to the Custom House authorities according to which road making materials are to be imported free of any duty.

Imports of agricultural machinery, fertilisers, and seeds, etc., by co-operative agricultural associations are allowed to enter Greece free of any duty. Yarns which are used in the manufacture of carpets are subject to a special low tariff.

The total of silk cocoons (white and yellow) produced in Greece in 1928 reached 2,604,882 kilos, which, taken at a middle price of 47 drs. per kilo, represents a value of 122,429,454 drs. derived from this source of wealth. The total production for 1927 was 2,538,134 kilos.

The vine harvest is exceptionally good in most parts of the country. This has had a downward influence on the price of wines. Fresh grapes have been exported to Egypt and Italy (Trieste), Hungary, and other countries, and a good effort is being made to establish a regular business during the season.

Citrons are in abundant supply, and the crop is distinguished by its good quality. Tobacco prospects are very good, and the more optimistic estimates expect this year's crop to reach 75 million kilos.

A change has been notified in the rules of the Post Office Savings Bank. According to the new regulations, deposits of up to 500,000 drs. by individuals residing outside Greece are allowed, as against the 25,000 drs., which is the maximum figure for depositors residing within Greece. It is considered that this measure and the attractive rate of interest of 6 per cent. which savings bank depositors are paid will induce the inflow of emigrants' savings to Greece. Post Office Savings balances are invested in Greek loans or lent against security to Public or other Corporations.

An International Peace Congress composed of business men is to be held in Athens this month.

The exports of locust beans from Cyprus in August totalled 819 tons, reducing the stock of locust beans in the Island to 1,211 tons.

A new commercial treaty between Roumania and Czechoslovakia is in course of preparation.



THE LIVERPOOL COTTON EXCHANGE.

Liverpool Cotton Association

LIVERPOOL

The Greatest Spot Cotton Market in the World

MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION
OFFER FACILITIES FOR THE SALE,
PURCHASE AND FINANCE OF
EVERY GROWTH OF COTTON.

The World follows Liverpool Cotton Quotations daily.

GROWERS AND SHIPPERS SHOULD
SEND THEIR COTTON TO LIVERPOOL.

All information may be obtained from the Secretary

BANQUE MISR (S.A.E.)

Capital L.E. 1,000,000 (Fully Paid) - Reserve L.E. 564,419

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

Branches and Offices all over Egypt. Correspondents all over the World.

Affiliated Bank in France: Banque Misr (France), Paris, 103, Rue des Petits-Champs and 24, Place Vendôme.

The BANQUE MISR has the widest connection with Egyptians. For your trade with Egypt you need the services of a leading Bank; you need the services of our Bank.

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1839.

Capital Authorised	- - -	£1,000,000
Capital Paid up	- - -	£600,000
Reserve Fund	- - -	£250,000
Total Assets	- - -	£6,028,832

HEAD OFFICE:

25-31, MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

GREECE.

Central Office, Athens. 28 Branches and Agencies.

EGYPT.

Central Office, Alexandria. 10 Branches and Agencies.

CYPRUS.

Central Office, Nicosia. 4 Branches and Agencies.

Every form of International Banking Service.

THE BRITISH BANK FOR THE NEAR EAST

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

Head Office: 73-76, KING WILLIAM STREET
LONDON, E.C.4.

Branch — 11, CALEA VICTORIEI BUCAREST.

Directors:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.

C. De CERJAT, Esq.

SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.

General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.

Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO.

A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1865.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ...	£4,000,000	Paid-up Capital ...	£2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ...	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund ...	£3,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden	Calcutta	Columbo	Lahore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe	Uganda
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

Head Office — **SOFIA** — Founded in 1865

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, 522,000,000 leva

97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.
The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

Company Meetings.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS.

England-India Service.

Projected Extensions.

Sir Eric Geddes' Speech.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the members of Imperial Airways, Ltd, was held on September 25 at the Hotel Cecil, London, W.C. The Rt. Hon. Sir Eric Geddes, G.C.B., G.B.E., chairman of the company, presided.

The Secretary (Mr. S. A. Dismore) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in his speech moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—You will notice a further substantial improvement in the position of your company, both from the balance-sheet and the trading point of view. The profit for the year amounts to nearly £79,000, almost 10 per cent. improvement over last year. This is really better than may at first appear, as before arriving at the profit figure we have not only cleared the £6,043 outstanding inauguration and survey expenses appearing on our last balance-sheet, but we have also liquidated the whole of our development expenditure incurred in the year. The abnormal expenditure under these heads was approximately £12,000; also, owing to the incidence of payment of subsidy, these accounts contain £4,500 less under that head than in 1927-28, whereas we had on the other side abnormal credits of about £6,000.

Traffic and Operations.

When we met here last year I was able to tell you that the rate of traffic increase on your European services had exceeded our estimate. I am pleased to report a still further improvement, and traffic revenue for the year under review has increased by 29½ per cent. compared with the previous year. In fact, the turnover of the European services has more than doubled during the three years commencing March 31, 1926. In the Near East the results are also satisfactory, as the traffic revenue on your Cairo-Baghdad-Basrah service has increased by 48 per cent. compared with the previous year. The service is now a part of the England-India service, of which it forms an important link.

It is interesting to see how the actual services operated compare with our minimum obligation to the British Government. In Europe, in order to earn our subsidy, we are required to fly an annual minimum mileage. Actually we have flown in 1928-29 94 per cent. more than that minimum required, so that we have carried out nearly double the services required to earn our subsidy. I think that we can safely say, therefore, that the British taxpayer is getting value for the money he pays as subsidy. It is, of course, to our advantage to fly these extra miles so long as they can be run at a gross profit, and we do not do otherwise. This means that, step by step, we are getting nearer and nearer towards being independent of subsidies.

This non-subsidised flying is not confined to Europe, and your Near East service supplemented its revenue by flying 12,500 non-subsidised miles in Palestine and Iraq, compared with 6,700 miles in the previous year.

Statistics of Operations.

To sum up the statistics of your traffic and operations for the year, your aircraft have flown 1,032,842 miles, and 34,757 paying passengers and 873 tons of mail, freight, and excess luggage have been carried. Of the capacity provided, 74½ per cent. has been filled with paying traffic in Europe and 61 per cent. in the Near East, and of the services scheduled in Europe 92.85 per cent. were completed, although the weather conditions are probably less favourable for flying in Europe than anywhere else in the world. The regularity achieved on the services in the Near East was 99.37 per cent.—we lost our goal of 100 per cent. because severe dust storms prevented us from flying to schedule on certain sections on three occasions. We must, however, expect some fluctuations in our progress.

For the fourth year in succession your regular services were free from accident involving injury of any kind, and it is with the deepest regret and sympathy that I refer to this wonderful record being marred in the fifth year. No transportation company can expect to be entirely free from accidents, but anything that skill and forethought can do is devoted to upholding our really wonderful record of safety.

We have ordered eight of the largest aircraft ever built for regular commercial services. Those of you who may have seen the full-sized model of the cabin of this aircraft in the recent Exhibition at Olympia cannot fail to have been impressed by the greatly improved standard of comfort. Some of these planes are for your European services and some are for the India service. They will be fitted with four engines with a total of 2,000 horse-power and will be capable of carrying about 40 passengers in addition to the crew.

England-India Service.

I would like now to say a few words on the subject of your service between England and India and the projected development of it. Last year I outlined to you our scheme under the new agreement with the Government. This service was inaugurated at the end of

March, 1929, in accordance with the prearranged programme, and has been working with remarkable regularity since then.

Few people, I think, appreciate fully what this line has meant in the way of organisation. It is the longest organised air route in operation in the world, its length being almost 5,000 miles, 1,800 miles of which are operated by marine aircraft across the Mediterranean Sea. The service operates over 10 different countries, speaking seven or eight different languages and utilising nine different currencies.

Turning to the commercial side of this service, the traffic to which we look to produce our most profitable and constant source of revenue is mails, not only on this India route but elsewhere. While the growth of mail traffic on the India route is steady and continuous it is not increasing as rapidly as we had hoped. We cannot help feeling that, in spite of the substantial sums that we have been judiciously spending on advertising, and the generous support of the Press, the service is still not common knowledge to the general public, and I would urge every shareholder to use his or her personal endeavours to preach as well as practise the "Air Mail" habit.

As regards passenger traffic, it is in its infancy on the route from England to India, and we cannot pretend that we have *de luxe* accommodation. The provision of good ground accommodation for passengers is a problem which can only be solved progressively. At present it is frankly not luxurious, but until our night halting places are permanently fixed and the route finally selected, with security of tenure, it would be folly to sink our capital in buildings in the desert or down the Persian Gulf or through the African Equatorial forests.

At the present time our schedule for the service from London to Karachi is 7½ days. By gradual improvements in our ground organisation this time is going to be systematically diminished until, by perhaps another year or so, we hope to have a five-day schedule to Karachi, which, with satisfactory air connexions across India, will mean a little over six days for Calcutta to be reached. The more we are supported by the public the quicker we can attain this goal.

With regard to the extensions of this India service, it is the aim of the board to continue the line all the way to Australia, and in this connexion we have been negotiating with His Majesty's Government in India for the operation of a service between Karachi, Delhi, and Calcutta.

The negotiations with the Government of India were inconclusive so far as a permanent service is concerned. We have, however, offered to charter to that Government aircraft for a service between Karachi and Delhi, and possibly on to Calcutta, on a temporary basis for a period of two years, to connect with our England-India line, and we hope that this offer will be of service while the Government of India is shaping its civil aviation policy. The board is already in correspondence with the Government of Australia and the Home Government on the subject of the continuation of the line from India to Australia.

Egypt-South Africa.

Since I spoke to you last year your board has negotiated to its concluding stages an agreement with His Majesty's Government here, acting with the Governments of South Africa, Kenya and Uganda, Tanganyika, Sudan, and Rhodesia, for the operation of a service between Egypt and South Africa. This now awaits final ratification. In this venture we are fortunate in having associated with us the Cobham-Blackburn Air Lines, Ltd., and we shall have the benefit of the counsel and experience of Sir Alan Cobham and his colleagues, who, I am happy to say, will join the board of the subsidiary company which is to be formed to operate this section of the route.

It is planned that the northern half of this line, from Egypt to

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½
Athens	Drachms to £ ..	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.85½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.16½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32—½
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.87½
Busharest	Lei to £	813.6	817
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.81½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32—½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1,007½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85—9/16
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123.83
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	163 15/16
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.77
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	669½
Teheran	Krans to £	48	55½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.51
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 3/16—5/16

Lake Victoria Nyanza—serving Upper Egypt, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, and Northern Tanganyika—will be commenced, all being well, about this time next year, and the southern half as far as Cape Town is planned to commence about six months after the northern section.

Comparison with Foreign Countries.

It is well nigh impossible to find out how foreign companies are progressing financially. It is indeed difficult to compare the assistance in cash or kind which is given to foreign companies; for instance, in Germany the German company receives subsidies from the German Government and a number of municipalities separately. In America there are very few, if any, direct subsidies, but mail contracts are given on tender, and the service performed is not paid for in full by the user, but by the postal authorities, who operate air mails generally at a substantial loss.

In Great Britain we have a clear-cut subsidy, and the postal authorities retain a proportion of the air mail fees paid by the public for their own purposes. On the Indian air mail this works out as follows:—

	Per pound.	s.	d.
Post Office charge to public Air Mail charge and ordinary postage charge	21	3	
Post Office pay for Air Mail services and all charges throughout Croydon Aerodrome to Karachi	14	1	
Balance retained by Post Office	7	2	
This gives the following interesting result. The Post Office will			

deliver a letter by ordinary mail to India for 1½d., but to hand it to us at Croydon Aerodrome for conveying by air they keep 2½d. a letter.

I am making no grievance about this; we knew it before we started the service. The Post Office have made it clear that they will adjust the charges so as to make no profit as soon as the figures can be examined in the light of actual experience. We are really at their mercy, and I have every hope that in their own time they will be merciful to us. I merely mention the matter here to show the different methods which different countries have adopted in helping civil aviation.

In conclusion I would say that civil aviation has proved its reliability beyond doubt as the fastest means of transport in the world. We are, as a company, meeting our obligations to the Government fully and generously. We are flying nearly twice the mileage we are obliged to fly; we have been efficient in our management, courageous and enterprising in our extensions, and conservative in our finance; but the Empire is still far behind other great countries in its flying activities. Far greater financial assistance is given to civil flying by other nations than is given by our country, and yet, what a field for the quick development of civil aviation is offered by the British Empire! Quick communications develop trade. If for a comparatively small sum of money India can be brought 11 or 12 days nearer to us, South Africa eight days nearer to us, and Australia 16 days nearer to us, does anyone doubt that a rich harvest in increased trade will follow. I therefore urge the need of increased financial support for Imperial Airways, to enable it to extend and develop on its Imperial mission. (Cheers.)

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Sept. 30
Government Stocks.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	...	77½
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890	...	67½
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	...	85
Do. 3½ p.c. Ex. Trib. Bonds '94	...	79
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907	...	28½
Do. 7 p.c.	...	81½
Greek 5 p.c., 1881	...	69
Do. 5 p.c., 1884	...	68
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	...	53
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	...	68½
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	...	69
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902	...	57
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	...	59
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	...	72½
Do. 7 p.c., 1924	...	100½
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	...	86½
Palestine 5 p.c.	...	100½
Persia 5 p.c., 1911	...	83½
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext.	...	68½
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	...	45½
Do. 7 p.c.	...	73½
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	...	106
India 3½ p.c.	...	63½
Do. 3 p.c.	...	54½
Do. 5½ p.c.	...	99½
Do. 4½ p.c.	...	85½
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	...	19½
Banks.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt	...	7½
Bank of British West Africa	...	4½
Bank of Roumania	...	80
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf.	...	28½
Chartered Bank of India	...	19½
Eastern	...	6 13/16
Hambros	...	10 1/16
Ionian Bank	...	6 11/16
Imperial Bank of Persia	...	11½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	...	16
Lloyds	...	61
Mercantile Bank of India A	...	30½
Do. B	...	33
National Bank of Egypt	...	31½
National Bank of India	...	48½
Ottoman Bank	...	11½
P. and O. Bank Corporation	...	8½
Westminster	...	7½
Land.		
Kassala Cotton	...	8 9/16
Latifah (Iraq) Estates	...	5 9/16
Sudan Plantations	...	33 1/32
Mines.		
Balaghat Gold Mining	...	5½
Burma Corp.	...	18½
Champion Reef Gold	...	9 3/16
Mysore	...	12 6/16
Nundydroog	...	18½
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	...	8 6/16
OH.		
Anglo-Egyptian B.	...	217 3/32
Anglo-Persian Ord.	...	4½
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf.	...	25 9/16
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf.	...	28 6/16
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	...	97
Brit. Burmah	...	6 9/16
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	...	311 1/16
Do. 8½ Cum Prof.	...	26 9/16
Hamilton's Oil Concessions	...	3
Phoenix Oil and Transport (p.)	...	11 6/16
Do. (1/4)	...	7½
Shell Transport	...	4½
Steaua Romana	...	9 9/16
Railways.		
Assam-Bengal	...	93½
Bengal Doonars	...	182½
Bengal Nagpur	...	88½
Egypt Delta Light Rly.	...	43 1/16
Nizams Gtd.	...	262½
Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid)	...	42 6/16
Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb.	...	59
Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb.	...	58
Piraeus Athens and P. 1st Bds.	...	62
Southern Punjab	...	190
South Indian	...	115½
Rubber.		
Ceylon Para Rubber Ord.	...	8½
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	...	19½
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	...	1½
Hewagum Rubber Co.	...	15½
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	...	1 6/16
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	...	31 9/16
Shipping.		
Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf.	...	8½
Cunard	...	23 6/16
Furness Withy	...	37 6/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	...	1
P. and O. Deferred	...	56½
Tea.		
Assam Co.	...	40½
Bengal United Tea Ord.	...	15 1/16
Bramapootra	...	32½
British Indian Tea Ord.	...	2½
Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord.	...	11 1/16
Carolina	...	3½
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	...	5½
Consolidated Estates	...	2 15/16
Darjeeling Co.	...	3
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	...	2½
Doonars Tea Ord.	...	2 15/16
Dooloogram Tea	...	1½
Doom Dooma	...	3 13/16
East Assam	...	47 1/16
Empire of Ind.	...	2½
Haleam Tea	...	1½
Imperial Ind.	...	2½
Jhanzie Tea Association	...	2½
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	...	3 11/16
Jorehaut	...	2½
Lanka Plantations Ord.	...	2½
Lungla (Syhet) Tea Ord.	...	25 3/32
New Dimbula	...	7
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	...	6½
Neddeem	...	2 9/16
Ouvah	...	8½
Pabbojan	...	5½
Standard	...	5½
Scottish Assam	...	2 1/16
Scottish Tea and Lands	...	2 15/32
Upper Assam	...	2½
Insurance.		
General Accident Fire and Life (25, 21½ paid)	...	15½
London & Lancs (25, 21 paid)	...	28½
Royal Exchange (21)...	...	6½
Sun Fire £10 (22 paid)	...	39½
Miscellaneous.		
Alexandria Water Co.	...	14½
Associated Cotton Ginners	...	23 3/32
Dunlop Rubber	...	16 1/16
Egyptian Hotels	...	6½
Do. Markets Ord.	...	24½
Do. Salt and Soda	...	36½
Mortgare Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref.	...	8½
Oriental Telephone	...	60
Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord.	...	17 3/16
Waring & Gillow	...	25 3/16
INDIAN EXCHANGES.		
Government Loans.		
3½% Government Paper	...	68½
Banks		
Imperial Bank of India	...	1,383
Bank of India	...	100
Central Bank of India	...	19½
Coal.		
Baraboni	...	6 as
Bengal	...	480½
Burrakur	...	16 13/16
East Indian	...	27½
Equitable	...	40
Pench Valley	...	45½
Raneegunge	...	65
Standard	...	65
Cotton.		
Bengal Nagpur	...	36½
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	...	755
Bowreah	...	573
Buckingham and Carnatic	...	173
Cawnpore Textiles	...	327½
Century	...	456½
Central India	...	91
Elgin	...	83½
Khatau Makanji	...	337
Muir	...	161
New Ring	...	327½
Phoenix	...	416½
Svadeshi	...	416½
Jute.		
Alliance	...	567
Barnagore	...	296
Budge Budge	...	599
Clive	...	40½
Dalhousie	...	580
Delta	...	600
Fort Gloster	...	990
Gourepore	...	483½
Howrah	...	58½
Kamarhatti	...	678½
Kankannarah	...	550
Khardah	...	653½
Kinnison	...	1, 10
National	...	327 1/16
Standard	...	492½
Union	...	759
Miscellaneous		
British India Corporation	...	21
Bengal Paper Mills	...	21 1/16
Bengal Timber Trading	...	401
Burn and Co.	...	225
Cawnpore Sugar	...	362 1/16
Champaran Sugar	...	16½
Howrah Oil Mills	...	131
...	...	9½
ALEXANDRIA		
Prices on Sept. 28, supplied by G.L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	...	£7½
" " " " " " " "	...	£740
Alexandria Water Co. " " " "	...	£14½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	...	£23 3/32
Behera Ord.	...	£20 15/16
Ciments d'Egypte	...	Fr. 115
" " " " " " " "	...	" 17½
Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte	...	Fr. 2 5/16
Credit Foncier Egyptien	...	Fr. 883
" " " " " " " "	...	" 2,500
Crown Brewery Priv.	...	Fr. 140
Filature Nationale d'Egypte	...	£34
Frigorifique d'Egypte	...	£2½
Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des.	...	£15½
Land Bank of Egypt Actions	...	£16 9/16
" " " " " " " "	...	£228
Menzaleh Canal Navigation	...	Pt. 190

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	389	INDIAN NOTES ...	391	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLES—		Notes and News ...	405
Crucial Days for Egypt ...	392	Great Britain and Iraq ...	391	The Roumanian Market ...	409
SPECIAL LETTERS—		The Woman Movement in Iraq ...	400	Notes from Bulgaria ...	410
Egypt ...	393	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	399	Shipping Intelligence ...	410
Cyprus ...	394	BOOK REVIEWS ...	403	The Week's Finance ...	411
Turkey ...	394	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	402	Motors and Motoring ...	413
Bulgaria ...	395			The Syrian Textile Industry ...	415
Calcutta ...	396			Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	415

Notes of the Week.

Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud.

Alike in his resignation and throughout his tenure of office Mahmoud Pasha has set his countrymen an invaluable example of disinterestedness in the service of the State. In these democratic days it is not fashionable to eulogize the exercise of arbitrary power, but apart from embittered political opponents in Egypt no well-informed observer of Egyptian affairs has been found to challenge the value of Mahmoud Pasha's Premiership in his country's chequered history of the last decade. Until he took office, no refutation could be given of the confident assertion that honest and efficient government in Egypt was impossible without foreign stimulus. All that had been achieved previously in this direction was, rightly or wrongly, attributed to the part played by Great Britain in the country. Mahmoud Pasha's Government showed that a new element had come to the front in Egyptian politics, prepared to set store on just those things which are the essence of all progress in modern statecraft. The only charge that his enemies have been able to bring against the retiring Prime Minister is that he ruthlessly suppressed their liberty to foment disorder. As far as is known, not a single accusation has been levelled at him or at any of his Ministers that the "dictatorship" was used to further either personal or party interests. The work of the late Government in advancing the material welfare of the nation may have been of an obvious character; but the fact remains that no other Government during the last ten years was found able to take it in hand. Mahmoud Pasha would be the last person to pose as a super-Egyptian; his action in taking office, as in resigning it, was prompted by a desire to promote the interests of his country by convincing the world that Egypt was not to be judged by a handful of fanatical extremists, but could produce a sufficient number of reasonable men and enough administrative talent to justify her taking her place among the independent nations of the world. Egypt's prestige abroad stands much higher to-day than when the late Government took office; but with equal truth it must be admitted that it requires only a brief return to conditions which the "dictatorship" terminated to undo the good work done in this respect during the last fifteen months.

Egypt and the Treaty.

The formation of a Ministry by Adly Pasha with a view to holding a general election affords the best possible evidence that Egypt is resolved to profit by her experience, and that there is a reasonable prospect of a peaceful and dignified resumption of parliamentary government. It is noticeable that no one in the country appears to doubt the ability of the Wafd to obtain an overwhelming majority at the polls. Egypt, therefore, would seem to have some distance yet to travel before she can rid herself of the inferiority complex which has hitherto stood in the way of her independence. For, if the Egyptians constituted a normal electorate, the Wafd could make no appeal that would entitle it to such unquestioning support. Before July 1928 it was able to rally the country behind it by representing the British as the last and most deadly of Egypt's plagues. To-day the country is to be asked to endorse a treaty eliminating this plague, and the Wafd has lost its slogan. What has it to put in its place? Both its supporters and its opponents seem to think that there is no need for any substitute, that the electorate, having been forced to vote for the Wafd in the past, will continue to do so now. This view is not flattering to Egyptian intelligence; but those who hold it support it by pointing to the fact that between eighty and ninety per cent. of the Egyptian electorate is illiterate, that it is, therefore, incapable of forming political views of its own, and that it must needs answer to the crack of the political whip, as the fellaheen did to the lash of the *corvée* until Great Britain freed them from that particular tyranny. If this prove to be the case, when the elections are held in two months' time, it is not likely to remain so indefinitely. The spread of education must gradually alter the character of the electorate, and all parties will discover the need for a constructive programme. The indications of the last few days suggest that, if the Wafd comes into power in 1930, it will be different from the Wafd that held office in 1928. There is no reason to fear for the fate of the proposed treaty, and when the subject of Anglo-Egyptian relations has ceased to be the burning question of the day for Egypt, Egyptian politicians of whatever party will be compelled to live up to the standard of administration set by Mahmoud Pasha, which will

have been continued so long as a Government headed by Adly Pasha remains in office. Belief in the lasting value of Great Britain's work in Egypt suggests that neither the non-Wafdist parties need surrender themselves to despair at the coming election, nor foreigners view with unrelieved pessimism the possibility of a Wafd victory.

Changes in Yugoslavia.

As a definite step towards achieving unity in the Yugoslav Kingdom, King Alexander has decreed the division of the country into new administrative units. The former official designation, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes—a cumbersome title at best, which the country probably owed to Pashitch—is to be changed to that of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, which in itself suggests a homogeneity that seemed to be denied by the former insistence upon the three major divisions of the population. Yugoslavia, it may be recalled, comprises the seven territories of Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dalmatia, Croatia, Slovenia and the Voivodina, the latter embodying parts of Baranya, Batchka and the Banat. For administrative purposes, however the country was divided into thirty-three *oblasti* or counties, the whole administration being rigidly centralised in Belgrade. Under the new arrangement the country will be divided into nine administrative units to be known as *banovine*, each under a *Ban*, or Governor, with Belgrade, the capital, forming a separate administrative unit. The administration is to be decentralised by the conferring of wide powers upon the Governors, but it would appear that the intention is that the separate administrations should still remain under the control of the central Government. There will ultimately, however, be elected councils for each *banovina* and, although the funds for the provincial administrations will be provided mainly from the State Budget, a wider measure of autonomy than at present exists must result from the new system.

An Historical Revival.

King Alexander has gone to history for his nomenclature. The custom of giving the names of rivers to the territory through which they flow dates back to early Slav days, the modern Serbia having been known as Rashka, or the country of the Rash, and Montenegro as Zeta, from the small river of that name. Serbia maintained the tradition by having among her territorial divisions Moravska, Po-drinska, and Po-dunavaka, and King Alexander has now applied the system to the whole Kingdom. *Banus* is an ancient Slav title, which was retained by the Ban of Croatia under Hungarian jurisdiction, and Zhupan dates back to the earliest centuries of Serb his-

tory, Stephan Nemanya having been Veliki (Grand) Zhupan of Rashka. In other respects the reorganisation of the country into new administrative units is intended to be a break with the past, by the elimination of the old geographical titles of Serbia, Croatia, etc. In view of the keen territorial sense of the Serbs, in particular, and their great patriotic sentimentality, the changes are significant. All sections of the Yugoslavs are called upon by their Sovereign to merge their strong local attachments in a joint national patriotism, which will further the welding of the nation into a single and single-minded unit. The omission to link the public announcement of these administrative changes with some reference to a return to parliamentary government is bound to cause heart-burnings in the country. King Alexander, however, may well have decided that, if the purpose of the Dictatorship is not to be stultified, the more suitable method of procedure is to start the provincial councils first and from them to recreate a Parliament for the whole Kingdom.

Iraq's New High Commissioner.

There will, we imagine, be general pleasure at the appointment of Sir Francis Humphrys as High Commissioner of Iraq in succession to the late Sir Gilbert Clayton, for the record of Sir Francis in the East is one of which any Englishman would be proud. There is no need here to describe the dignity and efficiency with which he upheld British prestige in Kabul, to which he went as Minister in 1922: it is a matter of history. And the whole world knows of his gallantry at the critical time of the rebellion in Afghanistan, at the beginning of this year, when reputations were crumbling wholesale, and, as it must have seemed to the partisans of ex-King Amanullah, the foundations of life itself were falling. So worthy a character as Sir Francis showed himself to be possessed of at this historical moment could not long be left unused by the British Government, and Iraq is fortunate indeed in having so eminent a diplomatist to help her on to her goal of independence. Admittedly, far other qualities than those needed at Kabul will be required for Baghdad—though the bedrock virtue of patience is everywhere necessary in the East—but we doubt not that the new High Commissioner will duly exhibit them. For his brilliance is of the solid, not of the flashy, kind.

The Wailing Wall.

It is a matter for general congratulation that the ceremony at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem on the occasion of the Jewish New Year passed off without incident. The Palestine Administration appears to have made the sensible regulation of forbidding passage by the Wall to non-worshippers between certain hours on Jewish holidays. As yet, of course, it is too early to judge whether this arrangement will suffice to keep the peace at the Wall; the Day of Atonement, which falls on October 14, will, perhaps, afford a better criterion. But at last there is a fair indication that the new restriction will justify itself. At the moment, indeed, the whole attention of the Arabs seems to be concentrated upon the Commission of Inquiry, under Sir Walter Shaw, which is due to arrive in Palestine on October 24. Both Arabs and Jews have resolved on the presentation of their respective cases in the best possible light, and are engaging counsel for their purpose. In spite of this fact, however, the Commission is not to be envied its task in disentangling the truth from all the falsehoods and propaganda which have been gushed out in the last few weeks. In the meantime, it is the course of wisdom to refrain from making premature comment. As the Bishop in Jerusalem, speaking in London the other day, said: "There had been serious and constant provocation on the one side and inexcusable violence on the other." But to gain an indication of how sentiments are shaping themselves in Palestine after the grievous disturbances, it will be well to keep a keen eye on the Wailing Wall, the touchstone, so to speak, of Jewish claims in the Holy Land, and the spark which set going the recent conflagration.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

INDIAN NOTES.

Mr. Gandhi and the Congress.

The All-India Congress Committee, at their meeting at Lucknow last month, elected Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru President of the forthcoming Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress. Mr. Gandhi, although supported by a majority of the Provincial Congress Committees, definitely refused to accept office. He recommended that the honour be conferred upon Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and the Congress Committee acted upon his recommendation. Judging by the Indian newspapers, there seems to have been a general feeling of surprise at Mr. Gandhi's refusal; and efforts were made to persuade him to reconsider his decision. But he stood fast, expressing the opinion that he is unfit for the Presidency. He complains that he is out of touch with the younger politicians. "There is," he says "a hiatus between the younger generation and me. I feel a back-number in their company." Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is one of the younger generation, and he holds extreme opinions. He definitely advocates independence, having no use for the British connexion. Mr. Gandhi does not go so far as this. He has, however, declared that he too will advocate independence if, by midnight on December 31, 1929, the British Government does not accede to the demands of the Nationalists as expressed in the Nehru report. In the result, therefore, there may not be any great difference between his attitude and that of the youthful Pandit. And it may be confidently anticipated that, in any case, the resolutions of the Lahore Congress will be of the most advanced type. But will anybody in India or elsewhere take any serious notice of them? We think not, for it is obvious that year by year the Congress is becoming less and less representative of the various races, creeds, and communities which make up the population of India.

An Impending Announcement.

Not only the Muslims but most of the other minorities are frankly dissatisfied with the Congress, which is becoming an almost entirely Hindu body. It has been largely supplanted by the new Legislative Councils in which the political life of the country is now really centred; and, as its influence wanes, it tends to become more extreme and more irresponsible. It has travelled a long way in that direction since the days when in its preliminary report the Indian National Union—as the Congress was originally styled—said that "the Union, so far as it has been constituted, appears to be absolutely unanimous in insisting that unswerving loyalty to the British Crown shall be the keynote of the institution . . . it holds the continued affiliation of India to Great Britain, at any rate for a period far exceeding the range of any practical political forecast, to be absolutely essential to the interests of our own national development." Meanwhile the rumour mentioned on several occasions recently by our Calcutta Correspondent as having enjoyed wide currency in India, that the British Government intends to make an important declaration of policy before the December meeting of the Congress, persists. According to the Diplomatic Correspondent of a morning contemporary Lord Irwin, who leaves London to-day on his return journey, has agreed with the Secretary of State and the Cabinet as to the form and general terms of the projected announcement. It is understood that the actual date of the issue of the statement will not be fixed until Lord Irwin has had an opportunity of considering the situation as it has developed during his absence, but that the announcement will be made in any case before the Lahore meeting of the Congress. Although speculation continues rife concerning the probable contents of this "momentous document," it may safely be said, we think, that it will do no more than indicate the procedure which the Government proposes to follow after the publication of the Simon Commission's report.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRAQ.

In his address at the Labour Party Conference at Brighton on October 2, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Foreign Secretary, devoted some attention to Iraq. He said, in explaining the decision of the Government to dispense with the provisos (of the present rate of progress in Iraq being maintained, and all going well in the interval) attached to the promise contained in the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of December, 1927, to support Iraq's candidature for admission to the League of Nations in 1932, that it was taken upon the advice of the late High Commissioner for Iraq.

It might be thought from this, perhaps, that a new policy had been decided upon for Iraq, that whereas her entrance into the League of Nations had hitherto been hedged about with all manner of vague conditions, now it was plain sailing for King Faisal's State. As a matter of historical fact, however, it is no new idea which the British Government has recently adopted: the justification for granting Iraq's claims to the League do not rest merely upon the advice of the late High Commissioner. For it is known that Sir Henry Dobbs, the predecessor of Sir Gilbert Clayton in Iraq, had advocated the recommendation of Iraq for membership of the League in 1928. In an article published in the *Empire Review* for September, Sir Henry himself has told the story of Anglo-Iraqi relations, and it is sufficiently clear from his essay that it was owing to no lack of arguments on his part that the entrance of Iraq into the League was postponed until 1932. This point is one very well worth remembering, particularly in view of the doubts occasionally expressed upon Iraq's fitness to govern herself; and there is little question that it will be fully remembered in the forthcoming discussions on the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty (the crux of the matter) which is to govern Iraq's entry into the League in 1932. That so experienced an administrator as Sir Henry Dobbs actually recommended such relaxation of formal British control four years before it is to be accomplished is a fact on which future historians will certainly seize, even if contemporary observers, who very largely are themselves participants in the making of the history of Iraq, are inclined sometimes to neglect it.

The popular assumption that the recommendation to end the Mandate for Iraq was a sudden departure from previous policy appears to have arisen from the almost simultaneous publication of the Report on Iraq for 1928 and of the Government's decision to end the Mandate in 1932. The inclusion of a certain passage in that Report, entitled *Al Wadha' Al Shadh*, was widely regarded as an omen that Great Britain had at last recognised the difficulties to which the situation in Iraq in 1928 gave rise; and, the advice of the late High Commissioner on the sweeping-away of the proviso regarding the recommendation of Iraq for League membership being made public about the same time, the inference was drawn that the two matters—facts relating to "the perplexing predicament," and the advice to eliminate the proviso—were supplied to the British Government by the same man. There is, however, no justification in supposing that this chapter on *Al Wadha' Al Shadh* was subsequently interpolated into the Report for 1928. That passage was a somewhat unusual and very illuminating one, and it was, presumably, after a due weighing up of the facts narrated therein, that the British Government decided to cut the Gordian Knot, accelerate the speed with which Iraq was travelling to independence, and announce 1932 as the year of elimination of formal British control in Iraq.

The story of Iraq since the War is, indeed, a tangled skein. There was at times much groping after a workable policy, but such shortcomings as there were are to be set to the blame rather of the hesitations of the British Government than of the man on the spot. The more the period is studied, however, the more of a piece does it become, and the more apparent the debt which any particular High Commissioner owed to his predecessors.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1929.

CRUCIAL DAYS FOR EGYPT.

With the resignation of Mahmoud Pasha Egypt finds herself on the threshold of a crucial period in her history. For all that happens she is now responsible herself. In the old days there was always Great Britain who could be charged with thwarting her at every turn; for the last fifteen months the country—so the world has been asked to believe—has been suffering under a "Dictatorship," with Parliament suspended and the Press muzzled. To-day all that lies between her and the realisation, so far as Great Britain can arrange for it, of the complete independence that she has so long coveted is the short space of two months, the minimum period required for the holding of a general election. In the interval the administration will be in the hands of a Government of Elder Statesmen carrying the consent of the people as a whole. There has been no interference with the Electoral Law, and the elections will be held under conditions of the country's own making. The arena is cleared for the great event, and it would be hardly any exaggeration to say that the whole of the world is looking on. What will Egypt make of her opportunity? There will be many guesses and as many confident assertions. It is obvious, however, that she has not yet made up her own mind, and for this reason the moment is ripe for any dispassionate and objective analysis of the situation that may help the Egyptians to see themselves as others see them. In Egypt, as in other lands, the thing that matters—above the interests of persons or of parties—is the welfare of the country as a whole. If this goal is not lost sight of, the political vicissitudes through which the Egyptians pass may well be found to contribute in their own way to the general advancement of Egypt. It is impossible, for instance, for any dispassionate observer to believe, for all the violent denunciations that have been showered on the "Dictatorship," that Mahmoud Pasha's period of office has been for the country anything but a time of progress and salutary discipline. When asked to decry a Prime Minister for being a Dictator, the world looks for a man made of sterner stuff than one who not only negotiates a treaty that must be the death-warrant of his own dictatorship, but also shows by his resignation that the interests of his country, which he regards as indisputably linked up with the acceptance of the treaty, are more to him than dictatorial power or office. There can be no adequate appraising of Mahmoud Pasha's services to Egypt which does not take into consideration the situation in the country when he formed his Government. Of the liberty that is usually connoted by constitutionalism there was little or none; delegates to Parliament were dragooned by extremists, constituencies, local officials and the civil service by the delegates. Of legislation there was no end, but no heed was given to honest and efficient administration, and the development and progress of the land were deliberately relegated to the background. The youth of the country was taken from its studies, the peasant from his work and the merchant from his shop for the staging of political demonstrations that achieved no other purpose than to convey the impression that Egypt was a victim of chronic disorder. Into this state of affairs Mahmoud Pasha introduced, first of all, order; the people of the country were bidden to get on with their work and the Government proceeded with its

own. If severity was exercised, it was solely in the direction of preventing any recrudescence of disorder. For the rest, the Administration set out to do what had been left undone during the previous seven years; irrigation and drainage schemes were put in hand, hospitals built, swamps filled in, villages supplied with drinking water and sanitary dwellings erected for manual workers—a satisfactory enough record for any country in so short a time.

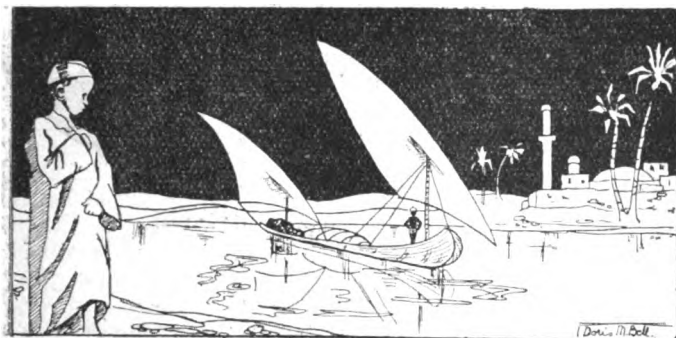
The fifteen months of Mahmoud Pasha's administration have removed from Egypt the charge that the country is incapable of efficient government, if left to itself. That result is no small asset with which to begin the era of complete independence. The pessimists will declare that Mahmoud Pasha's achievement was a mere flash in the pan, rendered possible by the support of "British bayonets." To this charge the Liberal Constitutionalists who supported the late régime have now no opportunity to reply, and the answer, it would seem, is to be left with the Wafd. In the general exchange of views among the Egyptian political leaders and between them and the King and the British Residency one thing, it would be thought, must have been made clear, that nowhere does there exist that unreasoning hostility to the Wafdists that they themselves have shown towards the man who has proved himself a genuine patriot, and, having obtained for Egypt a better treaty with Great Britain than has even been offered her before, steps aside to let others have the credit of accepting it. So long as the Wafd knew no other slogan than "Down with the British," its leaders will hardly have expected to make a favourable impression among those who have knowledge of Egyptian affairs in Great Britain, where a hard-and-fast line is jealously observed between purely party advantages and national interests. With the offer of a treaty a veil is drawn completely over the past, and the ground is cleared for a fresh start. It is for the Wafd to indicate what it wishes its relations with Great Britain to be in the future.

The potential attitude of the Wafd, however, is of greater interest to Egypt than to Great Britain. The worst development that the British Government can contemplate is that the proposed treaty, in the offer of which it has not carried the whole nation with it, should be rejected by Egypt. It runs no risk of having to grant "better" terms, because on the points that count its concessions have already gone down to bedrock. The rejection of the proffered treaty would be an embarrassing disillusionment for Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Cabinet, not, however, without its compensations from a political point of view. For Egypt far more is at stake. If the proposed treaty is accepted in the spirit in which it is offered, the question of Anglo-Egyptian relations will no longer figure as the main, if not the sole, pre-occupation of the Egyptian political world, and the country will be free to devote its attention to domestic politics. The proposed treaty, after all, is not the final word in Egyptian independence. It regulates the relations between Egypt and Great Britain, but the complete abolition of the capitulatory régime does not rest with the latter. Article XI. of the proposed terms states that His Britannic Majesty undertakes to use all his influence with the Powers possessing capitulatory rights in Egypt to obtain, in conditions that will safeguard the legitimate interests of foreigners, the transfer to the Mixed Tribunals of the jurisdiction of the existing Consular Courts, and the application of Egyptian legislation to foreigners. It must be obvious to the Wafd politicians, if they will allow themselves to reflect on the subject, that the attitude of the other Capitulatory Powers must be influenced by Egypt's own conception of its responsibilities. If foreign Governments are to judge the Egypt of the future by the record of the last Wafd régime, they will be impressed, not by the multiplicity of laws rushed through the legislature, but by a few outstanding features; they will picture Egypt at the mercy of student demonstrations and street mobs, or they will recall the verdict of the Egyptian majority of judges

(Continued on page 404.)

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, September 28.

Finding a Way Out.

The situation to-day is practically unchanged from what it was when I wrote last week. Wassef Ghali Pasha is still trying, on instructions from the King, to bring the Wafd into line with the other parties; Nahas Pasha has lunched at the Residency where there was no political talk; he was received to-day by the King, but has so far not sought an official interview with the High Commissioner; Adly Pasha, having found a Coalition impossible, has returned here from Alexandria; and the Treaty, or rather the political *impasse* created by the Treaty, is still everywhere the topic of the hour. So far no one seems to be able to find a way out of the present difficulty and all eyes are turned towards London, whence, as a result of the Cabinet meeting held last Wednesday, it is generally believed a decisive announcement will be made during the next few days.

San Stefano Casino.

Never before has such a situation been witnessed as that which has existed during the past week at the Casino Hotel, San Stefano, where have been congregated the leaders of all the political parties, the members of the Cabinet as well as the leading British members of the Government and of the Residency. These have, in fact, included the Premier and the Ministers for War, Justice and Communications; the Acting Financial Adviser and the Oriental Secretary at the Residency; 'Nahas Pasha and his committee, including Makram Ebeid, Nokrash, Sinnot Hanna, and Ahmed Maher; Hafez Ramadan Bey, the head of *Hisb El Watani*; and Yehia Ibrahim Pasha, President of the *Ittihad* party and Ahmed Maher Pasha, its Vice-President, who is also Minister of Finance in the present Cabinet. Each faction is accommodated in a different wing or on a different floor and, in the case of the Egyptian element, the particular portion of the hotel where they live is all day long frequented by their adherents.

All except the Wafd have accepted the situation good humouredly and observe the amenities of society, saluting when they meet and even conversing from time to time. But, as usual, the Wafd is showing itself childish in the extreme, for its leader moves about with a small retinue just as Zaghloul did, and pays not the slightest attention to any who are not of his party, passes along, in fact, as if they did not exist. It is only natural that time and again amusing *contretemps* arise in consequence of this attitude and the other guests derive intense entertainment at watching this moving round in circles. The situation

has been eased somewhat during the past day or two by the departure of some of the political leaders, but the Wafd leader and his satellites still constitute the centre of interest for those who frequent the hotel and Casino.

The Fleet.

This is the time of year when the Mediterranean Fleet pays, in the course of its autumn manœuvres, a visit to Alexandria, and active preparations are in progress to provide fitting entertainment for the officers and men. Already five ships are in harbour—H.M.S. Ceres, flying the pennant of Rear-Admiral Davies, C.B.E.; H.M.S. Caledon, H.M.S. Courageous, H.M.S. Veteran, and H.M.S. Wanderer. A fine show was organised this evening at the Belvedere, where some three hundred warrant officers and men were entertained by the R.A.F. concert parties from Aboukir, which provided one of the best programmes heard here for some time. Afterwards there was dancing, for which the band of the R.A.F. supplied the music. Similar entertainments as well as boxing competitions, football matches, and so on, will be organised during the next three weeks, the period during which the fleet visits the port, culminating in a banquet by the British community on October 14 at the San Stefano Casino to the Commander-in-Chief Admiral Fields. Visits of courtesy have been exchanged between the Rear-Admiral and the Government. A dinner was given in his honour by Sir Percy Loraine at the Residency, to which the Prime Minister and the Minister of War were invited, and on Thursday evening Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud gave an banquet at San Stefano to the Rear-Admiral, at which Sir Percy Loraine was the principal guest. It is long since the High Commissioner has attended entertainments of this description, the reason being that it is the first time since 1919 that he has been in this country during the early autumn. Usually both Lord Allenby and Lord Lloyd had not returned by this time from their summer leave, and it fell to the Acting High Commissioner to represent them.

The British Garrison.

When the details of the proposed Treaty were first published, it was stated on very good authority that, as soon as it had been accepted by Egypt, action would be taken in regard to a reduction of the British garrison. It was asserted by those who should know that the War Office would not wait until steps had been taken to provide accommodation in the Canal Zone, but would immediately reduce the strength of the British Army in Egypt to 4,000 men, at which it had stood prior to the War. The events that have in the meantime occurred in Palestine should materially alter the views of the powers that be in this respect, or at any rate in respect of the military position in this corner of the Mediterranean. It is absolutely certain that, if the outburst in Palestine had occurred after the War Office had effected its contemplated reduction of the forces in Egypt, no assist-

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

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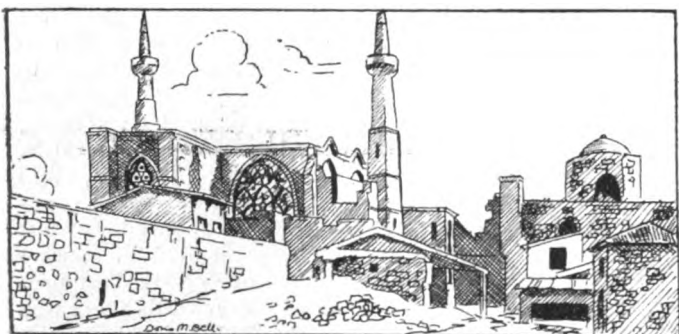
The salary offered is from £E900 to £E1,140 a year (about £922 to £1,168) according to qualifications, and the appointment will be on contract for three years.

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Applications, with copies of not more than three recent testimonials and giving the names of not more than three persons to whom reference may be made, should be addressed to The Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Cairo.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

ance could possibly have been sent from here, and so instead of reinforcements having been in Palestine within forty-eight hours of the first trouble— they could have been there within twenty-four hours if the call for assistance had gone out immediately—the Palestine authorities would have had to wait thirty-six hours, i.e., until the first ship could reach Jaffa from Malta, and the events which the first troops from Egypt just prevented at Jaffa, for instance, would have occurred.



CYPRUS.

Nicosia, September 24.

The Greek Deputation to London.

At a meeting convoked by the Archbishop, on September 15, it was decided that a telegram should be dispatched, by the Holy Synod and Greek members of the Legislative Council, to the Prime Minister, stating that, having regard to the words and lofty principles expressed by Mr. MacDonald at Geneva, before the League of Nations, regarding subject peoples, the Greek community of Cyprus trusts that they will be applied to Cyprus by the grant of Union with her mother country, Greece. Needless to say, the mission is still the principal topic of interest, and of articles in the Press. Many rumours are current, especially regarding a projected construction of a naval base at Famagusta.

The Mediterranean Squadron.

On September 13 *Courageous* and *Veteran* arrived at Famagusta, and, it is said, will remain till the 26th. At Larnaca Barham and *Calliope* are expected from October 1 to October 10. And Limassol will be visited by *Caledon* and perhaps other vessels.

Memorial to Greek Heroes.

The Greek Archbishop has requested M. S. Menardos, an Hellenic subject, and Professor at the Athens University, to compose a suitable inscription for the marble memorial which is being prepared at Athens, and is to be erected in Nicosia to the memory of Greeks killed in connexion with the war of 1821. Mr. Menardos was for some years Professor of Modern Greek at Oxford.

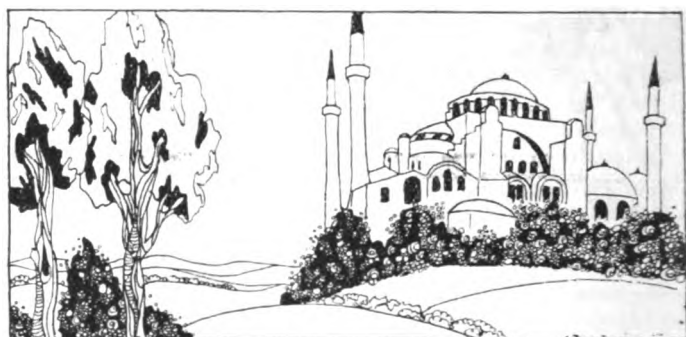
General News.

Not only Limassol, but the whole Island also, has suffered a real loss by the recent death of Mr. Evgenios Zeno. He was a much respected lawyer of Limassol, and for some years one of the most able members of the Legislative Council, representing the Districts of Limassol and Papho. Lately he suffered from ill-health, and

visited Vienna and Berlin for advice. His only son was called to the Bar in London a few years ago.

Reports regarding tobacco crops are favourable, the yields in the extreme east of the island are satisfactory and, it is said, of good quality.

Mr. B. Lucie Smith, Puisne Judge, will leave to take up an appointment in Trinidad.



TURKEY.

Constantinople, October 2.

Newspaper Libel Action.

For one reason or another, the bulk of the Turkish Press has been getting into hot water of late. The Editor of the *Aksham* ("Evening"), by skilful manœuvring in avoiding whirlpools, thus escaping the fate of his *confrères*, is now also in trouble, being sued for libel in the sum of 20,000 Turkish liras by a Dr. Behdjat Sabit Bey who, for some weeks past, has been experimenting with monkey glands on an elderly native ram, with a view to applying the Voronoff treatment to a score or so of Beys stricken with senile decay. The *Aksham* stated a few days ago that, probably owing to an overdose of monkey gland, the ram, since the treatment had been initiated, far from regaining its youthful sprightliness, had aged visibly and rapidly, until it had now degenerated into a decrepit and wizened old quadruped.

This piece of information appears to have so seriously alarmed the twenty odd gentlemen afflicted with senile decay, that they have unanimously declared their intention of keeping aloof from monkey glands lest they be overtaken by the alleged fate of the old ram. Dr. Sabit Bey rests his claim for damages—10,000 liras—on the damage occasioned to his professional reputation by the *Aksham's* misrepresentation of facts, and, for the balance of 10,000 liras, on the monetary loss involved in the disappearance of some twenty prospective patients, on a valuation of 500 liras per client.

The Turkish Magistrates who are called upon to decide the issue have reserved judgment, pending a reference of the technical part of the question to a veterinary surgeon, but whether for an expert opinion on the pathological history-sheet of the ram, or for a forecast on the probable effect of monkey glands on elderly gentlemen, it is not stated.

Greco-Turkish Relations.

There is still no relaxation to report in the political tension unhappily existing between Angora and Athens. The Greek Cabinet adheres to its determination to refer the whole matter to the League of Nations, and the Turkish Government unhesitatingly reject this suggestion, and take a firm stand on the integral execution of Treaty provisions as interpreted by the Mixed Commission of Exchange. Meanwhile, it is becoming evident that the Turkish Government will shortly resort to reprisals—which will take the form of a confiscation of Greek property in Constantinople, the proceeds of which, when disposed of by private treaty or by auction, will be distributed among Turkish claimants who, having immigrated from Greece, have left landed estate in that country which is now in the hands of the Greeks.

**HAIFA—BEIRUT—DAMASCUS—BAGHDAD
—TEHERAN**

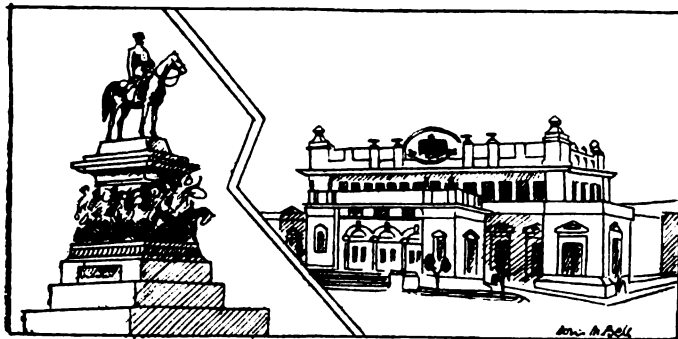
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BULGARIA.

Sofia, October 1.

Mr. Sperling's Departure.

The British Government having changed its representatives in the four Balkan capitals, the Minister to Bulgaria, Mr. Sperling, recently returned from leave to present his letters of recall to King Boris, left yesterday with Mrs. Sperling for London. He was seen off at the station by M. Liaptcheff, President of the Council, M. Rushko Majaroff, Minister for Railways, the Marshal of the Court, representing the King, the senior personnel of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the whole Diplomatic Corps, and the numerous friends whom he and his family had made during their short stay in Bulgaria.

Before the departure, M. Liaptcheff had given a farewell dinner in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Sperling, whose leaving has caused general regret in Sofia.

Slav Tourists at Sofia.

A congress was held at Sofia, from September 22 to September 25, of the representatives of all the tourist organisations of Slav countries, notably Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. This conference, which ended with a pilgrimage to the monastery of Rilo, one of the most picturesque spots in Bulgaria, furnished the Bulgarian and Yugoslav delegations with a chance to address to their Governments, despite the recent Yugoslav-Bulgarian tension, a request at once to suppress the passport formalities for Yugoslav tourists into Bulgaria and *vice versa*, emphasising the desire in non-politically minded folk to have as close relations as possible between the two countries.

The same spirit is manifest in the matches organised recently in the Balkans, and especially in the Balkan Olympiad which has just taken place at Athens. Sport can only bind the Balkan peoples more closely together.

The Conference at Pirot.

A work of conciliation has been accomplished at Pirot by the Serbo-Bulgarian conference, which has just ended its labours. The conference definitely laid down the text of the three rulings concerning the régime of the frontier. These regulations are concerned with: the maintenance of good order on the frontier, the formalities of movement along the frontier, and the conditions of working the bilateral properties in this region. A permanent Mixed Commission is to be appointed to intervene when the least incident occurs, and to inquire into the facts and establish responsibility.

After the work of the Pirot Conference, fresh negotiations are to be entered into at Geneva between the two Foreign Ministers, M. Marinkovitch and M. Bourroff, on the subject of the "forbidden zone" and the liquidation of the bilateral properties.

Violent Methods.

Unfortunately, at the moment when encouraging prospects of Bulgaro-Yugoslav relations are being opened up, a series of terrorist actions has come as a check to progress. The Yugoslavs have announced the discovery of infernal machines which the *komitajis* of Ivon Mihailoff are said to have placed on the Macedonian railway, in several places, all near the Bulgarian frontier. This discovery has not been taken seriously in Bulgaria, where it was first believed that the story was designed to

upset the Pirot Conference and that it was a new attempt to place the responsibility on the I.M.R.O.

But a few days ago Bulgarians were surprised to learn, quite by chance, that the famous bandit, Dotcho Ouzonoff, who had often terrorised the regions of Lovitch and Troyon, in the Department of Plevén, and had taken refuge in Yugoslavia, where he was hospitably entertained in the village of Pojarevatz, had, with the help of Yugoslav military authorities, recrossed the Bulgarian frontier at the head of a band of Agraro-Communists armed with rifles, and had proceeded to Plevén, with the intention of attacking the trains and of blowing up sections of the railway with dynamite. The bandit was betrayed by one of his men who, learning of the criminal task which had been confided to the expedition, went to the authorities and revealed the whole affair. A force was at once dispatched in pursuit of the band, but it escaped.

Inter-Macedonian Persecutions.

The crisis provoked by the assassination of the General Protogueroff is growing worse, numerous followers of the murdered chief refusing to submit to the dictatorship of Mihailoff, who has tried to suppress all those against him.

The feeling between the two rival factions has been further embittered since the death of one of the most influential men on the Protogueroff side, George Bajdaroff, who was recently assassinated at Varna by Mihailoff's emissaries. The Protogueroffists are exasperated both with the Mihailoffists and with the Government, which they accuse of not affording protection against Mihailoff. But since the police of Varna have arrested the murderers of Bajdaroff, who are two young men named Vaniliff and Chavdaroff, brother and brother-in-law of the Secretary of the National Committee of Macedonian Emigration in Bulgaria, the Mihailoffists are even more exasperated with the Government, from whom they demand that the two prisoners should be given up.

The Government, being thus between the hammer and anvil, is taking all necessary measures to prevent complications from the Macedonian side.

Political Parties.

The most important of M. Liaptcheff's difficulties arises from the desire of different sections of the Opposition for reconcentration. These sections are waging a vigorous war against him. The different Agrarian sections have just come together, the Liberals united some time ago. An impulse to the strength against the Government has been given by the Democratic Party, which, under the direction of M. Malinoff, in a clearly-worded declaration, plainly hostile to the present Government, has provided the rallying-signal for all the groups of the Opposition, with the object of obtaining changes in the Administration.

The Opposition's struggle is assisted by the persistent divisions within the Governmental group of the Democratic Entente, where the friends of M. Liaptcheff are at daggers drawn with the friends of M. Tzankoff, and are resolved to displace the latter from his presidency of the Sobranie at the next session of Parliament.

Mr. B. S. Page, of Birmingham University, has been appointed Second Librarian of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies. Mr. Page is collaborating with Mr. Stephen Mackenna in the final volume of his translation of the "Enneades" of Plotinus. Mr. Page will also act as secretary to the British School at Athens. Mr. W. R. Le Fanu, who held both these offices, has been appointed Assistant Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 19.

Jatindranath Das.

It was with feelings of grief that one heard of the death, last Friday, of Jatindranath Das, one of the accused in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, as the result of a prolonged hunger-strike. First, a life has been lost, and an example has been set to others, that they should also sacrifice their lives; secondly, the emotional state of the part of the Indian population embittered against the British has been made one of still greater bitterness. "First it was Lala Lajpat Rai," the one section will say; "then Bhagat Singh and Dutt, however misguided, and now it is Jatindranath Das." I am not thinking now of the hysteria-seekers; in this last tragedy they will find their food too, but of soberminded, capable men; such men as I have now been friends with for many years. In their minds there can now be little remembrance that Jatindranath Das was in jail because he was believed to have taken part in a conspiracy, and may really have done so; that his hunger-strike was self-inflicted, for a principle—some question whether there should or should not be a difference in the food supplied to Indians and to Europeans when under-trial prisoners—of no soul-stirring importance. No doubt, too, he had a deeper sense—that if he died, India would ring with the news, and hearts would be inflamed everywhere against the British. So the thing was to die, and anything would serve as a good enough pretext for hunger-striking. That was probably the way of it. His death was the one thing that would make governing really difficult; so he must die. So he has died.

The Difficulty of Governing.

The task of the British-Indian Government has certainly been rendered very much more difficult. Many questions that would have slumbered in a few minds are now awake and are clamouring for answers in many minds. What should have been done? Some men, most of them young men, were believed to have conspired against the Government; they had been arrested, and were under trial. They could still do something to defeat the Government—they could go on hunger-strike, and bring the proceedings of the Court to a standstill. They did that. What should Government have done? We know what they did do; they argued that, at no matter what risk, law and justice must have their way. "If, then," they said, "it is in the power of under-trial prisoners to defeat justice, we see that there is a lacuna in the criminal law of the land, and we must change the law." So the Hunger Strike Bill was introduced in the Assembly, and the Home Member, an Englishman, and the Law Member, an Indian, were put up to defend it. Was there no alternative? If there was one, was it considered?

The Alternative.

The alternative, because, of course, there was one, might have been put as a question: "What is the extreme risk that would be run, if we were to release these men, our pretext being that their hunger-strike has brought to light what an inquiry may prove to be a defect in our jail administration that does call for, and does admit of, a remedy?" Some such question ought surely to have been asked by those in whose hands the reins of government now are. There were men, and one in particular, out to defeat the Government, not for anything done, but because it is constituted as it is—partly, or largely even, of non-Indians—and they are using an article of our jail administration as a pretext. A pretext must be met by a pretext. The all-important thing for the moment is much less than that justice should have its way. The all important thing for the moment is that these men, or that one, should not defeat Government. Release them all, and you defeat him and them.

Bad Government.

It is the temperamental habit of the English not to criticise their Government at any time when the task of governing is seen to be more than usually difficult. The English say, "Those are the men responsible at the moment: they may be men who ought never to have been given power, but they have been, and we must not make things worse for them." That was the way most Englishmen thought during the years before the first Pitt was put at the helm. If Englishmen feel at the time that they must hold their tongues, those who write the history of that time, say a century later, feel under no such obligation. To the reader of English history it is a well-known fact, in consequence, that, for all that England has so great a share of political sense, she may entrust her government at any time to a group of men of exceedingly little competence. England goes to sleep. A political leader whom blind chance made a leader much more than any one's deliberate choice, a man of little capacity, gathers round him men of even less capacity, and they muddle along, while England, now awake again, holds her breath praying that nothing terrible may happen.

The Little-Competent.

One may not have had very great opportunities of judging the capacity of the governing men in British India. I for one, I must admit, have not had great opportunities. I will say no more, then, than this—I feel that I must say as much—that I have slowly gathered the impression that since Curzon's day the governing of British India has fallen more and more into the hands of men not capable enough, and that now there is a crying lack of capacity. It is really now at last time, one feels, for England to wake to a realisation of the fact that the British-Indian Empire is being muddled away. It is time to take much more thought when appointing a man to the Executive Council of the Governor-General, or when appointing a man to be the Governor of a Province; for the times are really difficult, and a bad appointment may mean peril. As I have said, I have not had very great opportunities of judging the capacity of the governing men; but I have had some. I have watched and seen what the men have done, and I have listened to men who have been brought closer than I have to those to whom it has fallen, in Simla, Delhi, Lahore, and elsewhere, to guide things. They have not seemed to those watchers to possess great enough gifts. If I raise my voice, I know it is not the only voice crying in the wilderness.

The Day's Work Again.

Just as one said, when the bombs were thrown in the Assembly, that the question of the Constitution for India in the future must be considered apart from that, so one must now say that that question must be considered apart from the death of Jatindranath Das. One was not to say, after the bomb outrage, "Well, that settles it!" So now we must not be carried away by the state of emotion natural to those who have been witnesses of the martyrdom of Jatindranath Das, into framing a Constitution for India under which power would be given to those who are not fit for it. Jatindranath Das would doubtless himself have given them that power; but it cannot be right that they should be given it. Let any who may think that they are fit for it, read the proceedings of the United Provinces Youth Conference. But let me begin a new paragraph.

The United Provinces Youth Conference.

In the proceedings of this Conference there is a picture of Indian society, drawn by Indians themselves. The resolution to which most prominence was given in my newspaper—it was moved by no less a one than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru himself—began as follows: "The Conference is of opinion that the people of India can only attain freedom when all exploitation of one group by another and one individual by another ceases, and a new order of society is built up based on mutual co-operation."

for the public good. In order to help the building of this new social order, all antiquated social, religious and economic customs which have outlived their usefulness and at present sap the vitality of the nation and prevent its healthy growth should be put an end to." The resolution goes on with an enumeration of the particular things condemned—the exploitation of brain and manual workers, the caste system, untouchability, the legal and social disabilities of the women, and wasteful expenditure on marriages. Other resolutions dealt with unemployment, communalism, and the age of marriage. If there was no more to be said than that the masses in India have already too much to think of and to do, for it to be safe to add political problems, that could certainly be said.

THE INDIA SOCIETY.

The India Society opened its autumn programme on September 27 when Mr. George Coedes, the first Director of the recently established archaeological Survey of Siam, lectured on the Indian influence in the art of Siam. This influence, as he explained, was perhaps strongest until the seventh century A.D. at the time of the Hinduised Kingdoms, exemplified by the art of the school of Amaravati and the Gupta period. With the rise of the Siamese to political independence, the appearance of a new type of power, possibly of Chinese origin, and a new type of Buddhist images strongly influenced by the Pala art is discernible. The interplay of art influences between Siam, Ceylon, Java and Indo-China was also traceable.

On the following day there was an exhibition of Siamese textiles presented to the India Society by Prince Damrong. The Siamese Minister explained the circumstances under which the Society had been presented with the textiles. Mr. Coedes explained that in his opinion they were above a hundred and fifty years old. He did not think that they were made in Siam, as no blocks with the beautiful and subtle designs had ever been found there. Mr. Boushan then spoke on the Indian art of making printed cottons, which had been noted for many centuries. The old wooden blocks, carved with much skill and intricate designs, had become very rare. He added that he had never seen such beautiful designs and that he considered them fine specimens of the art. Mr. Percy Brown said that the process of hand-printed cottons from blocks had been used from the earliest times; some of the costumes worn by the figures in the Ajanta frescoes were apparently done with this process. The women of Tibet were known to have worn block printed cottons in the ninth century.

Mr. Lanchester said that the hand looms used in Southern India were considerably wider than those used in other parts, and he suggested that the cloth might have been woven in Southern India and sent back to Siam to be printed, in the same way as the Thibetans made their own fabrics but sent them to Peking to be embroidered. He suggested, as another possibility, that they might have been done by skilled Indian craftsmen working in Siam. He thought that a thorough investigation should be made in Southern India to see if any blocks could be found to correspond at all with the fine workmanship of these Siamese fabrics.

In winding up the discussion, Mr. John de La Valette, who, in the unavoidable absence of Sir Francis Younghusband, acted as Chairman, said that there was so much uncertainty among the experts as to the country in, and the technical process by, which these textiles had been produced, he could not be expected to venture any opinion on the subject. Reference has been made to the process of dyeing known in Java as "batik." All he could assert was that there appeared to be no similarity whatsoever between the batiked cloths of Java, Sumatra, or Bali and the present specimens, either technically or as to colour or design.

THE ROYAL EMPIRE SOCIETY.

In order to extend its scope in the East, the Royal Empire Society has invited Commander R. M. Reynolds, R.N.R., who on several previous occasions has acted as its Special Commissioner in the Empire overseas, to undertake a tour on its behalf in Egypt, India, and Malaya.

Commander Reynolds, who left London last week, and will be travelling for the next six months, will spend a week in Egypt, visiting in turn Port Said, Cairo, and Alexandria. From there he goes on to Bombay. In the course of his tour in India, Commander Reynolds will address Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, and similar associations in such representative centres as Bombay, Lahore, Delhi, Agra, Cawnpore, Calcutta, Dacca, and Rangoon.

Increasing interest is being taken in the Royal Empire Society in India as well as in Indian circles in London. Last July members of the Indian Central Committee, of which Sir Sankaran Nair is Chairman, and which was then in London to consult with the Simon Commission, were entertained to luncheon by the Society, and after the reception, which was attended by Lord Reading, the Under-Secretary for India, and a large number of others interested in Indian affairs, Sir Sankaran Nair and several of his colleagues joined the Society.

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION.

The Provincial Reports.

(Continued from page 372.)

In previous issues we have dealt with the reports framed respectively by the Madras, Bengal, Bombay, United Provinces, Burma, and Punjab Legislatures. The Central Provinces Legislative Council did not appoint a Committee as, following the example of the Legislative Assembly, it declined to co-operate with the Statutory Commission. The reports of the Assam and Bihar and Orissa Committees are thus all that remain to be considered.

The Assam Committee recommend the complete abolition of dyarchy; and the administration of all provincial subjects by a Cabinet of four Ministers. One of these would be the Chief Minister, and he would be appointed by the Governor, but on the advice of the Chief Minister. The members of the Cabinet would be jointly responsible to the provincial Legislature. They could hold office for five years, unless the Ministry should be dissolved earlier by the Governor. It is not proposed to fix any special majority for a vote of "no confidence" in the Ministry. The Legislative Council would consist of 95 elected members; and the Governor would be empowered to add five nominated members. The territories known as the backward tracts would be represented in the Council by one of the five nominated members, if, as is suggested by the Committee, the legislative and financial control in respect of these tracts should continue as at present.

Of recent years there has been some discussion of the question of whether it would not be advisable to transfer one of the Surma Valley districts, namely, Sylhet, to Bengal. The Committee are against this proposal, as they are also against a like proposal in regard to Goalpara—one of the Assam Valley districts. They recommend universal suffrage for all persons of twenty-five years of age and upwards, with open voting for the illiterate. As an alternative they would favour universal suffrage, that is to say, a vote for each occupied house. They would leave it to the Legislature to decide as between these two proposals. They do not favour the creation of a second Chamber, as its utility would not, they fear, justify its cost.

No fewer than three reports have been issued by the members of the Bihar and Orissa Committee. The majority report recommends provincial autonomy with a Cabinet responsible to a Legislature of two Houses. It is not proposed to extend the existing franchise; but the Upper House would be elected on a franchise higher than that in force for the Lower. Minorities are to be adequately represented in the Legislature; and the qualification for the franchise would be higher in respect of proprietors than it would be for tenants. The abolition of the official *bloc* is recommended, as is also the abolition of the system of nominating members. The Cabinet would consist of from five to seven Ministers of whom the Governor of the Province would be President. One seat in the Cabinet would be reserved for Muslims, and one for Orissa. The Governor would be vested with discretionary powers to be exercised in the event of the peace and tranquillity of the province being in danger. The Governor would also be empowered to certify sufficient sums of money to enable the Government to be carried on in the event of the Legislature refusing to vote supplies.

LORD IRWIN'S RETURN.

Lord Irwin, Governor-General of India, and Sir George Stanley, Governor-designate of Madras, and their parties will leave Victoria Station for India at 11.4 a.m. this morning (Thursday, October 10).

THE MICA PROBLEM.

(From a Correspondent.)

Among the mica-producing countries of the world India takes the first place. The Koderma field, in the province of Bihar and Orissa, is the most important mica deposit which has been so far discovered anywhere. The mineral is also found in some of the other British provinces and in several of the Indian States. Practically the whole of the Indian production is exported, Great Britain, the United States, Germany and France being the principal buyers. Of recent years the value of the exports has averaged more than a crore of rupees annually, as with the rapid development of electrical machinery and apparatus the demand for mica has greatly increased. The mica mining industry in Bihar and Orissa ought, therefore, to be prosperous, seeing that it produces the best mica in the world for which it easily finds a ready market. But, strange to say, the industry does not prosper. In fact, only two years ago the official representative of the Government of Behar and Orissa in the provincial Legislative Council said that it was in a most unhealthy state.

The reason is that the conditions under which the mica is won are such as to make it peculiarly liable to become the prey of thieves and receivers. It occurs in small pockets very near to, or actually on, the surface. The country is very hilly, with dense jungle, and with nothing much in the way of communications or population. A thief can go into the jungle and, without difficulty, find a pocket and make off with mica worth several hundreds of rupees. And he is fairly safe from the law, as mica is not, of course, an identifiable product. It is practically impossible for anybody to come forward and to claim that a certain piece of mica is his property and that it has been stolen. And, in the absence of a complainant, there obviously cannot be a prosecution for theft, or for the receiving of stolen goods. Mica is also stolen in the actual mines by thieves working as labourers. For, as has been indicated, the mineral is sporadic in its occurrence; and the whole of the deposits being worked in any mine area cannot be therefore effectively guarded.

The proportion of mica stolen is astonishingly high. The highest figure which has been mentioned, namely, 50 per cent., must surely be an over-estimate. But there seems to be a general agreement that from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. of the quantity exported is stolen. It is easy to understand what robbery on this scale must mean to the mine owner, who has expended money on sinking shafts and on equipment and so forth. The evil has been in existence for many years, but no active preventive measures have been taken. Firms who have attempted to develop the industry on a large scale have found that the thefts have made their efforts unprofitable. The Government of Bihar and Orissa have for a long time recognised their responsibility in the matter; and in 1927 they proposed that, in order to check the thefts, special legislation should be undertaken. They accordingly framed a Bill and circulated it for approval. It was welcomed by many mine owners, but some sections of the trade objected to it on the ground that it would work to the detriment of the poor but honest miner. There did not at the time, and there does not now, appear to be much substance in this objection, as the poor but honest miner is unlikely to be seriously affected. The point is that there does not seem to be any possibility of checking the activities of the thieves and receivers except by legislation. The Bill seeks to effect the object in view, namely, the prevention of theft, by placing upon the individual the onus of proving that any mica found on him when he is in the neighbourhood of a mine is owned by him legitimately.

The Bill has been under discussion during the past two years; and it has now been introduced in the

Provincial Legislative Council, by which it was re-mitted last month, by a narrow majority, to a Select Committee. Its text has been published in the local *Gazette*, and in an explanatory note the need for legislation is made clear. The thefts have now reached such a scale, the Government state, as to be a serious hindrance to the adequate employment of capital, the efficient working of the mines, and the proper development of an industry which is really of vital importance. It is proposed by the Bill that every mica miner, and every mica dealer, shall trade under a licence. Every licensee will be required to keep accounts of all mica won, possessed, stored, or sold by him. The accounts so kept will be subject to inspection by an officer specially authorised by the Government for the purpose. The Bill also contemplates the regulation of the movement of mica within a mining area. For this purpose it provides that no mica shall be moved from a mine, or from the premises of a licensee, without a pass, or document, signed by the licensee or his accredited agent. This pass will show the place from which the mica is moved, and likewise its quantity and destination. By these various provisions it is sought to ensure that dealing in mica shall be carried on in such a way as to preclude as far as possible transactions in mica which has been obtained in an illicit manner; and to make the movement of stolen mica more readily susceptible of detection. The Bill also contains further provisions making the movement of mica without the necessary pass a criminal offence. Police officers will be empowered to stop and to seize any consignment which is not accompanied by a pass, and to detain it until its ownership is established to the satisfaction of the prescribed authority.

Active interference by the State in the working of an industry is seldom welcomed by those engaged in it. Nor is it usually considered to be desirable that legislation should create new criminal offences. But the evil in the mica industry has gone so far that something must be done. The existing law has failed to give the necessary protection. More stringent provisions must therefore be enacted, even though they may mean State interference. And it has to be noted that special provisions have been included in the Bill with the object of ensuring that there shall be no unnecessary interference with the working of the industry.

ARMY APPOINTMENTS.

Major-General B. R. Kirwan, C.B., C.M.G., has been appointed Master-General of the Ordnance in India, in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir Edwin H. de V. Atkinson, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., C.I.E., whose tenure of the appointment expires on April 1, 1930.

Major-General Kirwan entered the Army in 1890, and attained his present rank in 1925. He served at the War Office for some time, and immediately prior to the War was a First Class Instructor in Gunnery. He was a Staff Officer to the Major-General, Royal Artillery, at General Headquarters in France for the first two years of the War, and then became a Brigadier-General. For his War service he was mentioned in dispatches six times, and awarded a number of decorations. Later he was appointed Director of Artillery at the War Office, and President of the Ordnance Committee. In April last he was gazetted to the Royal Artillery, Army Headquarters in India.

Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Alexander, M.C., has assumed command of the 1st Battalion, The Corps of Bombay Pioneers, in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. P. Tugwell, who completed his tenure recently. The new commander, late of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Sikh Pioneers, includes in his war services the operations in five areas of East Africa, and Afghanistan, 1910, and Waziristan, 1920. He first joined the old 81st Pioneers of Madras, and became an acting lieutenant-colonel after 13 years' service while holding the rank of captain.

Four Indian artists have arrived in London for training to take part in the decoration of the new India House, the erection of which, on the Aldwych site, is nearing completion. The artists, Messrs. L. M. Sen, D. K. Deb Barma, Sudhansu Chowdhury, and Ranade Ukil, were chosen by the Government of India Selection Committee in an All India competition for the purpose of interior decoration of India House. Before taking up this work they will undergo a year's training at the Royal College of Art, South Kensington, under Professor W. Rothenstein, and spend six months in further study in Italy.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

October 10, 1929 (New Style).
 September 28, 1929 (Old Style).
 Jumada I. 6, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.
 Tishri 6, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

The High Commissioner for India left London on October 2 for Geneva.

Vice-Admiral Sir Herbert W. Richmond has been promoted to the rank of Admiral.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala arrived last week in New York on his way to Washington.

Lady Loraine left Highcliff Castle last week for Athens. She will arrive in Egypt towards the end of October.

Dr. Drag. Protitch has been appointed Secretary to the Yugoslav Legation in London.

The Maharaja of Alwar arrived in London on October 2 from Scotland.

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad left London on October 1 on his return to India.

The Turkish Ambassador returned to London last week from the Continent.

Princess Xenia of Greece left Southampton on October 5 in the Mauretania for New York.

Lady Schuster arrived at Marseilles on October 4 on her return from Bombay.

Lady Alston left London on October 3 to join Sir Charles Alston in Allahabad.

Lady Strickland left London on October 4 for Port Said, sailing from Tilbury in the P. and O. liner Moldavia.

Dr. Pavle Karovitch, Counsellor of the Yugoslav Legation, has returned to London from the Continent.

A Memorial Service for the late Ecumenical Patriarch Basil was held in the Cathedral, Moscow Road, Bayswater, W., on October 6.

General Sir Alexander Cobbe, V.C., accompanied by Lady Cobbe and Miss Cobbe, left London on October 2 to resume his command of the Northern Army, India.

The Great Archimandrite of the Greek Cathedral, the Rev. Michael Constantinidis, left England on October 7 for Greece. He will be absent several weeks.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby arrived at 24, Wetherby Gardens on October 2 on their return from Stanley, Perthshire.

Sir Oswald Bosanquet and Sir Alexander and Lady Roger left London on October 3 to join the P. and O. s.s. Ranpura at Marseilles for Bombay.

Field-Marshal Sir Claud and Lady Jacob have moved from Culford Gardens to 36, Ashley Gardens, S.W.1, which will be their address until the end of April.

The Earl of Inchcape left London on October 6 for Paris to attend the Suez Canal meeting, and returned to London the following day.

A reception to Sir Flinders and Lady Petrie prior to their return to Palestine to resume excavations at Beth-Pelet, will take place at the World's Evangelical Alliance Headquarters, at 19, Russell Square, W.C.1, on October 17, at 4 p.m.

Lady Gridley left for India on October 5 for the wedding of her daughter, Miss Joan Gridley, and Mr. G. Collingwood, which will take place in Madras Cathedral on November 5.

Mr. K. A. C. Cresswell will lecture to the Royal Asiatic Society (74, Grosvenor Street, W.1) on October 24, at 4.45 p.m., upon "The Aqsa Mosque and the Church of Justinian."

We understand that Sir Ernest Dowson is leaving shortly for Iraq, where he is to investigate the problem of land tenure. It will be remembered that a few years ago Sir Ernest inaugurated a cadastral survey of Palestine.

Abdel Malek Hamza Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires in London, held a reception at the Royal Egyptian Legation yesterday (Wednesday) to celebrate the anniversary of the accession of King Fuad I.

The Colonial Office states that the King has approved the appointment of Sir Francis Henry Humphrys to be High Commissioner for Iraq in succession to the late Sir Gilbert Clayton.

The Prince of Wales received at St. James's Palace on October 2, on behalf of the King, General Sir John Shea (General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, India), and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

Where to stay in the East

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 Sea-View Hotel.
 NICOSIA, Cyprus—
 George Hotel.
 PORT SAID—
 Casino Palace Hotel.
 Grand Hotel de la Poste.

CYPRUS.

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THE WOMAN MOVEMENT IN IRAQ.

By E. S. STEVENS.

It may be said that the War, which, endorsed by the powerful hand of Mustapha Kemal, brought the Turkish woman her charter of freedom, did nothing to ameliorate the position of Muslim women in Iraq. Disabilities and prejudices, against which she was powerless, kept the women of the countries of the Middle East in the place which long custom had assigned them, and, for the most part, they themselves remained undesirous of progress. Some, though not all, women of the wealthy classes received elementary education—reading, writing, and perhaps a smattering of French and English in convent or missionary schools, but education of girls in the true sense of the word was entirely lacking. Women of the lower and middle classes were, almost without exception, illiterate, and not only unable to read or write, but also ignorant of elementary laws of health and hygiene. It followed that a woman had no standing as an individual; she was part of that complicated Oriental machine, the family, and if she failed to please or to produce children, she was liable to be discarded as useless. No man looked to his wife for companionship, and in the cases where a woman, by means of native acumen and common sense, established complete rule over her household, it was often to exercise a tyranny over the other women of the family.

The women of Iraq, until the War, considered the Turkish women representative of all progress and enlightenment. Many Iraqi men married Turkish wives, and there are Turkish women in Iraq to-day, with Arabic-speaking husbands, children and grand-children, who have never troubled to learn the tongue of what they consider to be an uncivilised race. But these imported Turkish women, including the wives of Government officials, did little but introduce a taste for European clothes and Western specialities, and the outlook of the Iraqi woman remained unchanged. The War brought her for the first time into direct contact with the outside world, and the rapid development of the country, with its enormous increase of means of communication with other countries by car, aeroplane, train and shipping, roused her to a sense of her backwardness. Moreover, the wholesale reforms with regard to the status of women in Turkey were bound to have their repercussion in Iraq, and the introduction of women teachers, Christian and Muslim, for no women in Iraq were qualified to teach, in girls' schools from such comparatively advanced countries as Syria, worked greatly upon public opinion.

When Government schools for girls were first opened in Baghdad, I saw women of advanced middle age sitting in the class-rooms poring over elementary reading books. In spite of their years, these plucky and intelligent women were trying to avail themselves of new opportunities. During the last few years there have been great advances in the education of girls in Iraq, though the proportion of utterly illiterate women is still enormous. Such institutions as the enthusiastically-directed Central Girls' School in Baghdad, for instance, and the Teachers' Training College in connexion with it, are furnishing a nucleus of girls aware of the shortcomings of the country and its attitude towards women, and awaking the spirit of progress amongst the younger generation.

Meanwhile, feminism in Iraq has its pioneers. About five years ago, a number of ladies in Baghdad, the majority of whom were Muslim, met together and decided to form a club for the purpose of raising the status of women in Iraq. The moving spirit was the unmarried sister of the well-known Iraq poet Jemil Zahawi; a woman well-versed in Arab and Persian literature, whose intelligence, learning, and force of character placed her by common consent at the head of the movement.

The objects of the club were vague and ill-defined; it had no programme beyond the intention of listening to a few speeches delivered by women. It extended a welcome to the friends of progress whether Muslim, Christ-

ian, or Jew, and its inception was notified in the local Press. There was an immediate outcry. Reactionaries fulminated against it in the newspapers, die-hards appealed to Government to scotch the movement in its infancy. *Sufur* (unveiling) was impending, they said, and Muslim homes were threatened by Western abominations. The accusation was ludicrously untrue. Not one amongst the Muslim Iraqi members wore anything but the thick veil which custom prescribes in Baghdad, and many of them were old-fashioned enough to wear as well the national indoor garb, consisting of a plain, long garment reaching to the feet, the hair being completely concealed by black bandages, except for two plaits falling on either side of the face. Nor was there any intention of unveiling, though many of the women longed to do so, on account of the symbol which the veil has arrived at being. The members of the projected club defended themselves, and declared that their immediate projects were the education of some female orphans and the meeting together of a few women bent on self-improvement. Grudging consent was then given to the registration of the club, which took the name of the *Nadi al Nahidha an Nissaiya* ("Club for the Elevation of Women"), rented a house, and occupied itself with the care of a few orphans. As is not uncommon in these countries, enthusiasm waned. The promised lectures were few and far between, subscriptions (five rupees monthly) fell away, attendance became rare, and though there was a nominal committee, it did not do, nor know how to do, its work completely. Slowly but inevitably the ambitiously named club dwindled into an occasional tea-party, the house was given up, and the orphans were all but abandoned.

It had been dead for more than two years when stimulus came from the outside in the shape of a letter from a Druze lady, Nur Hamadi, foundress of the Muhammadan Women's League in Syria. About the activities of this, and other leagues, I will write in another article, but the letter, which reached Esma Khanum Zahawi, president of the now defunct club, was to invite the leaders of the feminist movement in Iraq to co-operate, not only with the Muhammadan Women's League in Syria, but also to participate in the feminist movement all over the world. It was suggested that Iraq feminists might care to send a representative to yearly conferences of the Muhammadan Women's League to be held alternately in Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Iraq.

The letter gave Esma Khanum the excuse for gathering together as many of the old members of the Club as she could; a meeting was held in Nouri Pasha as-Said's house, enthusiastic speeches were made, the local Press gave the affair leading articles and long reports, and again the movement was launched. It was resolved that the club must not this time end in words only, and at the present moment its members are anxiously debating what form their activities and efforts will take. Unveiling is certainly not on their programme, nor would it be politic or necessary to contemplate it for many years to come, and it remains to be seen what will result from their reawakened zeal.

In Egypt, the feminist movement, though nominally unpolitical, has been very largely captured by those with a political axe to grind, and in Syria a certain section of the feminists are decidedly anti-foreign in tone. The more clear-sighted among the women see that it would be fatal for the movement to be committed to any political creed. They realise that feminism in the East can only gain strength by making common cause with feminism all over the world, independent of race or creed, and especially to the women of England and America, who have fought and gained their battle, they look for encouragement and practical assistance. In such a cause as this there can be no petty feelings of national jealousy or hatred, and it would be a fine gesture if the women of England were to think out some way of aiding the women of Iraq in the task which they have set themselves.

So far they have fought their battle alone. Not a man

in Iraq has come forward to offer them the building that they need or has contributed to their funds. Those in high places have held aloof for fear of offending the fanatically-minded. A Syrian partisan, Jemil Bey Beyhum, known as the *Nasir al Marra* ("Defender of Women") on account of his zeal in the cause of feminism, came to Baghdad and announced his intention of making a speech about the rights of Muslim women to freedom. There was an immediate cry of horror. At last, a progressivist section amongst the men said, "You, as a foreigner, might—we Iraqis could not possibly speak in public on such a subject." He gave his lecture, and the hall was more than half full of women.

A notable exception to this general timidity is the poet Jemil Zahawi, who is never tired of proclaiming that Islam was intended to bring woman her charter of freedom, not her sentence of perpetual confinement, and that seclusion is not of Arab, but of foreign origin. He is right, but as yet, very few of his own countrymen have the courage or wish to support him.

THE NEW EGYPTIAN CABINET.

The new Egyptian Cabinet which was formed on October 4 has been constituted as follows:—

Premier and Interior	...	...	Adly Pasha Yeghen.
Foreign Affairs	...	...	Midhat Pasha Yeghen.
Waqfs (Religious Endowments)	...	...	Ahmed Pasha Aly.
Justice	...	...	Hussein Pasha Darwish.
Communications	...	...	Abdel Rahim Pasha Sabry.
Finance	...	...	Mustapha Pasha Maher.
Public Works	...	...	Hussein Pasha Massif.
Agriculture	...	...	Wassif Pasha Semeika.
Education	...	...	Hafez Pasha Hussein.
War	...	...	Mohammed Aflatoun Pasha.

THE "BRITH SHALOM" ON PALESTINE.

[We have received from the *Brith Shalom* Society in Jerusalem a statement of its views upon the recent events in Palestine, which we publish herewith as written.—Ed.]

"1. What we feared has come to pass. During a few days, a peaceful land, developing culturally and economically, was transformed into a battlefield. Innocent blood has been shed and a considerable part of the constructive achievements, won by the sweat of the brow, has been destroyed. All relations between the two races living in Palestine were interrupted in the twinkling of an eye; enmity and hate lurk in every corner; security of life and property ceased; and, only thanks to Jewish self-defence the extent of the disaster was limited and a great catastrophe was averted. There is reason to hope that, as a result of the efforts of Government, belated as they were, tranquillity and order will be restored to the country.

"2. An examination of the history of the riots indicates a three-fold breakdown: of the British administration in Palestine; of Arab policy; and of Zionist policy.

"The British administration in Palestine broke down by reason of its narrow colonial policy and of its aloofness, in large part, from the spirit of Great Britain's historic mission in Palestine. On the other hand, the Administration showed neither desire nor initiative in drawing the two races together or in awakening them to co-operation for the good of the whole country on the basis of absolute equality of the political rights of the two peoples. The Administration broke down, too, by allowing the riots to break out and in not succeeding in stopping them immediately at the outset.

"The Arab policy that broke down is that which regarded the

efforts of Jews to re-establish themselves in their homeland as if they did not exist; which still believes that it is possible to close the gates of the homeland of Israel to the children of Israel; and which sees in encouragement of bloodshed a solution to the problem of the Jewish National Home. The sacrifices that Jews have made for their establishment in this country should alone prove the strength of their attachment to it.

"Zionist policy, too, has broken down in so far as it has not appreciated or understood the Arab question, nor recognised its vital importance to the development and future of the country; and has failed to take advantage of any opportunity in previous years to initiate an active policy of explaining and settling the differences that exist between the two peoples, in accordance with the numerous declarations made from Zionist platforms on many occasions.

"All citizens of the country have been guilty of neglecting the elementary duty of introducing an atmosphere of mutual understanding into the education of all the inhabitants. The results of this failure have been brought home to all of us in these days.

"3. What shall be done? With regard to the past, let us hope that the Commission of Inquiry will explore the matter to its depths; will expose all the causes of these lamentable events and will bring to justice all those responsible.

"We will remember with gratitude those Arabs, both individuals and bodies, who resisted the wave of propaganda and who defended Jews against crowds of rioters of their own race. This phenomenon encourages us in the belief that the day will not be long in coming when the feelings of peace and concord that are now to be found only in a small part of the Arab community will take root in the hearts of all Arabs who care for the good of their race.

"It may be said openly, even to-day, that the responsibility chiefly lies, not on this or that individual, but on the failure to understand that it is impossible to solve the Palestine question by rioting and acts of violence and only possible to solve it by means of mutual understanding in taking into consideration the equitable demands of Jews and Arabs. It is particularly through this belief that we are brought to express the following policy.

"The *Brith Shalom* Society was originally founded through fear lest discussion and polemics between the two communities living in Palestine should result in domination by uncontrolled and destructive passions. It is clearly impossible for either Jews or Arabs to live in this small country as on isolated islands. We have always sought to discover the path towards unity and co-operation. And even now, in the midst of hatred and desolation, we invite all the inhabitants of Palestine, and, in particular, responsible men and institutions, to surmount all the difficulties caused by their personal feelings (feelings which we understand at this moment); to do everything in their power to put an end to hostile relations; to initiate measures for explaining and discussing the problems; and to prepare the ground for direct and active negotiation to be carried out, at a favourable moment, between authorised representatives of the two communities, with regard to the conditions of joint existence in the future of Palestine; a land belonging and dear to both peoples, on the ground not only of the bonds of history and tradition, but also on the ground of aspirations for development and construction in the future. Each community should weigh its past actions and policies in the hope that it may learn the way to bring speedily to our country better times, times of peace."

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, arrived in Belgrade on October 6 in order to make, as he explained, personal contact with the Yugoslav authorities. He left the following day on his return to Athens.

Riza Shah Pahlavi is visiting Tabriz, the town which, it will be recalled, recently suffered severely from floods. It is hoped by Azarbaijanis that this Royal visit will result in improvements for the whole province, particularly in the construction of safeguards against floods.

It is stated from Rome that King Zogu of Albania, who has never been recognised by Turkey, has finally withdrawn his Legation from Angora. The Turkish Minister at Tirana was recalled after Ahmed Zogu's assumption of the Crown, and later Kemal Pasha also withdrew the *Chargé d'Affaires*.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Political Hopes.

The political situation at the moment is amusing. So well—superficially, at any rate—have the Government done that the Opposition can find comfort only in the supposition that it is all too good to be true! The efficiency of the "Socialists" has proved so amazing that there must be a flaw somewhere in the house of popularity which they have built up. But where is that flaw? That is the question which the Conservative Party, in particular, is asking.

The Conservatives, who are trying hard to remember the old tag that the duty of an Opposition is to oppose, are in perplexity. Where, how, and when shall they attack the Government? The Liberal partlet under Mr. Lloyd George can attack no "progressive" measure; and Mr. Baldwin, for the Conservatives, has promised in advance that there shall be no factious opposition.

As far as one can see at the moment, it is the unemployment plans of Mr. J. H. Thomas which will be selected as the point of failure on the part of the Government. Foreign matters, such as Egypt and Russia, are not likely to cause the downfall of the Government: as almost always, the domestic issue will be the determining one. Critics of the Government are a little gropingly forecasting this feature of unemployment as the point to breach, though it is a little difficult to see, even if Mr. Thomas's Canadian tour proves to have been the fizzle which his opponents try to make out, how those who, when they had the opportunity, or, to speak more accurately, the occasion, to do something spectacular, failed to achieve very much, can decently make such a failure a *causa belli*. What satisfaction is there for one who believes that no Government can radically touch the problem of unemployment to note that those who asserted the opposite have been proved to be wrong? "I told you so" wins few votes nowadays.

But if the Conservative Party is in the doldrums, the Liberals are in the dumps. True, Mr. Lloyd George the other day attempted to instil some fire into his supporters, who had been gathered together at Nottingham, but he did not tell them much beyond warning them to be on the look out for the Socialists' having an early trial with a General Election. It has been made public, moreover, that Sir Herbert Samuel is resigning his post as organiser of the Party—a sensible decision, one supposes, because it is one thing to organise hope and quite another to counteract disillusionment.

The End of Summer.

Summer ended officially last Sunday, when everyone, except babies and cows and other creatures whose habits do not depend on any mechanical contrivance, gratefully accepted an extra hour's sleep. The winter, now that the dark evenings have come, is once more with us. And the old men, tax-payers, rate-payers, bill-payers in general, demand fires, drawn curtains, easy chairs, and so on.

But actually it is only glorious autumn as yet—that wild, swirling, coloured time which is the best of all England's seasons. The recent rains and winds have so blessed and cleansed the countryside that to the stranger's view it is one long delight. This month of natural decadence inspires communion with the eloquent earth, as it inspires friendship with mankind. As you ride or stride along, how you exult in "the roaring boast of autumn weather"!

A Crossword Puzzle.

Considerable hilarity was caused over the week-end among busy people, but dismay among that strange folk which still indulges in the game of "crosswords" by the action, published in the *Observer* and the *Sunday Times*, of the Procurator-Fiscal of Glasgow in describing the system of awarding prizes followed for many months by these two papers as a contravention of the Lotteries Act. Those prizes (guineas or books) have been awarded to the successful candidates whose letters were the first to be opened—which was obviously a matter of pure chance.

But the amusing thing to notice is, that whereas the *Sunday Times* has crumpled up before the Procurator-Fiscal's warning, and has withdrawn its offer of prizes, the *Observer* seeks to get over the difficulty by withholding prizes only from its readers in Scotland. This is a most ingenious difference, and will be chuckled over by all those who follow the weekly rivalry between these two organs. If only the rivalry, say, between the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*, could be denoted in such a way!

Seriously speaking, however, crossword puzzles are an utter waste of time—utter, because they teach you nothing (unless it is such rare words that they need never be used, or such uncorrelated scraps of information as to be of no cultural value). The explanation of their continued popularity lies, of course, in the necessity under which so many people are of "passing the time." But time was meant to be spent recreatively, if not creatively, not merely "passed."

The Progress of London.

The London Telephone Directory has long been a cumbersome and over-weighted book, but the latest edition will make Sandows of us all. Twelve thousand names have been added since last March—with the result that the book now weighs five pounds and has 1,500 pages.

It is, of course, much more difficult than it used to be to find anyone's number, at any rate if the person desired happens to possess a common name. There are, for instance, eighteen columns of Brown, seventeen of Jones, fifteen of Williams, twelve and a-half of White, and so on. But to see who are the real rulers of London (or is it merely the greatest talkers in London?) you must turn to the Macs: they spread out over forty-nine columns.

But in return for further inconvenience in telephonic matters, we are to have greater convenience in transport. For the London General Omnibus Company are building some new buses—to be known as the L type—to take the place of the existing K's. These buses are to be more like the touring coach. The seats—thirty on the upper deck, twenty-four on the lower—are not only to be upholstered in moquette but will also give more room to passengers sitting side by side.

There are to be better lighting, better engines, and smoother riding. In short, from the point of view both of comfort and efficiency, there is progress to be made. One heartily welcomes the prospect, and only wonders whether the roads will be prepared in time for the new luxury!

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Book Reviews

A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT.

"THE WHITE MUTINY." By Sir Alexander Cardew. Illustrated (London: Constable and Co. Ltd. 12s. 6d. net).

It is improbable that many of the readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA have anything but the haziest recollections of the events narrated in this volume, and there is some excuse for them, for, though they must have formed the one topic of conversation in India one hundred and twenty years ago, the very threatening clouds soon blew over, leaving little trace behind them, so that the episode naturally does not now occupy much space in histories of India. It was, none the less, an interesting one and Sir Alexander has done well in diving into the old records with a view to giving us a lively picture of its genesis, progress and final fizzle. He has also put us into his debt by collecting excellent portraits of the chief actors.

In the beginning of the nineteenth century administration in the Madras Presidency was extraordinarily slack in all its branches, as the first three of Sir Alexander's most interesting and long appendices make very clear. Discipline seems to have been non-existent, and the highest officials gave the worst possible example to their subordinates. As a whole series of occurrences had, quite independently, led to much dissatisfaction among the English officers of the Company's regiments in that Presidency, it was little wonder that the flying sparks of insubordination found ready fuel among them. Indeed, the actual conflagration was definitely started by the amazing insubordinate and self-seeking folly of the Commander-in-Chief, General Hay Macdowell, a conceited and unbalanced officer, who was smarting under what he conceived to be personal injuries. He was dismissed (and was drowned on his way home), but the seeds he had sown quickly grew in the congenial soil. It was not long before nearly every young officer (these were very greatly in the majority) and many of the senior ones, who ought to have known better, were in open mutiny. The chief interest of this book consists in its account of the measures taken to quell it, a task which took a very short time. To this extent, perhaps, Sir Alexander Cardew is justified in claiming credit for Sir George Barlow, the new Governor. Whether Sir Alexander will succeed in securing from his readers the whole-hearted admiration which he himself feels for Sir George Barlow is perhaps doubtful. To us it seems pretty clear that Barlow was what is known in India as a "good office man," with the defects usually found in such a person, viz., frigid nature bound up in red tape and considerable ignorance of human nature. Many of our readers will have had personal experience of the bull-in-a-china shop tendencies of such an official when placed in a high administrative position. Had this not been the case, it is hardly likely that the deplorable mutiny would have come to a head at all, while the measures taken to break it, though effectual, were quite unnecessarily harsh. It is a pity that the author gives us no account of the part taken by Lord Minto in finally settling matters, but it seems clear that it was due to his subsequent action that the whole disreputable affair left so little mark behind.

The whole story was well worth telling and taking some pains to tell well. Sir Alexander Cardew has succeeded in doing so and for his scholarly labours students of Indian history (and especially of that of its armies) will be duly grateful. If we disagree with his conclusions, it is only right to mention that such disagreement is promoted by the facts stated by him with exemplary judicial fairness.

C. S-W.

JAFFA.

"JAFFA: 'BEAUTY OF THE SEAS.'" By Sybil Cust. (Windor: Oxley and Sons. 6d.)

It was a most happy thought of the Hon. Lady Cust to produce this little pamphlet on what is certainly one

of the most attractive ports in Asia. Port, however, is scarcely now the correct word for Jaffa, for as Mr. Tolkowsky, author of "The Gateway of Palestine," has discovered, the town and ancient harbour of Jaffa were destroyed in the middle of the fourteenth century. Nor is there any prospect of its becoming in full measure what it was in the past, the key to Palestine, for the choice as gateway of Palestine has fallen on Jaffa's northern neighbour, Haifa.

But for its past alone, Jaffa, with its memories of Solomon and Hiram, Cleopatra and Herod, Godfrey de Bouillon, Richard the Lion-Heart, and Saladin, the Turks and Napoleon, is infinitely well worth study. Many visitors to Palestine rush from Egypt to Jerusalem without so much as a thought of this little time-soaked town on the shore. Excuse for such Philistinism will be lacking now that this charming pamphlet has been published. Lady Cust obviously loves every stone of the storied past of Jaffa, and succeeds well in communicating her enthusiasm to the reader, who, though he may be tired of guide and hand-books, will certainly be refreshed, and resolved to visit or revisit the town whose history began with Japhet, son of Noah, and of whose future it is possible to say only one thing: that glories different perhaps in kind but not less in degree will be its lot.

LETTERS OF A PATRIOT.

"RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S 'LETTERS TO A FRIEND.'" Edited and with two introductory Essays by C. F. Andrews. (London: George Allen and Unwin. 7s. 6d. net.)

These letters, written by Sir Rabindranath Tagore between 1913 and 1922, most of them during a long tour in Europe and America, do not add anything to the impression of him which will already have been made on those who have read his essays and poems. They show us a poet, a mystic and an idealist, an ecstatic lover of beauty. We recognise very clearly, on reading this collection of letters, how deep is his devotion to his country. We are shown something also of his valiant struggles against depression and disappointment, his power to draw strength and comfort from the highest spiritual sources. The selection of these letters has obviously been a labour of love, and they should prove of interest to all admirers of the work of this poet and patriot. The book contains three portraits, one from a dry point by Muirhead Bone and two from dry points by Mukul Dey.

J. B. A.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Lawless Frontier." By Mary Gaunt. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"To an Eastern Throne." By Achmed Abdullah. (London: Hutchinson. 7s. 6d. net.)

"An Arab-Syrian Gentleman and Warrior in the Period of the Crusades." Memoirs of Usamah ibn-Munqidh (Kitab al-I'tibar). Translated in full by Philip K. Hitti, of Princetown University. (New York City: Columbia University Press. 4.50 dollars.)

"The Primary School Child"; "The Intermediate School Child"; "Nature Study in the School." By Vilhelm Rasmussen. (London: Brentano's. 5s. net each.)

"Explorations in Central Anatolia, 1926." By H. H. Von der Osten. (London: Cambridge University Press. 18s. net.)

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CRUCIAL DAYS FOR EGYPT.

(Continued from page 392.)

at the trial of Sir Lee Stack's murderers. The British Government, influenced by Egypt's record under Mahmoud Pasha, has acted in the belief that those old bad days will never recur, and that the Wafd, restored to power, will be free, as a result of the treaty, from its former anti-British obsession and will settle down to normal administration on the lines laid down during the last fifteen months. If the Wafd confirms this belief, there may well be compelling force in the "influence" that the British Government brings to bear on the other Capitulatory Powers, and in due course the independence of Egypt will be rounded off as desired. If, on the other hand, the Wafd allows its policy to be dictated by extremists, it is difficult to see how the independence of Egypt can be advanced.

EDUCATION IN PERSIA.

We learn from the *Shafagh Sorkh* that Mirza Issa Khan Sadig, Director of Public Education in the Persian Ministry of Education, who attended the adult Education Conference recently held at Cambridge, returned to Teheran on September 16. On September 18 he was received by the Minister of the Court and the Minister for Public Instruction, to whom he explained that he had engaged the services of a Professor of Geology for the Higher Normal School and of nine other professors (three for mathematics, two for teaching French, and three for physics and chemistry) for the secondary schools of Teheran and the provinces. Four other professors from France were due to arrive at the end of September. M. Sadig-Aalam has also ordered, for use in Persian schools, 5,000 wall maps of Persia and 160,000 smaller maps.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The International Congress on Criminal Law was opened in Bucharest on October 7.

Shaikh Maraghi, Rector of the University of Al Azhar, Cairo, last week tendered his resignation on the ground that it was impossible for him to continue to work under present conditions.

The 27th International Peace Congress was inaugurated in Athens on October 6 and will terminate to-day. The main subjects for discussion were the Kellogg Pact and the federation of European nations.

It has been decided by the Turkish Government to transfer to Angora the University of Stamboul. The Faculties of Letters and Theology will probably be moved this year.

Traces of dwellings of 2000 B.C. and domestic utensils, bone idols, carved vases, and small arms in copper of the same period have been discovered at Magurs Jilavei, near Bucharest.

M. Carton de Wiart, Belgian ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, during a visit to Greece was last week entertained to a banquet by the Greek Foreign Minister.

Colonel Cecil Coke, the new chief of the British Police Mission in Greece, was received in Athens by the Greek Minister of the Interior on October 3 and took over the direction of the town's police.

The Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayoress have issued invitations for a reception to be held at the Mansion House next Wednesday (October 16), on behalf of the Jewish National Fund, when the Lord Mayor will receive a letter of congratulation, written in Hebrew, from the Mayor of Tel-Aviv, the only all-Jewish city in Palestine.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that the King's Police Medal has been awarded to the following officers of police in recognition of services rendered during the recent disturbances in Palestine:—

Alan Saunders, M.C., Deputy Commandant, Palestine Police.

Raymond Oswald Cafferata, Assistant District Superintendent, Palestine Police.

The Balkan Sports, held in Athens at the invitation of the Hellenic Athletic Union, came to an end on September 20. Of the 21 events, Greece won 15, Yugoslavia two, Roumania two, and Bulgaria two. The Balkan Sports will be held annually in future, and, pending preparation by other Balkan nations, will be held in Athens for the next four years. Turkey and Albania are to be invited to send teams of competitors.

DEATH OF A ROUMANIAN REGENT.

We regret to have to record the death of M. Gheorghe V. Buzdugan, a member of the Roumanian Council of Regency. M. Buzdugan, who was sixty-two years of age, was an eminent jurist and had been President of the Court of Cassation before he was appointed, on the death of King Ferdinand in July, 1927, to form with Prince Nicholas and the Patriarch Miron the Council of Regency, during the minority of King Michael. His personal reputation and official record made his selection for the high post a popular one.

The appointment of a successor will be made by the Roumanian Parliament. Article 83 of the Roumanian Constitution gives the King authority during his lifetime to nominate a Regency to exercise the royal powers during the minority of his successor to the Throne. The nomination requires the approval of the "National Representation," consisting of the two Assemblies in joint session, and if the King shall not have exercised his prerogative of nomination, the two Assemblies in joint session appoint the three Regents. Accordingly, in the absence of any more specific regulation, the same course has to be adopted for the filling of the vacancy in the Regency caused by the death of M. Buzdugan. The omission of Queen Marie from the Council of Regency in the first instance gave rise to regret in many quarters; but it does not seem likely that two members of the Royal House will be included together in the Council of three Regents, even if the special provision in Article 77 of the Constitution for "the perpetual exclusion of women" from the Roumanian Throne is not interpreted as a bar to the presence of one in the Council of Regency.

THE KINGDOM OF YUGOSLAVIA.



MAP OF YUGOSLAVIA, SHOWING THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS, KNOWN AS BANATS (*Banovine*).

The new Administrative Law of the Yugoslav Government, which has received the assent of King Alexander, divides the Kingdom of Yugoslavia into the following administrative units—*banovine* (banats or counties):—

BANOVINE	CAPITAL	AREA: SQ. KMS.	POPULATION
Sava ...	Zagreb ...	36,897 ...	2,320,000
Danube ...	Novi Sad ...	28,160 ...	2,100,000
Varda ...	Skoplye ...	39,566 ...	1,000,000
Drina ...	Sarayevo ...	29,273 ...	1,400,000
Morava ...	Nish ...	25,721 ...	1,200,000
Drava ...	Liubliana ...	15,936 ...	1,040,000
Vrbas ...	Banya Luka ...	20,558 ...	850,000
Primorje*	Split ...	19,417 ...	800,000
Zeta ...	Cetigne ...	32,322 ...	740,000

Belgrade is constituted a separate administrative unit, which incorporates Zemun (Semlin) and Panchévo.

*Primorje signifies coast land, or littoral.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Near East Tobacco Surplus.

It looks as if the tobacco-growing countries of the Near East will be faced this year with a serious crisis due to over-production. Tobacco has the merit of being a product for which, so far as can be seen, there will be a constantly expanding market so long as the world population increases, but between the provision of gradually increasing supplies and unrestricted production there is a wide gulf, and it is to be feared that some Near East countries are likely to suffer from the consequences of having too plentiful a harvest this year. The estimated figures for Bulgaria's production have already been given in these columns, but it may be recalled here that the production is expected to amount to from 30 to 32 million kilograms, or more than double the yield of the previous year. The production of Greece is now estimated at roughly 70,000,000 kilograms, or nearly 30,000,000 kilograms more than last year, so that for these two countries alone we have an increase of about 50,000,000 kilograms. The stocks of the previous year for these countries and Turkey are placed at about 40,000,000 kilograms, and according to a Greek estimate that total will represent the surplus which the markets at present will not be able to absorb. It is interesting to note that Yugoslavia alone in recent years has kept her production within reasonable limits, and this country has also been specially fortunate in disposing of stocks to foreign Régies. It is to be hoped that the experience of this year will prove a lesson to the tobacco producers of the East, and that they will henceforward endeavour to bring production into a closer relation to the probable demand. Ultimately no doubt there will be an opening for all the tobacco the East can produce, but that time is not yet.

The New Turkish Tariff.

October 1 duly saw the introduction of the new Turkish Tariff, which constitutes a most bold experiment by the Angora authorities in Protection, and emphasises, it may be added, the hopeless task in present circumstances of bringing about anything like a general agreement as regards the reduction of tariffs. Not that it is to be assumed that the Angora authorities in this action are really inspired by the idea that through Protection by itself it will be possible to fashion a Turkey which will be self-contained. That idea would do scanty justice to the rulers of the new Turkey, for it is only too obvious that not for very many years, if ever, will Turkey be able to produce any considerable proportion of the commodities which she now imports. It is believed, as I have already indicated, that the object of the new Tariff is to give Turkey a weapon which will enable her to obtain concessions from other countries, and support for this view is forthcoming in the fact that she is taking steps to negotiate commercial treaties with various countries. Of the details of the Tariff there is little fresh to say. While the all-round increase is about 33½ per cent. the duty on pure woollen goods is increased by up to 400 per cent., and another heavy increase is in the case of certain types of motor cars. As is well known it has been necessary for the last few years for Turkey to import wheat, and as conditions in Angora have again been unfavourable this year this step will again be necessary, and it is surprising in the circumstances that the duty on wheat should be substantially increased. But as the whole effect of the

Tariff must be to raise prices in Turkey this particular feature must be regarded as simply being in keeping with the rest of the duties.

Wheat and the Near East.

It is ironical that in a year of excellent harvests in the Balkans the ruling prices of grain should make it doubtful whether the surplus of the crop available for export will be the assistance that it should be in replenishing the purchasing power of one of the most seriously devastated regions of Europe. A year ago the world's wheat crops were universally good with the result that prices fell and the Balkan countries suffered. This year, until recently, it was believed that the wheat crops of the United States and Canada, which dominate the world markets, would show a distinct falling off, but this expectation is apparently not to be realised, hence the present low prices. Of course the position may change, but if it does not it means that Roumania, for instance, will not be able to obtain the return on her harvest that was expected. It is suggested that the two great wheat producers are keeping off the market until other supplies are exhausted with a view to price regulation, so the Balkan wheat producers may yet find it possible to dispose of their surplus stocks towards the end of the year at much better prices than those ruling at present.

Russian Eastern Air Routes.

It is significant of the constancy of Russian foreign policy that in the development of air routes the Soviet Union is paying particular attention to the Middle East. There is, for instance, the line to Persia via Baku which terminates at present at Pahlavi. Then there is a line from Tashkent via Samarkand to Dushambe, and Kabul, which the Soviet Union regards as most important for the development of its interests in Central Asia. The line from Tashkent to Kabul was inaugurated in 1927, and the line is being linked up with Moscow to give through air communication to Afghanistan. The areas which the Soviet Union is now reaching by air routes present some of the most difficult terrain in Europe, and it says a good deal for the imagination of Russia's rulers that air services are thus being used to solve the problem of communications. She is certainly setting an example to other countries, who, knowing the habitual trend of Russia towards the East, may not improbably regard this steady

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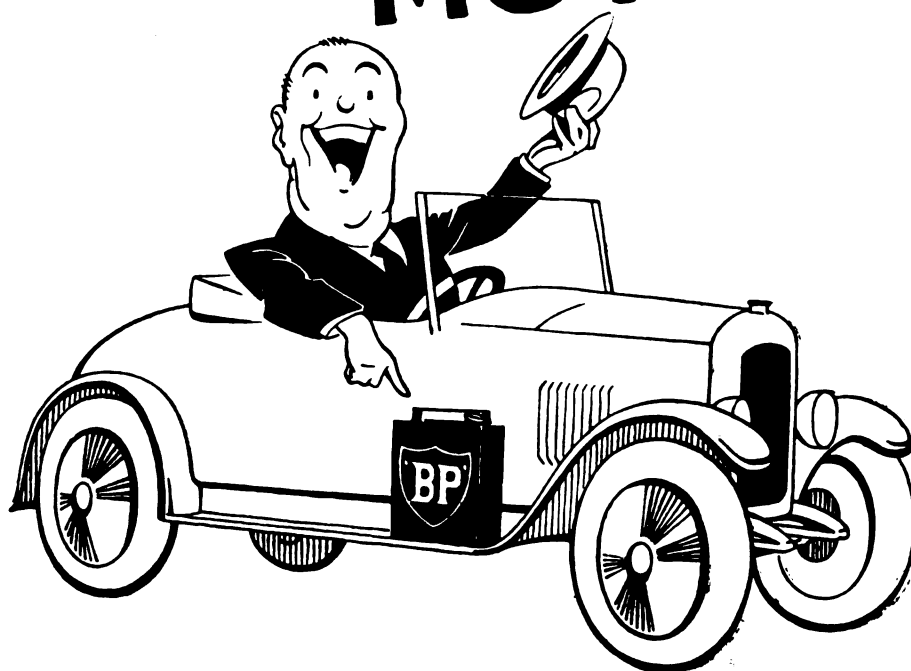
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development of air services with a certain measure of anxiety, for not even the strongest winds which may be encountered in the sky could succeed in blowing the zest for propaganda out of the Russian zealots, and a pamphlet is the same whether it comes by post or through the air.

Mr. Waugh's Retirement.

The British community at Constantinople will shortly lose one of its most notable figures through the forthcoming retirement of Mr. A. T. Waugh, C.M.G., who has been Consul-General there for the past nine years. His long tenure of that office has been far from an uneventful period, as all who are familiar with recent developments in Turkey will be aware, and his success in carrying out the work of protecting British interests is therefore specially significant. Popular with all sections he will leave a gap in the British ranks at Constantinople which will not easily be filled. Mr. Waugh, who was born in 1865, entered the Levant Consular Service in 1885, becoming Vice-Consul in 1890 and Consul in 1903. In 1915 he was appointed Commercial Attache to H.M. Legation at Athens, and from 1918-20 was attached to the British High Commission at Constantinople.

City of Constantinople Bonds.

When in May last a settlement was reached over the City of Constantinople Five per Cent. Loan of 1909, it was naturally concluded that the question was settled, and that the payments would begin on the date arranged. The first payment was to be made on September 15, but that date passed without anything happening, the explanation for this being, it is understood, that the agreement had not been signed by the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal Judges. The signatures were obtained on September 26, and it was to be expected that the payment would then be expedited, but so far as is known no steps have been taken. In view of the prolonged delays over the Turkish debt settlement it cannot be said that this fresh example of Turkish procrastination is very surprising, but it is naturally excessively irritating for the bondholders who made the settlement possible by extending generous concessions.

COMMENTATOR.

NOTES FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, October 2.

The Smyrna Fruit Crop.

It is distressing that, whilst on the one hand, certain highland districts in Anatolia are suffering from the effects of a severe drought, parts of the lowland area should, on the other, be so afflicted by an almost unprecedented deluge of rain that the sultanias drying on the ground in the sunshine have been seriously attacked by blight and mildew. The fig crop also would appear to be well below average in both quantity and quality. This has necessitated the closing down of four of the largest manipulating warehouses in Smyrna, whereby numerous graders and packers have been suddenly deprived of their livelihood.

With the addition of the foregoing of the loss of almost the entire hazel-nut crop on the Black Sea littoral, the economic outlook cannot be regarded as particularly hopeful. The hazel nut growers, who had disposed of their prospective crop on the bush by forward contract to Continental buyers, have disclaimed liability for non-delivery of the goods.

It is noteworthy that the only region where the menace of Communism has shown its head in Turkish territory should be the Smyrna Vilayet where unemployment on a fairly extensive scale among the labouring classes may

possibly have provided that fallow field for which the agents of the Third International are for ever on the look-out.

HIGH PRICES FOR SULTANAS AND FIGS.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their dried fruit report dated September 30, state:—

Currants.

Old Crop.—The position with regard to Greek currants during September showed no particular alteration from the conditions prevailing during the previous month. Trade was concentrated mainly on Australian fruit.

New Crop.—Reports of the adverse climatic conditions prevailing in Greece, which interfered with the drying process, had a restraining effect, and this was further accentuated when overland samples came to hand. With the exception of some of Vostizza growth, these advance samples showed unmistakable signs of the effects of the unfavourable weather, and engendered a disinclination to make forward contracts. The consequence is that practically no trade is reported, the exceptions being in a little cleaned Pyrgos at 34s. 9d. to 35s. c.i.f.

The 1929 season was inaugurated by the arrival of s.s. Bothnia on the 23rd inst., but the romance of the season's opening has become a thing of the past. In former times it was the event of the year in the dried fruit trade, marking the clearly declined transition from a period of absolute calm to one of bustling activity, but since the advent of Australian and South African fruits we glide almost imperceptibly into the new Greek season. It was hoped that the scarcity of bold fruit of the old crop would have stimulated demand for the good grocery fruit, but unfortunately the reception accorded to it can only be described as disappointing. This may perhaps be attributable to the lack of that bright colour attractive appearance usually associated with early arrivals. Nevertheless, the fact cannot be gainsaid that a contributing factor to this apathy was the increased interest which was given to Australian fruit during the latter part of the month. Business in Vostizza growth is fully up to the usual standard, but with this exception the movement is discouraging so far. Hope is, however, entertained that once operators settle down to normal trading they will realise that, even though colour is somewhat deficient, this season's produce is excellent in all other respects, well fed and matured. When they become convinced that quality is all that can be wished for, trade will no doubt follow its usual course, and a satisfactory volume of purchases be recorded. Sales were:—Pyrgos, none; Amalias and Patras, 42s. to 43s.; Gulf, 44s. to 47s.; Vostizza, 58s. to 70s.

Sultanias.

Smyrna.—In a general sense the month opened with the situation unsatisfactory, and the outlook afforded no encouragement to purchase on a forward basis or to anticipate autumn requirements. Good average quality was offered for September shipment at 26s. to 27s. c.i.f., and met a very poor response from the trade. Before the arrival of the first steamer with early shipments of 1929 harvest a sharp upward movement developed owing to the widespread damage from rainstorms. Reports were that out of the 60,000 ton crop only 30,000 tons were harvested, and it was estimated that of the remainder of the crop that was exposed at the time of the storm, 5,000 tons were destroyed and 10,000 tons were damaged. Later reports were to the effect that further extensive rains over the Smyrna district had caused more damage to fruit on the vines. The prices demanded for the arrival ex s.s. Siptah checked business and very little progress has been made with her cargo. Sales were:—Good qualities 54s. to 55s. 6d., and fine 60s. to 65s.

Cretans.—A fair business was done in fine fruit on tin samples for arrival per s.s. Bothnia, prices ranging from 48s. c.i.f. to 80s. duty paid. Spot sales were 80s. to 82s. 6d.

Figs.

Siptah brought the first new figs, and these were mostly disposed of before arrival: Layer boxes, 56s. to 76s.; small boxes, 73s. 6d.; Locoums, 110s.. Sales on the spot were: Layer boxes, 65s. to 90s.; small boxes, 80s.; Locoums, 115s. S.s. Bothnia arrived with further supplies and business was done at unchanged rates. Genuines were sold afloat per s.s. Bothnia at 31s. to 32s. c.i.f.

The Metropolitan Cammell Carriage, Wagon, and Finance Company, Birmingham, have been given a contract for 60 goods brake-vans for the East Indian Railway.

During archaeological excavations in the Chersonese—an ancient Greek colony near the modern Sevastopol—remains of towers of the fourth and fifth centuries B.C. were found.

The directors of the London and Lancashire Insurance Company have appointed Lord Burghley as branch manager to succeed Sir Francis Astley-Corbett, who has retired on pension, at the company's West End office, 59, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

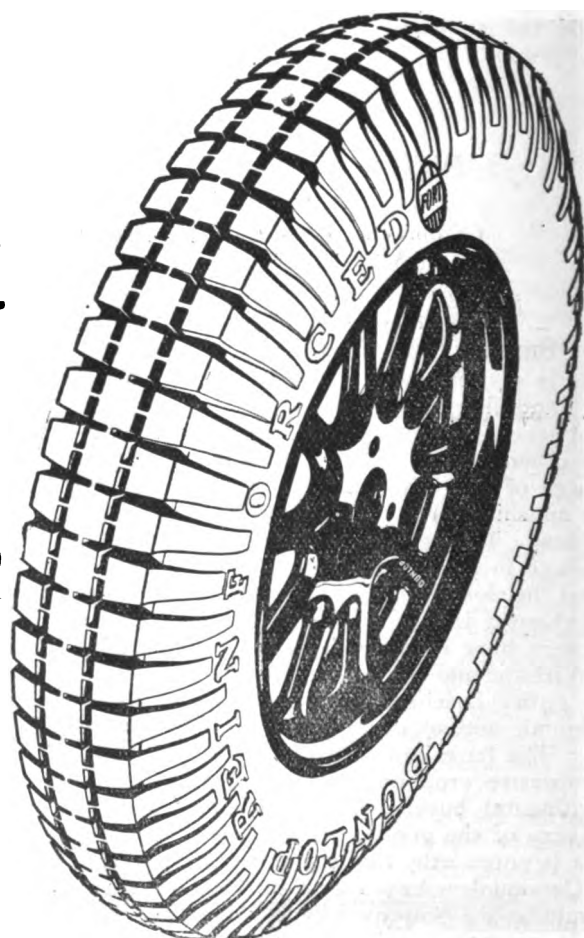


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ROUMANIAN MARKET CONDITIONS.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended September 28:—

Grain.—Business this week has been restricted owing to the continued drop in grain prices abroad. With the exception of a few fresh transactions due to the temporary low prices at which barley was offered here, practically all activity was confined to the fulfilment of old sales on which fair profits appear to have been realised. German ports lost slightly in importance this week, whilst the demand for Antwerp and Rotterdam improved. The freight market continued brisk, and spot tonnage berthed at the quay obtained up to 16s. For October-November, parcels were booked at 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d. The number of fixtures was maintained for October-November loading at almost the same rates as last week. At Constantza the position remains unchanged, but berth rates are inclined to be weaker.

Timber.—Owing to the increasing volume of grain movements on the railways and the consequent decrease in the number of wagons available for timber, arrivals of this commodity here have fallen off. However, there is only a limited demand for shipments to Mediterranean ports, for which moreover tonnage is scarce. There has been some inquiry for Continental ports for which space is still more difficult to obtain owing to preference being given to grain, but parcels of about 100 wagons have been placed for Rotterdam, shipment end October, at £12 per wagon of 22 cubic metres. A similar rate is offered for shipments to Antwerp. For Mediterranean destinations the following rates are quoted: Greece £7 15s.; Syria and Palestine £9 to £9 5s.; Sicily £11 5s.; South France £11 10s.

Weather and Crops.—The drought during the second half of August and at the beginning of September appears to have had a more detrimental effect on the maize than was anticipated; and according to new estimates there will be an exportable surplus of maize of 1,410,000 tons only whilst on the other hand there is an increase in the estimate for the surplus of straw crops to 3,220,000 tons according to the same authority, making a total of 4,630,000 tons of all the principal grains, instead of the total of 5,255,000 indicated previously.

Fairly abundant rain fell in the north and north west at the beginning of the week, extending on Tuesday over the greater part of the country. There were light rains in most districts on Wednesday and in parts of Moldavia and North Bessarabia on Thursday, but in general the second half of the week has been dry though the sky has been frequently overcast. The thermometer continued to fall early in the week, and though the days became somewhat warmer with the subsequent brighter weather, the temperature continues to be rather abnormally low and at night has been down to near freezing point, even in the southern plains. The gathering of the maize is now getting into full swing, whilst the moister condition of the ground should greatly facilitate ploughing for the autumn sowings.

Sulina Bar.—The 24 feet depth has been maintained without difficulty, and intensive dredging is being continued to obtain a margin of reserve and avoid as much as possible any change which might arise through boisterous weather and other elements beyond human control. One suction dredger and one bucket dredger are at present being employed. The last official advices show that there are two shallows with a minimum depth of 22 ft. 6 in. in the river, but one of the suction dredgers, which was also employed for a time on the bar, has been put to work to restore the depth.

Bulgarian Report.

Constantza.—Grain arrivals this week amounted to about 12,000 tons and apparently the same quantity was shipped, most of it for Hamburg, smaller quantities going to Hull and Trieste. At the time of writing three steamers are loading at the elevators, three are waiting

for berths, and eleven others are expected for full cargoes or completions after loading in the Danube. Seven vessels loaded over 30,000 tons petroleum products and two took oil fuel for bunkers.

September 21.—The market has been somewhat livelier. About 2,000 tons sunflower seed have been booked at 18s. per ton, prompt shipment, for Rotterdam, and it is reported that for about 1,000 tons maize, second half October shipment, 11s. 6d. per unit has been accepted. Maize is beginning to make its appearance at shipping centres, but it is not expected that important quantities will be available before the middle of October.

Weather and Crops.—There was heavy rain here from Sunday midnight till Monday morning, after which the weather remained mostly cloudy and cool and warm. The preparation of the ground for autumn sowing is progressing satisfactorily.

THE CINEMATOGRAPH IN EGYPT.

According to an American Consular report, although Egypt is at present a relatively small market for motion pictures, the future possibilities are considerable. American films are said to be very popular, and it has been estimated by several distributors that they constitute 70 per cent. of the films imported. The social film is the best liked in Egypt, and there is a distinct demand for comics. Western dramas are not popular in the cities of Cairo and Alexandria, but find a good market in the provinces.

Egypt's only studio is located at Helipolis. Films thus far produced in Egypt have not been marketed abroad, except in the Sudan, Syria, and Palestine. They find a market in the 50 motion-picture theatres operating in Egypt. Six have a seating capacity of 1,000 or over, while 11 seat from 700 to 1,000, the seating capacity of the rest being from 300 to 700. Eighteen houses exhibit first-run pictures.

In Cairo and Alexandria and in the larger provincial towns all theatres give two performances daily and an additional matinee on Sunday. The programmes average from 3,000 to 4,000 metres, only one or two theatres running over that amount. The programmes are made up of the usual short subjects and the feature—first and second run houses usually running their programmes one week, the third and fourth run houses changing twice weekly.

Rentals for films used in these theatres vary widely, according to the importance of the film and the actors. There are three common methods of renting films in Egypt—outright, fixed price per foot, and the percentage basis. Of the above, the first-run theatres customarily use the latter arrangement. The percentage varies in different theatres for rentals of normal films and up to 60 per cent. for films featuring certain artists who are most popular.

The Egyptian State Railways have given a contract for white metal for metallic packing to the Anti-Attrition Metal Company, London.

The total export movement of petroleum products from Roumania during July amounted to 285,992 tons, made up of 91,007 tons of motor spirit, 61,884 tons of illuminating oil, 33,526 tons of gas oil, 93,249 tons of mazout, and 6,326 tons of other oils. For the seven months of the present year Roumania has exported 1,594,690 tons of petroleum products.

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NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, October 1.

The Reparations Question.

The matter which is occasioning the most serious anxiety in both Government and Opposition circles is the problem of Eastern Reparations which a decision of The Hague Conference has brought to the foreground. The problem is being studied by a committee of experts in Paris who are to present a report to the Conference. This committee has already heard the evidence of Bulgarian experts, and notably of M. Danailoff, the Deputy and former Minister, Professor of Political Economy at Sofia University, and its decision is now awaited. The imminence of a decision and the dangers of a consolidation of Bulgarian Reparations, as they were fixed by the Treaty of Neuilly and the later agreement of 1923, have aroused general apprehension, and the view is taken that it would be preferable for Bulgaria to refuse to take part in the committee and the Conference rather than accept a ruling which would make her a country materially ruined and enslaved. Bulgaria's Reparations were originally fixed by the Treaty of Neuilly at the relatively colossal sum of 2,250,000,000 gold francs; the creditors soon appreciated that this sum could never be paid by Bulgaria, and in March, 1923, by an agreement between the Bulgarian Government and the Inter-Allied Commission at Sofia two categories were arranged, of which one of 550,000,000 was immediately exigible and was payable in fixed annuities at 5 per cent. interest up to 1982, while the other was 1,700,000,000, which would not be payable before April 1, 1953, which was equivalent to saying that it would never be paid. However, it became clear subsequently, especially when the interest was added, that even the reduced amount of 550,000,000 exceeded Bulgaria's capacity to pay, and the Bulgarians hope that the Allies will take this situation into account when within three years Bulgaria has to face the full annuities of 43,395,336 gold francs, or about 1,200,000,000 leva on a Budget of 7,000,000,000 leva, already hampered by more than a milliard and a half leva for the service abroad of pre-War and post-War loans.

Bulgaria pays at present on account of Reparations an annuity of ten million gold francs. It can only be believed that the negotiations which are now in progress not only will not result in increasing this amount for the annuities to come, but will reduce it to the level of the country's capacity, if it is not desired to perpetrate a crying injustice on the Bulgarian people.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

BULGARIA.

Locomotives.—The Ministry of Railways invites tenders for the supply of 3 locomotives (type 282). October 28. (D.O.T.)

EGYPT.

Architectural Ironwork.—The International Quarantine Board of Egypt are inviting tenders for the supply of wrought iron doors, grilles, balustrades, etc., for the Board's new headquarters at Alexandria. January 1. (D.O.T.)

160-h.p. Diesel-driven Generating Set.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and delivery of one Diesel electric generating set for the Manfalout Power Station. November 19. (D.O.T.)

Water Tower, Etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of a steel water tank on a steel framework tower, to be complete with necessary piping and fittings and an electric water level indicator. November 2. (D.O.T.)

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of two Diesel pumping units and accessories at Khattara Pumping Station (Aswan Province). November 25. (D.O.T.)

Tartar Emetic and Carbon Tetrachloride.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 760 kilos of tartar emetic and 6,800 kilos of carbon tetrachloride. December 7. (D.O.T.)

Fire Extinguishers, etc.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of fire extinguishers and accessories required for the schools during the year 1929-1930. November 11.

GREECE.

Box Nailing Machines.—A firm in Patras is desirous of receiving quotations for the supply of box nailing machines for nailing up currant boxes. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. California for Bombay (Glasgow, October 15; Birkenhead, October 21). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahrona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 22); s.s. Circassia for Calcutta (Glasgow, October 24; Birkenhead, October 31).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 16).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 19); s.s. Domala for Bombay (London, November 2).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bosnia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Glasgow, October 15; Swansea, October 17; and Liverpool, October 19); s.s. Brescia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, and Gruz, if sufficient inducement (Glasgow, October 14; Liverpool, October 26; and Swansea, October 29).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 19); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 8). (This steamer will be the last sailing of the season to the ports of Galatz and Braila, and sailing November 9.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, October 25); s.s. Padua for Calcutta (London, October 25).

Prince Line.—S.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, October 12); s.s. Sicilian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Cyprus ports, Tripoli, Alexandretta, and Mersin (London, October 23).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Mardinian for Algiers*, Oran*, Piræus, Syra, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 12; Swansea*, October 12); s.s. Algerian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, October 12; Swansea, October 17); s.s. Andalusian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 24; Swansea, October 19); s.s. Lesbian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 2; Swansea*, November 2); A steamer for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, November 7). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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†CALIFORNIA ...	Oct. 22	*MASSILIA ...	Nov. 26

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, October 8.

The Stock Exchange has experienced another difficult week. At the opening there was a continuance of the liquidation engendered by the Hatry crisis and the rise in Bank Rate, and this was accentuated by rumours of restriction of carry over facilities at the end of the present account. Later in the week a better tone gradually made itself evident following signs of improvement in the monetary situation. The dollar and mark exchanges had risen well above gold point early in the week, and later the franc exchange at last showed signs of reacting to the higher Bank Rate, so that considerably more confidence was felt in the monetary outlook and gilt-edged stocks responded, while some interest was taken in Home Rails. Some industrial shares, and particularly the newspaper group, fluctuated widely, but the industrial market as a whole has been appreciably better than in the previous week. Rubber and tin shares reacted on a setback in the price of the respective commodities.

Some Sound Investments.

In difficult markets such as those which have existed for some time past, and which will continue in view of the many obscurities in the financial outlook, it is particularly advisable for the investor who is not in close touch with the markets to give chief attention to securities of unimpeachable soundness. It is true that it is at times when prices are low that bargains can be picked up in the speculative sections, but as a general rule the ordinary investor is not in a position to exploit such possibilities. Those who have money to invest in the near future should therefore aim at safety above all other considerations. There are obtainable, however, sound investments giving a very fair income, some examples of which may be helpfully given. We have referred before to the issues of 6 per cent. bonds of the French railways made just after the War, triply secured by the revenue of the company in question, the joint fund of the French railways, and the French Government. Among these the Nord bonds can be bought to yield £6 1s. per cent. The strong position of

the Union Cold Storage Company is well known. The dividend of its 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares is the first charge on its profits, which have been remarkably steady in recent years. These shares return just £6 per cent. The profits of Pinchin Johnson and Company, the paint manufacturers, have grown rapidly, and the dividend on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, which yield £5 15s. per cent. is very well-secured. Last year it was covered some ten times by earnings.

Rubber Outlook.

There has been a considerable fall in the price of rubber this week, and prices continue to show more likelihood of declining than of recovering. The immediate cause of the sharp decline in the price of raw rubber may be attributed to the report of a volume of production in Malay well above that predicted by reliable estimators. The increased output from Malaya is apparently due to the better yields obtained from trees which were rested during the rubber restriction period for British territories which lasted up to November of last year. The question now is whether the maximum yield has now been reached or whether the high output will continue, but the benefit of resting is hardly like to continue far beyond the next twelve months. On the consumption side of the rubber price problem the outstanding fact is that the United States consumption for the year is likely to be lower than expected, but with the present low prices, which the American statistics more accurately predicted, some increased buying is likely to occur in the near future. In the rest of the world consumption is likely to increase steadily as it may truly be said that in many countries motor transport is now entering upon a development such as occurred in the United States during the last seven years. Prices therefore will largely depend on American consumption and Malayan production which are the two factors to be watched.

Newspaper Share Values.

Considerable attention has been directed this week to the market in newspaper shares following upon the widespread advertisement of a reassuring statement by Lord Rothermere as to the position of shareholders in the companies of what is known as the Rothermere group. The decline in the shares, which, in fact, this broadcast statement has not checked, has arisen from fears that the intensive competition now being seen in the provincial newspaper world must adversely affect profits, while the rise in the cost of newsprint is another unfavourable factor. Moreover, as we have mentioned before, in recent years the size of newspapers has often been increased to a greater extent than has the space devoted to advertising matter, which indicates increasing costs without a compensating advance in revenue. These factors must affect profits in the immediate future, but, in the provinces at any rate there is still scope for expansion in circulations. Many of the leading companies have built up sound positions, and are believed to have substantial hidden reserves. While the provincial newspaper war may prove expensive to the companies for a time, in most cases this will not seriously affect the distribution to shareholders. Newspaper shares are necessarily a somewhat speculative holding, but, though prices may yet go lower, we should advise holders to consider the position carefully before being frightened by the recent decline into selling out at a loss.

Representatives of a Turkish shipping company arrived at the Piræus at the end of last month to negotiate the purchase of cargo boats.

Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, have received orders from the Egyptian Telephone Administration for 31,000 miles of rotary automatic exchange equipment.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd. for the ten days ended September 10 amounted to £E8,450, making the total from April 1 £E131,083, as against £E114,870 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

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COLOMBO—Skinner & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros.
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Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
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The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

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growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives. The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

New Models at the Motor Show.

There is a good deal of speculation in the minds of private motorists as to what the forthcoming Motor Show, which this year is being held from October 17 to 27 at Olympia, will bring forth in the way of new models. This year there has not been quite as much forecasting as usual, and the reason for that is that actually there is comparatively little to forecast. The industry has settled down, rightly or wrongly, to a condition of steadiness, and it is fairly safe to say that we shall see very little that is new or startling at Olympia this year. One writer says that as makers announce particulars of new models earlier and earlier each year, we already know about most of the treats that are in store for us. In that case, we may as well admit at once that the "treats" are very few and of relatively small importance.

We are all glad to have the Show with us again; we are more or less optimistic about the prospects of trade for next season; we are all talking about this, that, or the other firm's great schemes for production and there are very few of us who dare say openly what is in our minds. Being one who never was afraid to say what he thought, I may as well say openly what a good many of us are thinking, and that is that the motor trade is about at its zenith and that there are no great prospects for any big increase in business. I may go further and say that not only does it seem unlikely that there will be any big increase in the numbers of private car owners, but that the present number is likely to show a decrease. There are, and always will be, a number of people who talk wildly about the coming motor age and foresee a time when everyone will own a car, but their prophecies need not be taken seriously. The cold-drawn fact—and we may as well face it—is that practically everyone who wants to own a motor car to-day has one, and in that case all that makers will be able to do in the future will be to keep pace with requirements and put enough new cars on the market each year to balance the number that go on the scrap heap, either here or abroad. For some time to come the trade will remain at its present level, as second-hand, re-conditioned cars will be shipped abroad, and the output of new cars will have to balance the number that are sent out of the country plus those that go to the scrap dealers. As an offset against this must be reckoned the number of cars that come into the country, and so, taking everything into consideration, we can arrive at the probable demand for cars in the future. There is, of course, another factor to

be taken into account, which is the desire of many car owners to have something new and more powerful. The horse-power tax is losing its terrors, and few motorists now regard it as a serious matter. They realise that after all there is not much difference between a tax of £12 per annum and one of, say, £15 or £20 per annum when spread over a year. So makers will probably put rather more powerful engines in future models. Not that the day of the light car is done, by any means; I believe the "seven" will always retain its popularity.

But the chief thing that will tell on the industry, and that is already beginning to make itself felt, is that there is no new public to tap in this country. The instalment system of paying stimulated demand, and a good many people seem to have failed to recognise that the demand thus stimulated was largely artificial and could not be maintained. Practically everyone who felt he would like a car is now satisfied, and it may be taken that those who are not motorists now are never likely to be. Most non-motorists of the present day would not take a car as a gift; they do not want to be saddled with the risk and responsibility; the pleasure of crawling home on a Sunday evening along any crowded main road does not appeal to them. They do not like the noise and inconvenience of motoring in towns; they regard a good many motorists as little better than hooligans; they are beginning to query whether the country as a whole is not paying far too highly, in life and limb and cash, for the gratification of those who want to rush, purposeless and objectless, along our main roads. Whatever may be the future of private motoring, and my view that it has reached its zenith may quite possibly be wrong, it is certain that commercial motors will steadily increase; nothing that I have said applies to that side of the industry, but the private car side is going to enter on lean years in the near future unless I am very much mistaken. I am not alone in that opinion.

Some Improvements.

I foreshadowed some time ago that makers were going to give greater attention to chassis lubrication, and in the new models it is only necessary to depress a plunger to lubricate every part of the chassis from a central reservoir. Silent rubber shackles which will require no lubrication will be fitted to a number of the new models, and most of the cars of the enclosed type will have lower roof lines, the change being effected by either making a well in the floor boards for the feet of the passengers or by swinging the body below the side members of the chassis frame.

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Certain models will have the ends of the chassis frame inclined upwards so as to give a low centre for the body mounting. Silencing, still far from perfect on some of the cheaper models, will be found to have received attention, and silencers themselves have been considerably improved, so much so that in most there is practically no back pressure for the engine to contend against.

I have received, as every motor journalist has, innumerable catalogues, lists, and booklets relating to new Show models, but truth compels one to say that there is nothing much that is new in any of them. The new Rolls-Royce models are perhaps most worthy of notice, and regarding them I can say that on the stand of that firm will be two of the new 40/50 h.p. Phantom II. models, one fitted with Windover Sendanca de Ville body finished with cellulose black, fine lined ivory and soft black leather, and the other fitted with a Hooper enclosed limousine body, finished with cellulose mulberry and black and soft black leather. There will also be a chassis of the same type, fitted with Barker saloon, finished with cellulose old ivory and Havana brown, with soft leather upholstery. On the stand will also be a 20 h.p. chassis fitted with Thrupp and Maberly fixed head coupe, finished with cellulose Verona red and black and brown upholstery. Twelve other Rolls-Royce cars will be shown at Olympia on the stands of various coach-builders, and all models will be fitted with, amongst other improvements, a centralised system of lubrication.

Traffic.

It has been my province, in another place, to have a good deal to do in connexion with mechanical traffic signals, and having had to observe them in use in many places, I have nothing but praise for them. It is complained by some that they are by no means easy to see, and although there appears to be little in that complaint, it is being taken into consideration by the authorities concerned and some improvement may, and probably will, be made. The only drawback to them that I have noticed has been a tendency on the part of some drivers to ignore them and to take their chance in getting across, with luck. It is always possible, with automatic signals, for a driver to ignore them and then, should anything untoward occur, protest that he did not notice the signal; but although that is done in America, I feel it will never be done in this country, where motorists are far too conscientious. I am, however, quite in agreement with those who urge that in towns where automatic traffic signals are in use, warning notices to that effect should be prominently displayed at all entrances to the town, so that car drivers will know what to expect. There is no difficulty about that; signs of an inexpensive nature can easily be erected, and so made that they are illuminated at night, and I certainly agree that should be done.

Arterial Roads.

It is to be hoped that the Ministry of Transport scheme for constructing an arterial road over Exmoor will not be carried out. No one wants an arterial road over the moor; as a matter of fact, motorists go to places like Minehead and Dulverton and the little villages under the shadow of Dunkery Beacon to get away from that sort of thing. I hear that the people of Winsford are up in arms against the idea. Well, good luck to them. I sincerely

hope they succeed in their efforts to get the scheme squashed.

INCREASED CYPRUS IMPORTS.

The report on Cyprus trade for August shows that the value of imports during the month was £195,984, or £58,716 above that for August, 1928, and £73,953 more than the quinquennial average. Exports at £103,682 were £6,119 less than in August last year, but £4,103 above the quinquennial average. For the eight months January to August the following are the values of imports and exports, as compared with the same period last year:—

		Imports.	Exports.
1929	...	£3,304,959	£1,082,917
1928	...	1,138,954	941,101
Increase	...	£166,005	£141,816

The following figures are those of the principal increases over imports for August, 1928:—Cotton goods, £2,532; machinery, £15,637; chemical manures, £8,822; petrol and benzine, £6,759; petroleum, £2,078; tobacco, £4,036; cement, £7,060; iron and steel, £4,702. The only appreciable decrease was flour (£12,467).

The slight decrease in exports as compared with August, 1928, is due to a fall in shipments of asbestos (£10,067), pyrites (£3,557), potatoes (£3,662), and raisins (£2,365). Other products of the Colony showed increases, especially barley, mules, spices, and hides and skins.

Twenty-three steamers called at Larnaca, 34 at Limassol, and 20 at Famagusta, as against an average of 27, 28, and 20, respectively.

CYPRUS CROPS.

The report on Cyprus crops for September states:—

Threshing of wheat is practically completed; the crop has been normal. Prices are fluctuating between 6s. and 7s. 6d. per bushel. Large quantities are being purchased for export to Greece and Asia Minor for seed.

Threshing of barley is completed, and the grain is stored. As predicted in previous reports, production is above the average. Exports to the United Kingdom, Egypt, Syria, and Greece have taken place during the month. Prices are from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 5d. per bushel. Offers are good, and the demand is fair.

The production of oats is poor, and well below normal. Offers and demand are weak.

The conditions of the new crop of potatoes is very satisfactory. Offers and demand for the old crop are rather poor. Many damaged tubers are in store. The price is £6 10s. per ton.

Good reports are forthcoming from all the cotton areas. The estimated production will exceed that of the previous season by 15 per cent. Picking is in full progress. The demand is good but offers are poor. The price is 2s. 6d. per stone for seed cotton.

The development of the orange plantations is normal. The prospects of production are better than that of the last two seasons.

The export of green lemons is now in progress. Over 150,000 have already been exported to various destinations. Prices are 15s. to 20s. per 1,000. Offers and demand are fair.

The export of pomegranates to Egypt has started. The production is fair, and the price is 7d. per stone. Offers are good, but the demand is poor.

The carob crop is now in store. The production is below the average. Prices are fluctuating between 22s. and 24s. per kantar.

The production of onions is very good. Offers are good, but the demand is poor. The price is £4 10s. per ton.

The export of grapes to Egypt is in progress. Raisin making is practically over and the general vintage has started. Prices are: Red dry wine, 23s. to 24s. per load; raisins, 1s. 5d. per stone.

The directors of the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation have declared an interim dividend of 5s. 6d. per share, less tax (22 per cent.), compared with 5s. (or 20 per cent.) last year, on the ordinary shares. The dividend and that on the preference shares are payable on November 1.

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DEVELOPMENT OF SYRIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

Until recently textile manufacturing in Syria was primitive. During 1928, however, a considerable quantity of textile machinery was imported from abroad and modern methods are being adopted, particularly in the weaving industry (says the American Consul-General at Beyrout in a recent report). The production of silk cocoons in Syria increased from 2,960,000 kilos (a kilo equals 2.2046 lb.) in 1926 to 3,185,000 in 1927 and 3,350,000 in 1928. At the end of 1928 the price of Syrian raw silk was about 18s. 11d. a pound, compared with 16s. 4½d. at the close of 1927. During 1928 the Syrian Government aided silk growers by the free distribution of 10,000 mulberry trees. During 1928 Syria exported 185,482 kilos of raw silk, with a value of £274,609, of which 171,368 kilos, valued at £259,316, went to France. Lebanon has approximately 90 silk-reeling establishments, of which four have over 100 basins. Efforts are being made to improve and modernise their equipment.

Cotton growing on a large scale is regarded as practicable in Syria, but as yet the quantity produced averages only about 10,000 bales annually. During the last quarter of 1928 a cotton spinning mill was built near Tripoli and equipped with American machinery. The mill is capitalised at £100,000, and its owners expect to use Syrian cotton to spin about 1,600 lb. of yarn per 10-hour day. The mill plans to begin operations with 70 to 80 people and hopes to expand production until it employs about 450.

Textile weaving in the Damascus district has been given a fresh impetus by the production of native cotton and the introduction of rayon. Of the mills weaving silk goods and silk and cotton materials, five substituted modern equipment for their old hand looms in 1928, at a combined cost of 9,600 Turkish gold pounds. A sixth textile firm, which formerly operated a small factory equipped with hand looms, built a mill and installed new machinery worth 1,700 Turkish gold pounds. This concern has a capitalisation of 20,000 Turkish pounds, and expects to employ 100 weavers. The machinery imported during 1928 by the aforementioned plants was about 60 per cent. of French origin and 40 per cent. Swiss. Raw silk is obtained mainly from Lebanon, and rayon chiefly from Italy. The market for the finished materials is found mainly in Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, and Persia.

A mill for the manufacture of such materials as wool broadcloth, serge, gabardine, and cheviot was also opened in Damascus during the year. Syrian wool is not suitable for such materials, and, therefore, the mill uses imported yarns as well as foreign dyes. New electric machinery to equip this mill was purchased from Germany. The capitalisation of this plant is reported at about 20,000 Turkish pounds. When operating at capacity, fifty employees will be needed.

A silk spinning mill has been established at Broussa with the co-operation of Japanese capital.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for September was 78,790 tons.

Mr. Charles S. B. Wentworth Stanley has been elected a director of Forbes, Forbes, Campbell and Co., East India merchants, as from October 1.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended September 7 amounted to Rs.13,45,083, making the total from April 1 Rs.2,94,61,412, as against Rs.2,68,84,661 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

The crude oil production of the Roumanian oilfields during August amounted to about 430,000 tons, an increase of 30,000 tons over the figures for July and June. The production of the principal companies during the month was as follows (in tons):—Astra Romana, 88,112; Steaua-Romana, 83,481; Phoenix Oil, 44,271; Rom.-Americana, 42,408; Creditul Miner, 35,431; Sirius, 34,958; Concordia, 22,575; D.R.D.P., 15,101; and Colombia, 13,778.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 2:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—During the sessions intervening between our last report and the week-end, this market continued to meet pressure, poor Alexandria reports and restricted support from both trade and speculative quarters influencing values gradually to still lower levels. At the turn of the week, a change in sentiment in the American departments began to be apparent, and whilst this had no immediate price effect on our market, it created a better undertone and led to the development of sufficient buying power to absorb offerings. Since this, a sharp upward move has been experienced, the overseas market recovering over 1 dollar per kantar during the last two sessions, with local values, stimulated by short covering and a moderate amount of trade purchases, showing an equivalent advance. The net result of the week's trading is a loss of 5 to 16 points for near positions and a gain of 3 to 9 points for more distant options. The rise in the Bank rate has come at a most inopportune time for Lancashire; business was just beginning to develop on more satisfactory lines, and the results of this further handicap have been reflected during the past few days in the policy of all sections to reduce stocks; thus both the turnover in cotton and yarns has been adversely affected. Reviewing the supply side of the situation, it would appear that present stocks and prospective yields of Egyptian and Sudan Sakels are going to prove ample for all requirements, and, with this in view, consumers here and abroad will probably only work on close lines unless we run down to a closer difference with other varieties. In the meantime, the accumulation of new crop arrivals should keep the contract markets in check or even cause a decline, unless more outside support develops as a result of a further "bull movement in the American markets."

Upper Contract.—Only a limited amount of business has transpired in this market during the past week; in the earlier trading an easy undertone was in evidence and differences with American again narrowed. More recently a better off-take has been in evidence and the market has shown a firmer tendency. New crop samples confirm previous reports regarding quality and staple; the latter is very satisfactory in comparison to the old crop, whilst the grade is somewhat lower. This in our opinion is rather a "bull" point for the contract, especially so as reports of the American staple yield are not so satisfactory, and the basis has commenced to appreciate. Taking a long view, we consider that purchases, should the market react again to the neighbourhood of 11d., are to be recommended; it also appears probable that at a later date our premium over the American contract will widen.

Egyptian Spot.

Values have fluctuated in a somewhat uncertain manner during the past week, and this has resulted in some falling off in the

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.10½
Athens	Drachms to £	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	27½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.40
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.18
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32—29 3/32
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.87½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	817
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.87
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 27/32—29 3/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1,006½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.86 8/16—½
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123.91½
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	164½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	92.89
Sofia.....	Leva to £	673.659	675
Teheran	Krans to £	48	57
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.57½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43½—½

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recently improved conditions here. Spinners have lately acquired the habit of buying on declines, and this week the tendency of the market has been towards higher levels. Buyers, for the moment, appear to be rather nonplussed at the turn which events have taken. It is, of course, no secret that the local stock, both of Sakel and Upper, has been thoroughly combed out, in so far as the medium qualities are concerned, and there are still several weeks to pass before any marked alleviation can take place by means of new crop shipments. Taken in combination with the prospect of a "bullish" Bureau report next Monday (and sentiment appears to be veering that way), the situation cannot be exactly a happy one for those who are really short of the raw material. Except for Uppers, in which the customary steady offtake has continued, the daily spot inquiry has been quieter.

Sakels.—A fair demand has been in evidence for cotton at from pass to 75 on, but other qualities have suffered from neglect.

Uppers.—A steady trade has continued for cotton at from 10 to 35 points on November contracts, and the inquiry for the lower and the top grades has shown signs of broadening. New crop arrivals are eagerly awaited.

Pilion has been in moderate request only.

Nahda, White, Maarad, and Fouadi.—Very little interest has been evinced in these growths, with the exception of the last, of which some odd sales have been reported.

Sudan Sakel.—A fair business has been done at steady rates, but once again it has been the lower qualities which have attracted attention.

Tokar Sakel has been almost entirely neglected.

C.i.f. Business.—More interest has been shown, but spinners so far have been contented with near-by shipments. Forwardings to the trade last week were returned as 5,807 bales Egyptians and 1,362 bales Sudans. Estimated spot sales for the week, 1,800 bales Egyptians and 1,250 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel are 15 points lower for the finer grades, but other qualities are unchanged to 10 points higher. Uppers are 18 points, and Pilion 20 points higher. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 16.75d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.48d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.55d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 26, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active, but the tendency once again has been rather weak. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 32.25 dollars, 1.03 dollars down; January, 32.77 dollars, 0.92 dollars down; March, 33.30 dollars, 0.84 dollars down; May, 33.70 dollars, 0.73 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 20.62 dollars, 0.31 dollars down; December, 21.15 dollars, 0.18 dollars down; February, 21.60 dollars, 0.25 dollars down; April, 22.00 dollars, 0.24 dollars down; June, 22.40 dollars, 0.23 dollars down.

The Turkish military authorities have given an order to the Ariel Motor Cycle Company, Wolverhampton, for 46 motor-cycles.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Oct. 7	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Sept. 18.
Government Stocks.			Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	...	79½	3½% Government Paper ...	...	68½
Do. Prof. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	...	68½	Banks		1.385
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	...	84	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	100
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	...	78	Bank of India ...	...	18½
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	...	28½	Central Bank of India ...	...	...
Do. 7 p.c. ...	...	81	Coal.		6.80
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	...	67	Baraboni ...	...	49½
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	...	67	Bengal ...	...	16½
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	...	51½d	Burrakur ...	...	27½
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	...	68	East Indian ...	...	28½
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	...	68½d	Equitable ...	...	40½
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ...	...	56	Pench Valley ...	...	46½
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	...	57½d	Raneesunge ...	...	65½
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Loan issue) ...	...	71½	Standard ...	...	...
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	...	100½	Cotton.		37½
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	...	85½	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	775
Do. 5 p.c. 1924 ...	...	100½	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	392
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	...	83½	Bowrah ...	...	174
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	...	69	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	16
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	...	42½d	Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	33½
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	...	73½	Century ...	...	49½
Do. 7 p.c. ...	...	104	Central India ...	...	91
Sudan 4½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	...	64 5/16	Elgin ...	...	87½
India 3½ p.c. ...	...	54½	Khatu Mankaji ...	...	337
Do. 3 p.c. ...	...	99½	Muir ...	...	161
Do. 3½ p.c. ...	...	85½	New Ring ...	...	327½
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	...	19½	Phoenix ...	...	420
Banks.			Svadeshi ...	...	...
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	...	7½	Jute.		560
Bank of British West Africa ...	...	4½	Alliance ...	...	29½
Bank of Roumania ...	...	80½	Barnagore ...	...	585
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	...	28½	Budge Budge ...	...	40½
Chartered Bank of India ...	...	19½	Clive ...	...	568½
Easters ...	...	6½	Dalhousie ...	...	600
Hambros ...	...	10 1/16	Delta ...	...	982
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	...	61 1/16	Fort Gloster ...	...	477½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	...	11½	Gourepore ...	...	593 1/16
Lloyds ...	...	62 3/4	Howrah ...	...	668
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	...	304	Kamarhaty ...	...	554½
Do. B ...	...	33½	Kankarrah ...	...	653½
National Bank of Egypt ...	...	32	Khardah ...	...	1,095½
National Bank of India ...	...	184	Kinnison ...	...	324
Ottoman Bank ...	...	114	National ...	...	492½
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	...	84	Standard ...	...	76
Westminster ...	...	74 1/2	Miscellaneous		213 1/16
Land.			British India Corporation ...	...	23 1/16
Kasala Cotton ...	...	8/6	Bengal Paper Mills ...	...	40½d
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	...	6/9	Bengal Timber Trading ...	...	215½
Sudan Plantations ...	...	41 1/16	Burn and Co. ...	...	377
Mines.			Cawnpore Sugar ...	...	174
Balaghat Gold Mining ...	...	5½	Champaran Sugar ...	...	13½d
Burma Corp. ...	...	17 1/2	Howrah Oil Mills ...	...	12½
Champion Reef Gold ...	...	9 3/4	ALEXANDRIA		
Mysore ...	...	12½	Prices on Sept. 27, supplied by G.L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Nandyaes ...	...	17 1/2	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	£79 3/4
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord. ...	...	8 3/4	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	£740
Oil.			Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	14
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	...	2½	Behera Ord. ...	...	£23 3/4
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	...	4½	Ciments d'Egypte ...	...	£161
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	...	25 9/16	Div. ...	...	£174
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	...	28 1/16	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	...	£2 1/16
Do. 5 p.c. Dabs. ...	...	97½	Credit Foncier Egyptian ...	...	£85
Brit. Burmah ...	...	6/9	Fondateur ...	...	£2500
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	...	41 1/16	Crown Brewery Priv. ...	...	£140
Do. 8½ Cum Prof. ...	...	26 9/16	Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	...	£31 1/4
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	...	3	Frigoisques d'Egypte ...	...	£261
Phoenix Oil and Transport (p.) ...	...	11½	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	...	£153 3/4
Do. (1/2) ...	...	7½	Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	...	£165 3/4
Shell Transport ...	...	413 1/16	Parts de Fond ...	...	£220
Steaua Romana ...	...	9/9	Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	...	£190
Railways.			Shipping.		
Assam-Bengal ...	...	93½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	...	84
Bengal Doonars ...	...	182½	Cunard ...	...	23 1/2
Bengal Nagpur ...	...	88½	Furness Withy ...	...	36 1/2
Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	...	43 1/16	Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	55½
Nizams Gtd. ...	...	262½	P. and O. Deferred ...	...	...
Ottoman (Smy. L. Aid) ...	...	42 1/16	Tea.		131 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	...	59	Assam Co. ...	...	11
Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	...	58	Bengal United Tea Ord ...	...	31½
Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	...	62	Bramapootra ...	...	24
Southern Punjab ...	...	190	British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	11
South Indian ...	...	115½	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	313 1/16
Rubber.			Carolina ...	...	5 9/16
Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	8½	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	215 1/16
Do. (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	19½	Consolidated Estates ...	...	3
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	13 1/32	Darjeeling Co. ...	...	31 1/16
Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...	15½	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	24
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	16	Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	15½
Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	30 1/2	Doologram Tea ...	...	45 1/16
Shipping.			East Assam ...	...	21 1/16
Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	...	84	Empire of Ind. ...	...	11
Cunard ...	...	23 1/2	Halem Tea ...	...	2
Furness Withy ...	...	36 1/2	Imperial Ind. ...	...	27 1/16
Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	55½	Jhanzie Tea Association ...	...	34
P. and O. Deferred ...	...	...	Jekai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	311 1/16
Tea.			Jorehaut ...	...	21 1/16
Assam Co. ...	...	131 1/2	Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	15½
Bengal United Tea Ord ...	...	11	Lungla (Syhet) Tea Ord. ...	...	615 1/16
Bramapootra ...	...	31½	New Dimbula ...	...	54
British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	24	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...	27 1/16
Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	11	Nedem ...	...	21
Carolina ...	...	313 1/16	Ouvah ...	...	57 1/16
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	5 9/16	Pabbojan ...	...	53
Consolidated Estates ...	...	215 1/16	Standard ...	...	15 1/16
Darjeeling Co. ...	...	3	Scottish Assam ...	...	37 1/16
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	31 1/16	Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...	27 1/16
Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	24	Upper Assam ...	...	...
Doologram Tea ...	...	15½	Insurance.		
Doom Dooma ...	...	45 1/16	General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ...	...	154
East Assam ...	...	21 1/16	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ...	...	284
Empire of Ind. ...	...	11	Royal Exchange (£1) ...	...	64
Halem Tea ...	...	2	Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	...	394
Imperial Ind. ...	...	27 1/16	Miscellaneous.		
Jhanzie Tea Association ...	...	34	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	14
Jekai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	311 1/16	Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	23 3/4
Jorehaut ...	...	21 1/16	Dunlop Rubber ...	...	16 3/4
Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	15½	Egyptian Hotels ...	...	64
Lungla (Syhet) Tea Ord. ...	...	615 1/16	Do. Markets Ord. ...	...	24 1/2
New Dimbula ...	...	54	Do. Salt and Soda ...	...	37
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...	27 1/16	Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Prf. ...	...	84
Nedem ...	...	21	Oriental Telephone ...	...	60
Ouvah ...	...	57 1/16	Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord. ...	...	17 3/4
Pabbojan ...	...	53	Waring & Gillow ...	...	25½
Standard ...	...	15 1/16	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		
Scottish Assam ...	...	37 1/16	Government Loans.		
Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...	27 1/16	3½% Government Paper ...	...	...
Upper Assam ...	...	...	Banks		1.385
Insurance.			Imperial Bank of India ...	...	100
General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ...	...	154	Bank of India ...	...	18½
London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ...	...	284	Central Bank of India ...	...	...
Royal Exchange (£1) ...	...	64	Coal.		6.80
Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	...	394	Baraboni ...	...	49½
Miscellaneous.			Bengal ...	...	16½
Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	14	Burrakur ...	...	27½
Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	23 3/4	East Indian ...	...	28½
Dunlop Rubber ...	...	16 3/4	Equitable ...	...	40½
Egyptian Hotels ...	...	64	Pench Valley ...	...	46½
Do. Markets Ord. ...	...	24 1/2	Raneesunge ...	...	65½
Do. Salt and Soda ...	...	37	Standard ...	...	...
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Prf. ...	...	84	Cotton.		37½
Oriental Telephone ...	...	60	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	775
Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord. ...	...	17 3/4	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	392
Waring & Gillow ...	...	25½	Bowrah ...	...	174
INDIAN EXCHANGES.			Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	16
Government Loans.			Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	33½
3½% Government Paper ...	...	...	Century ...	...	49½
Banks		1.385	Central India ...	...	91
Imperial Bank of India ...	...	100	Elgin ...	...	87½
Bank of India ...	...	18½	Khatu Mankaji ...	...	337
Central Bank of India ...	...	...	Muir ...	...	161
Coal.		6.80	New Ring ...	...	327½
Baraboni ...	...	49½	Phoenix ...	...	420
Bengal ...	...	16½	Svadeshi ...	...	...
Burrakur ...	...	27½	Jute.		560
East Indian ...	...	28½	Alliance ...	...	29½
Equitable ...	...	40½	Barnagore ...	...	585
Pench Valley ...	...	46½	Budge Budge ...	...	40½
Raneesunge ...	...	65½	Clive ...	...	568½
Standard ...	...	...	Dalhousie ...	...	600
Cotton.		37½	Delta ...	...	982
Bengal Nagpur ...	...	775	Fort Gloster ...	...	477½
Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	392	Gourepore ...	...	593 1/16
Bowrah ...	...	174	Howrah ...	...	668
Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	16	Kamarhaty ...	...	554½
Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	33½	Kankarrah ...	...	653½
Century ...	...	49½	Khardah ...	...	1,095½
Central India ...	...	91	Kinnison ...	...	324
Elgin ...	...	87½	National ...	...	492½
Khatu Mankaji ...	...	337	Standard ...	...	76
Muir ...	...	161	Miscellaneous		213 1/16
New Ring ...	...	327½	British India Corporation ...	...	23 1/16
Phoenix ...	...	420	Bengal Paper Mills ...	...	40½d
Svadeshi ...	...	...	Bengal Timber Trading ...	...	215½
Jute.		560	Burn and Co. ...	...	377
Alliance ...	...	29½	Cawnpore Sugar ...	...	174
Barnagore ...	...	585	Champaran Sugar ...	...	13½d
Budge Budge ...	...	40½	Howrah Oil Mills ...	...	12½
Clive ...	...	568½	ALEXANDRIA		
Dalhousie ...	...	600	Prices on Sept. 27, supplied by G.L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Delta ...	...	982	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	£79 3/4
Fort Gloster ...	...	477½	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	£740
Gourepore ...	...	593 1/16	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	14
Howrah ...	...	668	Behera Ord. ...	...	£23 3/4
Kamarhaty ...	...	554½	Ciments d'Egypte ...	...	£161
Kankarrah ...	...	653½	Div. ...	...	£174
Khardah ...	...	1,095½	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	...	£2 1/16
Kinnison ...	...	324	Credit Foncier Egyptian ...	...	£85
National ...	...	492½	Fondateur ...	...	£2500

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	417	INDIAN NOTES ...	425	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Notes and News ...	433
The Afghan See-Saw ...	420	The Woman Movement in Syria ...	428	Notes from Roumania ...	435
SPECIAL LETTERS—		CORRESPONDENCE ...	429	Correspondence ...	436
Egypt ...	421	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	427	Engineering Topics ...	437
Yugoslavia ..	422	BOOK REVIEWS ...	431	Shipping Intelligence ...	438
Roumania ...	423	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	430	The Week's Finance ...	439
Calcutta ...	424			British Consular Reports—	
				V. Egypt ...	441
				Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	443

Notes of the Week.

The Naval Visit to Turkey.

The visit to Constantinople waters of a British naval squadron under the Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean is of good augury for the re-establishment of cordial relations between Turkey and Great Britain. A few days previously Constantinople had officially celebrated the sixth anniversary of its "happy deliverance" from the occupation of the Allies. It has been the fashion in official circles in Turkey to represent Great Britain as the villain of the piece in connexion with the post-War settlement, and other Powers have not been slow to derive what advantage they could from this state of affairs. There is no reason to suppose, however, that Anglo-Turkish relations will suffer any permanent injury from this passing phase or from Great Britain's omission to join in an international scramble for Turkey's good graces. In the old days the two peoples experienced no difficulty in understanding one another, and during the period of estrangement the naval element in Turkey has been a rallying point for whatever friendly feeling towards Great Britain has lingered behind an official anti-foreign façade. The visit of Admiral Sir Frederick Field to Angora, and the festivities that will mark the stay of the squadron in Constantinople waters should help to clear away past misunderstandings and strengthen Great Britain's position as an advocate of peace and the promoter of material progress in the Near East. If any ulterior motive lies behind the visits paid by the British fleet indiscriminately to the maritime countries of the Mediterranean, it is to convey to all concerned that no one country may count on Great Britain's traditional friendship as an encouragement for a hostile or provocative policy against its neighbours. Possibly, moreover, a better appreciation of the difference that there is between a minor Power's fleet and the big navies of the Great Powers will serve to act as a deterrent to naval competition between States whose fleets could hope to make no showing, if they should find themselves matched against those of the Great Powers.

The Roumanian Regency.

The vacancy in the Roumanian Council of Regency, caused by the death of M. Buzdugan, has been filled by the election of another jurist, M. Constantine Saratzeanu, who was, like his predecessor, a member of the Court of Cassation. M. Saratzeanu's election would seem to have taken most Roumanians by surprise, as his name had not been previously mentioned in connexion with the Regency. On October 9 the two Houses of the Legislature met in joint session to elect the new Regent. After tributes had been made to the late M. Buzdugan, the sitting was adjourned for a quarter of an hour, and in this interval M. Maniu informed a meeting of the Government's followers that the National-Peasant Party's choice had fallen upon M. Saratzeanu, whose candidature was supported by the two existing Regents. When the joint session was resumed, an overwhelming majority of the Deputies and Senators voted for M. Saratzeanu. The National-Liberal Party, which had previously found occasion to withdraw from Parliament, refused also to participate in the election of a new Regent, on the ground that the Government had been guilty of a breach of the Constitution in assuming the Royal Prerogative pending the choice of a third Regent. Legal opinion on the subject may possibly be divided. The Constitution does not deal with this actual point; but Article 81 stipulates that from the time of the death of the King until the taking of the Oath by his successor on the Throne the constitutional powers of the King are exercised by the Ministers united in council. This provision was presumably regarded by the Cabinet as sufficient justification for its action. The Liberals, on the other hand, who have repeatedly tried to influence the Council of Regency against the present Government, may have thought that, if sufficient time elapsed before the appointment of a third Regent, the Council would prove more amenable to their advice, now that M. Buzdugan was no more. The controversy is of interest only in so far as it illustrates the bitterness with which party politics are conducted in Roumania. The Transylvanian National Party in its time refused to attend

the coronation of King Ferdinand, because it was held under the auspices of the Liberal Party; to-day the Liberals carry on the tradition by refusing to identify themselves with the election of a Regent.

Roumania and Great Britain.

The new British Government is responsible for many innovations in matters of diplomacy and policy, but it is to be hoped that Mr. Snowden's speech at a luncheon given last week by the Government to M. Madgearu, Roumania's Minister of Industry and Commerce, will not serve as a precedent for a general departure from the excellent international tradition that one country avoids the taking of sides in the internal politics of another. Stripped of very little oratorical circumlocution, the remarks of the Acting Prime Minister were to the effect that the British Government was thankful to see the National-Peasant Party of Dr. Maniu installed in the place of M. Bratianu's Liberals; and, thereupon, Mr. Snowden held out, as it were, his hat in M. Madgearu's direction, and asked him to place some substantial Roumanian orders in it. In referring to Dr. Maniu's Government it may be as difficult for the ordinary person to avoid reflexions on the bad, uncomfortable days that preceded it in Roumania, as to form a wish when seeing a piebald horse, without thinking of its tail; but the spokesmen of the British Government hardly need to be reminded that any official partisanship in such cases is apt to complicate relations between countries when the inevitable swing of the political pendulum takes place. M. Madgearu was guarded in his reply, for all the satisfaction that he must have felt in being able to throw the British Government on to the Roumanian political scales to the discomfiture of the Opposition. He hinted that Great Britain had allowed herself to be attracted from the right path in neglecting Roumania for other markets, and he contented himself with pointing out that Roumania offered numerous opportunities for profitable work on the part of British trade, finance and industry, which would be enabled to contribute to the economic advance of Roumania and to the prosperity of Great Britain. A few days later, as if to remove any disappointment at the way in which Mr. Snowden's "hat" had been ignored, it was announced that the Roumanian Government had placed an order in this country for the minting of coins, and the grant to a British firm of a concession for the construction of roads, as previously announced in these pages, was revived to amplify the results of the Roumanian Minister's visit to London. Orders for British firms are not to be expected, unless the requisite preliminary work is undertaken through the media of publicity and agents, while the British Government can play its part by seeing that its diplomatic representatives do not ignore the value to Great Britain of the extension of British trade and financial interests in the country to which they are accredited.

The Lull in Egypt.

Under the guidance of Adly Pasha the reversion to parliamentary government in Egypt is being conducted so far with exemplary smoothness. As a preliminary step, the number of electoral constituencies has been raised from 214 to 235, in keeping with the increase in population, and in due course a Proclamation will be issued fixing the date of the general election, which it should be possible to hold towards the end of November. With the opening of the electoral campaign it is almost inevitable that party feeling should run high once more; but there are signs that all sections of the Egyptian people are beginning to discover various features in the situation that engender reflexion. The proposed treaty may be the minimum that Egypt can accept; but it is equally certain—or more so—that it is the maximum that Great Britain can give. A change in the Egyptian electorate may also assert itself, to the discomfiture of candidates who, lacking all personality of their own, have in the past trusted wholly to a party backing. The

moment is ripe for every man of parts in Egypt to make his own contribution to the advancement of the country by offering himself as a candidate for the suffrages of the people, with an appeal not to their ignorance or cupidity, but to the best that is in them. If Egypt is to prove herself worthy of parliamentary government, she must see to it that in the new Parliament brains and not merely numbers are the determining factor.

Decorum at the Wailing Wall.

As we indicated last week, the Government of Palestine has put into temporary operation some new regulations concerning the Wailing Wall, pending the determination by a body to be appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies upon the whole question of Muslim and Jewish "rights" in this area. Such a step, which, of course, in no way prejudices the justice of any claim, Muslim or Jewish, was absolutely necessary in the interest of order and decorum, and it is a tribute to the common sense of both Arabs and Jews, who may both have been disappointed by the nature of the new restrictions, that this provisional solution has so far been allowed free play. All the objects of devotional use which the Jews are to be permitted on certain occasions to bring to the Wall are removable, have to conform to specified measurements, and are, except the Ark of the Covenant, to be officially sealed. It is interesting to note that the screen which was erected on the Day of Atonement in 1928, to divide male from female worshippers, was this year forbidden. It would seem, therefore, that the authorities have resolved, at any rate, not to allow to the Jews any additional privileges—privileges in excess, that is, of what, as far as can be made out, customary usage permitted. To the Muslims, on the other hand, access to the Wall by the new passage at the southern end is on Jewish Sabbaths and other Jewish holy days absolutely barred. This restriction must appeal to the unbiased observer as a quite fair one. The legal rights of the Muslims to the area are in no wise violated by it, for as far as was immediately practicable the *status quo* has been restored. Whether the Commission which is finally to resolve this knotty question will make any fundamental alterations in these new rulings remains to be seen, but it would seem improbable, so well-founded are they in a desire to be fair to both sides, at the same time ensuring, which is the paramount necessity, good order and decorum at the Wailing Wall.

The Commission of Inquiry.

The Commission which is to inquire into the recent disturbances in Palestine has left London, and very soon will be earnestly engaged on what is probably one of the most difficult tasks ever imposed on a Commission—the sifting of truth from falsehood in a land teeming with propaganda and lies. It is instructive in this connexion to note that this Commission, unlike that appointed to inquire into the riot of 1921, is allowing interested parties to be represented by counsel. The advantage of this step, which was not at first approved by the Commission itself, is not obvious, but it has been stated that the decision to hear witnesses direct was not acceptable in Palestine. Whether the Arabs were as anxious as the Jews to be represented by counsel is not clear, but it is perhaps significant that, whereas the fact that Sir Boyd Merriman, Solicitor-General in the last Conservative Government, and Viscount Erleigh were to represent the Jewish Agency before the Commission, has been known for some time, it has only just been made public that Mr. W. Stoker is to represent the Arab side of the case. From the point of view of the general public, which after all is anxious only to know the truth, it is perhaps to be regretted that this permission to employ counsel has been granted. The Haycraft Commission of 1921 heard over ninety witnesses, and there seems little reason to suppose that its report was not an admirable model to follow. Are the issues at stake before the present Commission so very

different from those confronting the Commission in 1921? The official answer must be presumed, from the narrow terms of reference, to be in the affirmative. It will, however, be profoundly interesting to see whether the Commission decides that the present Arab grievances are entirely new, or merely variations on an old theme.

Zionists' Anxiety.

If there is one thing which the Arabs may envy the Jews at the present time, it is the success of the publicity efforts which are attending the people to whom the Balfour Declaration was made in 1917. Despite all their efforts, the Arabs are sometimes inclined to think, the world in general is apt to overlook the fact that other promises were made in 1915. We are not concerned at the moment with what those promises to the Arabs in 1915 really meant, any more than with what the Balfour Declaration two years later really meant: suffice it to say that the two peoples to whom these respective pledges were given regard them as equally inviolable, and as containing more than the British Government meant them to contain. However the MacMahon pledge may be explained away, the Palestinian Arabs believe that they, with their brethren in Iraq, Trans-Jordan, and elsewhere, were promised self-government. It is, therefore, with some dismay that they may see the attention given by the Prime Minister of England, just before he leaves for America, to Zionist representatives, and, again, when he lands in America, to such influential leaders of Jewish opinion as Mr. Felix Warburg. They may conclude however, on reflexion, that these visits of Zionists (and of non-Zionist Jews) to high places are a measure rather of Jewish anxiety on the future of Palestine than of Jewish influence upon the shaping of future policy. For undeniably the Zionists are very anxious. Even so enlightened a man as Professor Einstein does not conceal his alarm at the apparent indifference of Great Britain to the Jewish cause in Palestine. "Is it not bewildering," he asks in a letter to the *Manchester Guardian* of October 12, "that, after all this, (the post-War Jewish effort in Palestine) brutal massacres by a fanaticised mob can destroy all appreciation of the Jewish effort in Palestine and lead to a demand for the repeal of the solemn pledges of official support and protection?" The answer is, first, that the withdrawal of official protection for a "Jewish National Home" has never for a moment been considered by the British Government, but that, as for public opinion, the expression of which is not monopolised by Lord Rothermere's papers, that is waiting for the Commission of Inquiry to report. British public opinion on the whole is well aware of the vast effort made by Jewish colonists in Palestine. That such a progressive work, it says to itself, could in itself have been responsible for Arab hostility, is incredible. What, then, is the cause? It is over the answer to this question, not over any possible ignorance of the world at large on the often heroic efforts made by Jewish colonists to redeem and to develop the Holy Land, that Zionists are really anxious. As Dr. Einstein says, a decade ago the policy of the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine received "the almost unanimous support of the entire British Press." What, then, has happened in the interval? Can it be that certain Jews themselves are responsible for the growth of a previously unsuspected Arab antagonism? Or are the Arabs, the gaining of whose friendship was, and is, one of the Zionists' main professions, solely to blame for the recent disturbances? It is a suspicion that a definite affirmative may not be supplied by the Commission of Inquiry to this last question that is so much troubling British public opinion, which still endeavours to be fair, and which, now that it has more knowledge on Palestine, is certainly not likely to be less fair than it was "a decade ago."

The Stuart Memorial College.

We commend to the earnest notice of our readers a letter which appears on another page concerning the endowment of the Stuart Memorial College at Isfahan. The preservation of this outpost of English culture, to be placed at the service of young Persians, we regard as an urgent necessity. It is no disparagement of the native educationists now making such successful efforts in Persia to awaken the country to the desirability of new ideas and new methods to say that there is still need for such an institution as the Stuart Memorial College has abundantly proved itself to be. The College, it may be recalled, was founded in 1913, had to be closed during the War, and was re-opened in 1921. The value of the work it has done has been recognised by the Persian Government itself, which would, we are sure, be the first to lament its disappearance. It is not too much to say, in short, that the establishment of this College on an unassailable basis is at once a privilege and an obligation for those Englishmen who fain would see Persia great, and conceive that in the making of that greatness English methods may play no inconsiderable part.

THE CYPRUS DELEGATION.

A Delegation from Cyprus has arrived in London to urge once more upon the British Government the wish of the Greek-speaking inhabitants for union with Greece. The members of the Delegation are the Most Reverend Bishop Nicodemus of Kitium and Mr. St. Savrinakis, with Mr. Zenon Rossides as Secretary. The Delegation has been received by Sir John Shuckburgh at the Colonial Office, with a view to the arranging of a meeting with Lord Passfield, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

KING FUAD'S ACCESSION DAY.

On October 9, the anniversary of King Fuad's accession to the Throne, a Reception was held at the Egyptian Legation by Abdel Malek Hamza Bey, Chargé d'Affaires. As is usual on such occasions, a very large number of guests participated in the hospitality of the Legation, which has become a feature of London life. One of the many reception rooms was reserved for dancing, which was kept up until a late hour.

[We regret that owing to pressure on our space we are unable to publish in this issue the list of the principal guests.—Ed.]

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1929.

THE AFGHAN SEE-SAW.

After an uneasy occupation of the Kabul throne for eight months the Am'r Habibullah, who may now have to revert to his former name of Bacha-i-Saqao, has had to admit defeat at the hands of General Nadir Khan's forces, and is variously reported as having surrendered, as being besieged in the citadel of Kabul, or as having fled to the mountains, north of the capital, from which he emerged at the beginning of the year. The secret of such success as he gained is to be found in the poor showing of King Amanullah. Arriving hot-foot from his European tour, the latter lost no time in enforcing upon a slow-moving country reforms at a pace to which a much more enlightened population would have had difficulty in accommodating itself. So long as the opposition was confined to words, King Amanullah was more than a match for those who disapproved of his methods of reform, and the world heard of the various repartees with which mullahs and wiser folk, urging moderation on their Sovereign, had been silenced. At the first threat of force, however, both the reforming zeal and the courage of King Amanullah evaporated. On former occasions he had shown all the resolution necessary to quell unruly tribes; but, when Bacha-i-Saqao pressed his attack on Kabul, the King made good his escape, leaving it to others to fight his battles for him. His brother, whom he nominated as his successor, proved equally reluctant to sustain his part, and the way was clear for the bandit chief who had challenged the wisdom and orthodoxy of King Amanullah's reform measures to mount the vacant throne. As far as is known, Bacha-i-Saqao made a brave attempt to prove equal to the greatness that had devolved upon him, and, if he had had to deal only with ex-King Amanullah, his star might still have been in the ascendant. The ex-King fled to Kandahar, and for a time there was stalemate in Afghanistan. Then almost as soon as King Amanullah had decided to attempt to regain his lost position, a single defeat sufficed to urge him again to flight, and he left Afghanistan, seemingly content with the lot of an exile in Europe, which entailed no risks for the amenities of home-life.

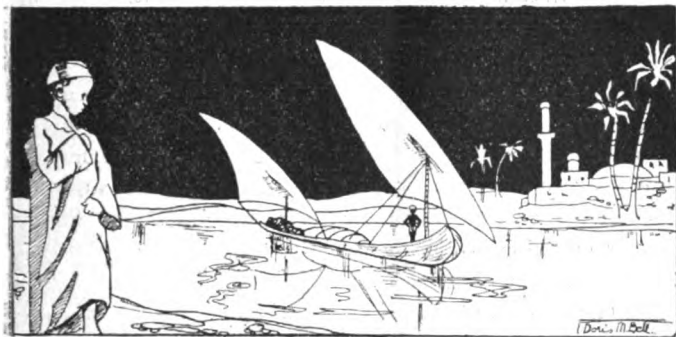
The new figure on the scene was General Nadir Khan, a former Commander-in-Chief and subsequently Afghan Minister in Paris, who returned from his retirement in France to his native country to re-establish Afghan prestige, which was liable to be gravely compromised by the King's incontinent abdication. Nadir Khan disclaimed all intention of fighting for his own hand. He had, undoubtedly, started on his mission with the idea of supporting King Amanullah, but the latter's actions suggested to him, when he arrived in Afghanistan, that it would be more politic to champion the cause of ordered government than to identify himself with any particular claimant to the throne. He must have decided at an early

stage that the Amir Habibullah had little chance of uniting the country as a whole under his rule. Even if his success in the field served to remove the reproach of his humble origin, there was the obstacle that he was not a Pathan, but a Tajik, and Southern Afghanistan showed no sign of accepting him. Before he could have established his sway over the whole country, Afghanistan would have had to face many years of civil strife. Nadir Khan, accordingly, resolved, when ex-King Amanullah finally left for Europe, to continue the struggle against the Kabul Amir. For several months the advantage of the situation lay with the latter, who made full use of his shorter lines of communication to forestall all attempts at concentration on the part of his enemies. Time, however, was fighting for General Nadir Khan. Bacha-i-Saqao's difficulties increased as his exchequer and ammunition diminished. At no time were considerable forces engaged, for neither side seemed able to count on the permanent allegiance of tribes at any great distance from headquarters. Early in September the tide set more definitely against the Amir Habibullah. A Durani *lashkar* captured Kandahar, and the Shinwaris, who had been divided in their sympathies or were inclined to play a waiting game, showed readiness to throw in their lot with Nadir Khan. The latter's brother suffered defeat and had to cross the frontier into India, but with this success the Kabul Amir seemed to have shot his bolt. General Nadir Khan concentrated his forces for an advance on Kabul from the south-east and south, while leaving a small force to guard his rear against possible attack from Gardez, still held on behalf of the Amir Habibullah. In the meantime the tribesmen in the Jalalabad region joined forces to eject the Amir's troops. When Nadir Khan's columns advanced, they appear to have encountered less opposition from the local tribes than had been expected. The Amir Habibullah led his army against them a few miles out of Kabul, but was defeated, and the way to the capital was open.

With the capture of Kabul, if the report of this event prove true, it is hardly to be supposed that peace will be immediately restored to Afghanistan, and that Nadir Khan's authority will at once be recognised throughout the country. The disinterestedness of his actions will be confirmed, if he carries out the intention, with which he is credited, of consulting the tribes regarding the future government of Afghanistan. It will be strange if he is not invited, almost unanimously, to take the throne himself. He has displayed not only military prowess, but also a wise moderation in all his actions. A country like Afghanistan appreciates strength in its ruler, and Nadir Khan must have won for himself as great a reputation among his own countrymen as he has abroad, where his masterly handling of a difficult situation has gained general admiration. It would be contrary to what is known of the Afghan character, that the people should display enthusiasm for the return of ex-King Amanullah. He could reoccupy the throne only by undertaking to renounce his cherished reforms, and, in addition, he would have to live down the humiliation of his premature withdrawal both from the capital and, shortly afterwards, from the country. The Afghans, it would be thought, require their Sovereign to be cast in a more heroic mould. The future, however, will be largely in Nadir Khan's hands. If he decides that it is in the interests of Afghanistan that he should occupy the throne, there can be little doubt that he will meet with the necessary support. If, on the other hand, he sets his face against any change of dynasty and recommends the Afghans to restore King Amanullah to the throne, his advice may well meet with acceptance, lest the country finds itself again at the mercy of a mere adventurer. Afghanistan's fate is in her own hands. With a situation complicated externally as well as internally, she needs more than ever an experienced and strong ruler.

'The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, October 5.

Parliament Again.

The fiat has gone forth that political matters must follow their normal course, so to speak, and that parliamentary life must be resumed without delay so as to bring into existence at the earliest possible moment a representative body to consider the question of the Treaty. So the Mahmoud Cabinet has gone, and its place has been taken by a neutral Ministry, whose first preoccupation will be the removal of all restrictive legislation and the enunciation of new decrees, bringing back parliamentary life as it was when the *coup d'état* took place sixteen months ago.

The New Cabinet.

The fears of the effect on the country in general and on the Treaty in particular, which such a decision might have had, have been modified by the composition of the new Cabinet, and notably by the personality of its leader. Adly Pasha once more is at the helm, at a time of supreme national crisis, and, as usual, his presence has introduced a note of confidence into the situation which no other man in the country could so fully inspire. He has, moreover, called to his assistance a body of men whose record, position and personality constitute a guarantee that neutrality shall be maintained until Parliament can assemble, and that the administration of the country shall meanwhile continue placidly and in accordance with the best interests of the population, be they Egyptians or Europeans.

No better choice, indeed, could possibly have been made of a team to carry on during a critical period like the present. Every one of the members of the new Cabinet has seen considerable service in one or other of the Administrations of the State. Most of them have had more than one term of Cabinet work. None of them has identified himself in any way with any of the political parties, and all, in the retirement from which the supreme need of their country has now called them, were enjoying the high respect and deep esteem of their fellow countrymen. Adly Pasha is to be congratulated on having made a selection, and it is not surprising that a *détente* is everywhere noticeable in the situation as a consequence of the announcement of the composition of the new Cabinet.

The Mahmoud Cabinet.

At the same time the Mahmoud Cabinet cannot be allowed to pass without its receiving the tribute that is undoubtedly its due. Whether the decision to suspend the parliamentary régime last summer was justified by the situation must be left to the historian of the future to decide. But there can be no doubt whatever that in

general the country has benefited by the period of exceptional administration it has had during the interval. In the light of the experience of what went on in the past it is certain that the agreement in regard to the water question could never have been negotiated under the parliamentary régime as it existed a year and a half ago, and that in consequence Egypt would still have been wondering to-day when she was to get the extra summer water, which is going to be supplied to her by the Gebel Aulia Dam for which tenders will soon be called, and by the heightening of the Aswan Dam for which the adjudication will shortly be announced. Likewise, if the administration had not been liberated, as it was by the *coup d'état*, from the blighting effect of the constant intervention of deputies and senators, no progress could have been made with the schemes for the economic and social development of the country, which the Mahmoud Cabinet very rightly made the principal point of its programme. These schemes have, fortunately, all reached a point now where it is very doubtful whether a return to parliamentary life, even if it proves as obstructive to progress as it has done in the past, could now really affect their future completion. In any case the choice of the members of the Adly Cabinet, who are all men interested in such schemes, is a satisfactory guarantee of continuity. Finally, it is incontestable that, if Parliament had still been sitting, nothing like the terms which Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha brought back with him from London could have been secured. Whatever his political opponents may say about the Mahmoud Administration, and naturally they have much adverse criticism to make, cannot alter the fact that it, itself, and Mahmoud Pasha in particular, will take a very prominent place in the national history, as having done more than any of their predecessors to advance the condition of their country internationally, economically and socially.

Elections.

How soon elections can be held will depend on the extent to which the constituencies must be regrouped as a result of the recent census, and the legal periods can be curtailed. It is almost certain, however, that elections will not be possible until the end of November, and that Parliament cannot reassemble until the first part of December at the earliest. This would mean that the Treaty proposals could not be considered until the middle of that month, as there are certain very necessary preliminaries, connected with the organisation to be carried out after Parliament has reassembled, before any ordinary business can be proceeded with. Even then it does not mean that a debate of any description could take place until near the end of the year for, according to the Constitution, the proposal must be referred to, and reported on, by a special committee of the Chamber.

The elections, which will give about thirty more members owing to the fact that the former distribution of constituencies was based on the old census, will be only for the Chamber, and not for the Senate as well. It has been decided that, whether the Chamber is dissolved or not, the mandate of Senators continues for the full length

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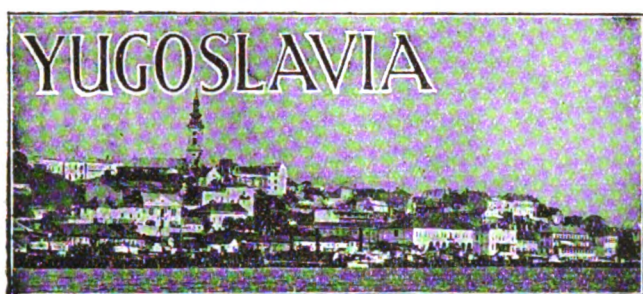
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of their constitutional term. This puts an end to a controversy that has been going on recently in the Press on the subject.

It is currently affirmed, even in Wafdist circles, that after the elections it will be the present Cabinet which will present the Treaty proposals to Parliament, and that it is not improbable, in order to inspire confidence, that, if the Wafd obtains a majority in the Chamber—it is expected that after its success in getting rid of the Mahmoud Cabinet it will have an overwhelming majority—Adly Pasha will lead a Wafdist Cabinet. In this event Nahas Pasha would again become President of the Chamber. It is also currently affirmed, and again Wafd circles do not deny it, that very soon an announcement may be expected from the Wafd on the question of the Treaty as a result of certain undertakings given by Nahas Pasha to the Residency prior to the acceptance by the King of the resignation of Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha. This should greatly facilitate the Treaty question.



Belgrade, October 10.

The Administrative Changes.

Despite persistent rumours that great changes were soon to be expected in the organisation of the State, the people of Yugoslavia were surprised last week, when it was announced that the King had signed a decree by which the official name of the Serb, Croat, Slovene Kingdom was changed to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and the number of administrative districts was decreased from 33 to 9. The change in the official name will meet with very general approval. Everywhere outside the Kingdom it has always been known as Yugoslavia, and the disappearance of the cumbersome triune title makes it easier for foreigners, bewildered by the multitude of new names created by the Peace Treaties, to follow its development. It is understood that no attempt will be made to coerce people into calling themselves Yugoslavs, and the distinction Serb, Croat, and Slovene will probably persist in Yugoslavia as that between English, Scots, and Welsh remains in Great Britain.

The division of the country into nine *Banovine*, however, cuts across all the old traditions, and the historical names of Serbia, Croatia, Dalmatia, Montenegro, etc., will disappear from the official maps of the country. This will be of some service, if it only kills the belief, most obstinately held by many foreign visitors to this country, that the Dalmatians, Montenegrins, Bosnians, Croats, and Serbs are different nations with different languages and blood. A visitor recently asked whether it was true that the Serbs were closing Croatian schools and opening Serb schools in their place, and when asked what difference there was between Serb and Croat schools, he answered, "Why, language, of course," quite ignorant of the fact that the Serbian and Croatian languages are one and the same.

The new provinces are to be called after the great rivers flowing through them. Thus Slovenia becomes the Dravska Banovina, with its centre in Liubliana, Croatia and part of Slavonia are now the Savska Banovina, centred in Zagreb, the greater part of Bosnia becomes the Vrbaska Banovina, with Banya Luka as its capital, Dalmatia and part of Herzegovina form the Primorska

(Maritime) Banovina, parts of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Serbia are united in the Drinska Banovina, with its centre in Sarayevo, Montenegro, very considerably enlarged by the addition of parts of Dalmatia, including an island or two, of Herzegovina, of Serbia, and of South Serbia (Kosova) is known as the Zetska Banovina and has its capital in Cetigne, the Voivodina and parts of North Serbia form the Dunavska (Danubian) Banovina, centred in Novi Sad, Eastern Serbia is now called the Moravska Banovina, with Nish as its capital, while South Serbia (Macedonia) forms the Vardarska Banovina, centred on Skoplye. While older people tend to regret the disappearance of the old names, the younger set regard the change as an essential step in the right direction, which will allow of the complete unification of the South Slav peoples and the elimination of the petty differences which caused dissension among them. A Bulgarian, M. Sefan Kuroff, President of the Bulgarian Peace Association, who was visiting Skoplye, where he was amazed and delighted at the enormous progress which has been made since the War, at the time when the changes were announced, was so enthusiastic that he declared that the Bulgarian people would never be satisfied, until they too are included in the great Yugoslav nation, which will then rule from the Adriatic to the Black Sea. In the speech with which General Peter Zhivkovitch introduced this new act to the Council of Ministers he stated that the divisions had been made so as to preserve old boundaries where possible, but also with regard to convenience of administration, lines of communication, relations with the respective centres, and economy. Belgrade, with Zemun and Pancevo, which are rapidly becoming suburbs of the capital, forms a special district not included in any of the Banovine.

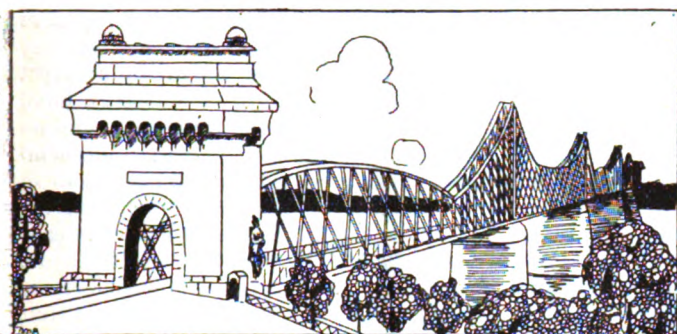
The First Governors.

The Banovina will have a very considerable degree of autonomy, from an administrative point of view, especially in regards to agricultural matters, public works, roads, forest administration, education and the many local matters which have long been held up by the obligation to refer everything to the competent Ministry in Belgrade before action could be taken. The Bans (Governors of provinces) have already been appointed by Royal Decree. They are for the most part men born in the district which they are to administer and likely to be well received there. The Ban in Liubliana is to be M. Serbetz, a Slovene of Dr. Koroshetz' Party, who occupied Cabinet rank during Uzounovitch's sixth administration. In Zagreb the Ban is to be Dr. Josip Shilovitch, a very highly respected Croat University professor, whose name was much to the fore last year, when the possibility of forming a non-party Government was being discussed. In Banya Luka General Svetislav Milosavlyevitch, the former General who became Minister of Communications, will be Ban; in Split, the Dalmatian Dr. Tartal, lawyer and assistant mayor of the town of Split; in Sarayevo, the ex-Minister M. Velya Popovitch; in Montenegro, M. Krsta Smilyanitch, a retired General; in Novi Sad, the ex-Minister M. Daka Popovitch; in Nish, a lawyer, M. Nestoravitch, member of the Chief Legislative Council, once a Democrat Party leader, is to be Ban; and in Skoplye, M. Zhika Lazitch, who was for many years head of that section of the Ministry of Interior which deals specially with Macedonian matters.

The Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital.

To-day the Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital for Women at Dedinye, near Belgrade, was opened by Annie, Viscountess Cowdray, Chairman of the London Section of the Scottish Women's Hospitals Committee. The funds for completing this very modern and well-equipped hospital were provided jointly by the London and Scottish Committees of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The funds were to have been used, at the wish of Dr. Elsie Inglis, who gave her life in the service of the Serbian troops, for the establishment of a Medical Faculty in the

Belgrade University. When, after the War, the Serbs established a medical faculty with their own funds a commission under Lady Cowdray came to Belgrade to find in what way the funds could most profitably be employed. Struck by the capability, efficiency, and dependability of the Federation of Serbian Medical Women, they decided that the funds could not be better employed than in the completion of this Women's Hospital, and the hospital opened to-day and handed over to the Federation is the result of British funds and Serbian pluck and endurance. The surplus funds not needed for the hospital have been employed in fitting a Physiological Laboratory in Belgrade University and in providing for publications and research work.



ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 9.

Death of M. Gheorghe Buzdugan.

Roumania has once more been plunged into mourning by the death of the most active member of the Regency, M. Gheorghe Buzdugan. A fortnight ago fears were expressed for the health of the Patriarch, another member of the Council of Regency, but these proved to be more or

less unfounded. No sooner had the public been reassured on this point than M. Buzdugan, President of the Regency Council, suddenly fell seriously ill and, in spite of the efforts of French specialists, called hurriedly from Paris, to save him, he died after a few days' illness. His death caused great consternation in the country; it immediately opened the question of the succession and gave rise to active party intrigues. Before being appointed to the Regency, M. Buzdugan had been President of the Supreme Court of Justice (since August, 1924) and various high members of the judicature were suggested as his successor. The choice has finally fallen on M. Saratzeanu, whose appointment has just been announced.

The mortal remains of the late Regent were laid in state in the round hall of the Athénée yesterday, and hundreds of people streamed past all day to render him their last homage. The funeral service was held to-day with all the pomp due to the high position of the late statesman, and was attended by the members of the Government, high State officials, and by the Diplomatic Corps. All shops and offices were closed after one o'clock; the funeral procession left the Athénée about 4 p.m. and passed through thronged streets to the Gare du Nord, where the coffin was placed on board a train for Bacau, thence to be carried to the family vault at Faraoni.

The new Regent, M. Constantin Saratzeanu, was born in the district of Buzau in 1862, of a family which for two generations already had produced distinguished judges. M. Saratzeanu himself has had a long legal career and was finally appointed Counsellor to the High Court of Cassation, a post that he lays down on his appointment to the Council of Regency.

The Royal Aero Club has awarded its Gold Medal to Captain C. D. Barnard, and an address of congratulation to the Duchess of Bedford in recognition of their flight to India and back. Captain Barnard, accompanied by the Duchess, accomplished this 10,000-mile flight in eight days—from August 2 to 9 last.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 26.

A Political Exhibition.

I have been to a *khadi* and *swadeshi* Exhibition. I studied the audience rather than listened to the speeches, which were in Urdu and their substance has been said many times already. I am thinking now, not of the Exhibition, but of the opening ceremony. The first eye in the audience that my eye caught was that of an almost naked little boy from the street. I looked hard into his eyes; then I smiled, and he smiled, showing very small white teeth. Very soon afterwards he decided that, as it was a very dull *tamasha*, he would return to the street. The next person to leave from near that spot was the young father of a girl, a girl little more than an infant. He went out with an impassive face. The speaker by this time was Mrs. Naidu, returned from her travelling in America, and to London, Vienna, Prague, Buda Pest, etc. Did she really think, was my question, that any movement that gathered only such audiences—there were two leading men of the town present, but only two, that I could see, and it is a town, up-country, crowded with leading men—was being rightly led? But something in the faces of those nearer me told me that their question was probably how Sreemati Sarojini Devi Naidu, for so we call her in her own country, dare address an audience in Urdu. It is not her mother-tongue, of course. When we all got away, I said to one: "Was her Urdu full of mistakes?" He answered: "Oh, of course, but it was very good considering; she used a few Persian words, and even a few Arabic." That, I felt, had interested that man more than anything that Sreemati Sarojini Devi had said. Far more in fact, and he is fuller of enthusiasm than most of them for this *khadi*, *swadeshi* movement.

The Exhibition.

The Exhibition, which was of *khadi*, the hand-woven cloth that the Mahatma wants them all to wear, and a few other things, was laid out in a few rooms in a private house. Say five rooms. There was so very little of it, the air of everything so suggested the simple thoughts of children, and their so small means of making a display, that one might have called it "Mary's Meadow" or "Six to Sixteen," after the books, just as, remembering the boy who smiled at me, I now think of the audience as "Jackanapes" after that other of Mrs. Ewing's books. It was so very small an Exhibition, that to anyone who has not seen such another the very words "exhibition," "five rooms," for they were ever so small, must be misleading. And all this is inspired by and is the teaching of the foremost political leader in India, Mr. Gandhi. He is one who observes every Monday as a fast, abstaining that day from drink as well as food, and on that day he maintains an unbroken silence. And that too, he thinks, will help to solve India's political problem.

Non-Co-operation.

Mr. Gandhi was the author of the non-co-operation movement, and if he is allowed his way, he will revive it. It was a movement to wrest self-government for India by making the existing Government no longer possible. No boy or young man was to go to a Government school or college; all the holders of Government posts were to resign them; no honorary magistrate was to sit in Court; no barrister or *vakil* was to attend a Court; everything was to be brought to a stop. I was in charge of a Government institution at the time. Not a member of the staff resigned. There was never for a moment the least probability that any of them would think of taking that self-destructive step. None of their neighbours blamed them, for none of their neighbours had ever expected them to resign. Had one resigned, there would have been so

many applications for his post as to give the impression that one had all India to choose a successor from. The movement was a total failure. Yet its sponsor was the leading political leader in India. He thought it would succeed. He would revive it. Imagine a Cavour or a Bismarck, those builders of empire, coming to a meeting of their chief followers, and saying: "The time has come for a united Italy, a united Germany; so I have brought this bottle;" and on their asking him what was in it, replying: "Moonshine, brother; bottled moonshine!"

The Right Tactics.

That non-co-operation movement was the extreme instance of these men's tactics being hopelessly wrong; but their tactics are always wrong. They never do the right thing. What they should have done in 1927, after the Statutory Commission was appointed, was to choose their best, and give them a mandate to decide what they thought would be a constitution under which India might have had hope of progressing. They would all have spoken with the same voice before the Statutory Commission. No matter what this or that more cautious official might have said *in camera* against any political advance, with all the leading Indians saying the same thing, Sir John and his colleagues would have had to turn deaf ears to the official. If the Indian leaders had all said the same thing, and, having said it, had refused to open their mouths further and argue about it, the constitution that was to be would have been precisely what they had said it was to be. No British Cabinet would ever have wanted to take the risk of picking the thing to pieces. To begin with, what British Cabinet was likely to know enough about India to feel that it was competent to pick the thing to pieces? Nothing strikes those of us more, who return to England after years spent in India, than the ignorance of everyone in England about India.

The Nawab of Bhopal.

An interesting comparison could be instituted between the capacities of Mr. Gandhi and one with an inherited gift for government, say the Nawab of Bhopal, as evidenced by speeches made by the Nawab and the Mahatma this week. Mr. Gandhi was addressing a joint gathering of the students of Cawnpore; he was addressing them as a politician, speaking on politics. The speech as a whole shows that. The part I wish to quote is reported in these words: "Mr. Gandhi pleaded for the control of the senses and told the students that Western books coming to this country did not teach the control of the senses." The Nawab meanwhile was saying such things as these to his Legislative Council: "The fact is that the people's ignorance of modern and progressive ideas makes them an easy prey to bigoted conservatism, which leads to most deplorable communal strife, and creates a feeling of aversion in their minds to the initiation of elementary and social and other reforms. Their opposition to their education, and their obstinacy against the adoption of modern medical, sanitary, and scientific methods, stand in the way of their political progress. You cannot alter these conditions by a wave of the magic wand. You need centuries of persistent and honest work, and I think that it would not be practical politics to aspire to rule with any success a medieval people by twentieth century methods."

Miscellaneous.

I have written fully on the subject of Mr. Sarda's Child Marriage Bill and the feeling in India against it, a feeling to be deplored; so I need say no more this week than that the Bill was read a third time by the Assembly on Monday, the voting being 67 for and 14 against. What remains is to prevent the die-hards fomenting a revolution in India. There are ominous signs of their determination to try it.

To those specially interested in the question of land revenue attention may be called to the answers given by Sir Frank Noyce in the Assembly on the same day.

INDIAN NOTE.

Lord Irwin's Task.

Few among those present at Victoria Station last week to bid God-speed to the returning Governor-General can have wished that their rôles were reversed. The office which Lord Irwin occupies—we may be sure through no effort of his own—remains still, perhaps now more than ever, the greatest administrative position in the gift of the Crown. It is certainly at the present moment one of the most important and responsible, and the burden of responsibility which rests upon its present occupant is a weighty one and likely to become progressively heavier as the momentous developments of the next few months unfold themselves. Meanwhile Lord Irwin's task is not made any easier by the persistency with which a section of the Press in this country, notoriously inaccurate in its forecasts in Indian affairs, continues to hint at, if not a change, at least a new orientation of policy in respect to the constitutional problem. Sir John Simon and his colleagues have been a model of discretion and have let nothing escape that would give the remotest ground for the rumours circulating concerning the Statutory Commission's intentions. The facts in any case are simple. The Commission's report is expected to be ready in February and it may be said at once that there is no intention of interfering with the work of the inquiry set up with the approval and support of all three political parties by any prejudgment of the issues, whether in the shape of an early pronouncement upon a particular aspect of the problem or through an obviously untimely visit by the Secretary of State to the scene of next year's operations. The time is coming, no doubt, when, as we suggested last week, the general procedure to follow the report must be defined and announced, but to suggest that Lord Irwin's recent conversations with Mr. Wedgwood Benn and prominent members of all parties have any more significance than the implementing of his undertaking "faithfully to represent to his Majesty's Government the different standpoints of Indian political opinion" is unfair both to the new Government and to Lord Irwin himself. It also ignores the purpose for which the Statutory Commission was appointed.

INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA.

The publication last week of Sir Samuel Wilson's report on his recent mission to East Africa invests with particular interest the following expression of the Government of India's tentative views on the recommendations of the Hilton Young Commission. The despatch was sent to the Secretary of State on March 19, but its text was only made available last week.

After expressing their earnest hope that the basic principles of "an eminently fair document," will be accepted by H.M. Government, the Government of India proceed to sum up their provisional conclusions as follow:—

"Closer Union.—The numbers and influence of European settlers in Kenya create apprehension that in any scheme of closer union their political ideals will profoundly affect the policy of the central authority established to co-ordinate administration and policy in matters of common interest. For this reason any plan of political coalescence, immediate or future, which should reduce the three territories of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika to the provinces of a unified State, exercising both executive and legislative powers, is open to objection from the Indian standpoint, but we are not opposed to the appointment of a Governor-General to co-ordinate native policy and the administrative services like Customs and Transport, on the understanding that it is recognised:—

"(1) That such a step is not the prelude to full-fledged political federation; (2) that Indians are adequately represented on the General Advisory Council which the Commission recommend should be set up in East Africa; and (3) that the headquarters of the Governor-General are

located at a centre free from racial animosities. Further, if the Governor-General is appointed, his instrument of instruction should lay due emphasis on the duty to enforce inter-racial justice in an impartial spirit, and with a firm hand.

It is also suggested that the Indian point of view be represented on the Advisory Council which it is proposed should be set up in London, and that unofficial Indian representatives be asked to participate in the periodical conferences which the Commission suggests should be held.

"Native Policy.—We gladly accept the principle of the paramountcy of native interests, subject to the condition that in practice the principle should not be interpreted or applied to discriminate against the immigrants of any particular race.

"Land Settlement.—Indian settlers should be free to share on equal terms with Europeans in any scheme of land settlement that may be inaugurated by the Government of Tanganyika, after setting apart land to meet the requirements of the natives. Whatever the position may have been in the past, in future the Indian demand for land settlement in Tanganyika and probably also in the lowlands of Kenya is bound to be substantial. It is not suggested that the financial facilities offered by his Majesty's Government to settlers from Great Britain should be extended to Indians.

"The association of immigrant communities in the responsibilities and trusteeship of government should not be confined to representatives of the European settlers only, but should include representatives of all immigrant communities.

"Kenya Legislative Council.—The chairman's proposals are not acceptable to us, but we welcome the majority report as opening the door to the satisfactory settlement of the vexed question of a common versus a communal electoral roll. The civilisation test is also approved in principle. On the question of replacing four officials by four members nominated to represent native interests, stress should, we think, be laid on the need for treating Indians as eligible to represent natives."

Recent telegraphic advices from Simla state that on the publication of Sir Samuel Wilson's report the Government of India summoned a meeting of the Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature to consider the report which is regarded with some suspicion and considered as likely to worsen rather than improve the political status of Indians in Kenya. A number of additional members of both Houses of the Legislature, including Pandit Motilal Nehru, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar, were invited to attend the meeting but were not able to be present. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas and General Gidney, both members of the Emigration Committee, were also prevented from attending, but sent their views by letter, and the Committee, of which the only non-official members present were Sir D'Arcy Lindsay and Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, a member of the Council of State, also had before it a memorandum by the Indian delegation from East Africa now in India.

A *communiqué* issued on October 11 states that the Committee considered Sir Samuel Wilson's report at length, and expressed views coinciding with the opinions voiced at recent meetings of the Committee. This somewhat inconclusive pronouncement is perhaps intended as a cloak to the general consensus of opinion that the Government of India is handling a difficult and delicate problem in the best possible way and is enjoying the support of all parties, although for the moment their leaders prefer to adopt in public a strictly non-committal attitude.

Owing to the earlier departure, during the winter months, of the aeroplane conveying the England-India Air Mail, the latest time of posting at the General Post Office, London, has been altered from 7 a.m. to 6 a.m.; and the arrangements for late posting at the Charles Street Post Office, Haymarket, S.W.1, have been suspended. The latest times of posting outside London to connect with the India Air Mail will, in general, remain undisturbed.

INDIAN STATES AND THE EMPIRE.

Addressing the fifth session of the Bhopal Legislative Council, on September 21, His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal said that the Princes were prepared wholeheartedly to co-operate and to bring their States into line with British India "in any honourable, fair and just settlement which will conduce to the welfare of the country and the good of the Empire. We fully realise our obligations to our country, and I have no hesitation in saying that we regard it to be our foremost duty to see that we are not a drag on her. To ensure this we, who are already self-governed, must endeavour to the extreme limit of our capacity to secure, where it does not already exist in the States, that peace, contentment and prosperity of the people for which British India is struggling. But, at the same time, we must also work for the preservation of our own identity and integrity, and our rights and privileges, as internally independent and sovereign States.

"Again, whatever be the differences of opinion, in certain matters, between us and the Government of India, we must not forget that we are under a heavy debt of gratitude to the British for all that they have done for the good of our States, and we must never ignore our treaty obligations to them. After all, they proved to be our staunchest friends at a time when the one or the other of us was being battered to pieces by our own countrymen. In any new arrangement, therefore, it will be only right if we ask for guarantees to ensure that a similar fate shall not be in store for us in the future, and that our rights and interests shall be fully preserved and maintained. For these reasons, and many others, I should like to make it clear that we shall not be a party to any proposals which may aim at India's going outside the British Empire. Within that Empire we wish to remain as honourable partners, and for that end we shall strive to the utmost of our capacity."

Discussing the question of internal organisation and reform, the Nawab proceeded: "I would like to point out, at the outset, that as far as I know, the Princes are by no means opposed to the principles of democracy. Why should they be? After all, the true aims and objects of all forms of government are the same, be they on the lines of Indian kingship or the American Republic. In the former the final authority is vested in a Ruler, in the latter in a small group of politicians, but the goal of both is identical, namely government for the benefit and uplift of the people. Both can serve the best interests of a country and be a blessing to humanity; and both are open to temptation and can be a menace to a people. Why then quarrel about reforms? Why initiate methods of administration so far unknown to the country? Instead, why not reform ourselves where reforms are needed, and yet retain our indigenous system which has stood the test of centuries?

"Let nobody for a moment suspect that when we hold views against an immediate change to democracy, we are opposed to its principles. We do so because we believe that a fully democratic government can only be successful in a country where a very large number of the people know what is best for them. An honest examination of our conditions, I am afraid, reveals that at the present stage of our moral, mental and physical development, this is not the case with us

"The fact is that the people's ignorance of modern and progressive ideas makes them an easy prey to bigoted conservatism, which leads to most deplorable communal strifes, and creates a feeling of aversion in their minds to the initiation of elementary, social and other reforms. Their opposition to their education, and their obstinacy against the adoption of modern medical, sanitary and scientific methods, stands in the way of their political progress. You cannot alter these conditions by, so to say, a wave of the magic wand. You need centuries of persistent and honest work, and I think that it would not be

practical politics to aspire to rule with any success a medieval people by the 20th century methods.

"After all, one cannot lose sight of the fact that an ignorant and irresponsible democracy is, and can be, the greatest danger to a country, and, thereby, to the peace of the whole world. I am convinced that the success of an Oriental people lies in their remaining Oriental. I am afraid, we have already had too many Western ideas forced on our Eastern minds, and that too at the expense of our own culture, and to the detriment of our civilisation. There is no more room left for any further additions to these—at least not till we feel sure that this process will not lead us to become completely oblivious of India's own greater past.

"My earnest advice to all true sons of the country," His Highness concluded, "is that they should fully consider and weigh the pros and cons before they think of demolishing an existing edifice."

LORD IRWIN'S DEPARTURE.

Whatever room there may be for occasional differences of opinion on particular phases of his official policy the present Viceroy's popularity as an individual is beyond dispute. The high regard and warm esteem in which Lord Irwin is held by Indians and Europeans alike, of all ranks and parties, has recently been demonstrated in an unusual manner by the number of letters to *The Times* from prominent Indians of different schools of political thought already urging that Lord Irwin's period of office should be extended, in spite of the fact that his five years' tenure does not expire until April, 1931.

A further manifestation of the same feeling was given by the small but distinguished company which assembled at Victoria Station on Thursday to bid him farewell on the conclusion of his three months' visit to this country. The informality of the proceedings, contrasting vividly with the elaborate ceremonial procedure usually associated with official leave-takings, added to the warmth and evident sincerity of the good wishes of friends and colleagues.

Lord Irwin, who was accompanied by Lady Irwin, travelled by the P. and O. special to Marseilles, where he embarked the following day in the mail steamer *Rawalpindi* for Bombay. Other passengers by the same train were Sir George Stanley, the Governor-designate of Madras, accompanied by Lady Beatrix Stanley and Miss Stanley, and the Maharajahdhiraj of Burdwan. The Vice-regal party included Lady Worsley, Colonel C. O. Harvey (Military Secretary), Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. Thorburn, I.M.S. (Surgeon to the Viceroy), and Captain A. G. S. Alexander, Central India Horse (A.D.C.). With Sir George Stanley were Mr. I. Green, I.C.S. (Private Secretary), and two A.D.C.'s—Captain H. C. W. Eastman, R.H.A., and Captain R. F. Craster, 18th Gahrwal Rifles.

Sir George Stanley succeeds Lord Goschen, who as senior Presidency Governor, has been Viceroy and Acting Governor-General during the four months to which the leave of Viceroys and Governors is limited by statute. Lord Goschen's own term of office, it will be recalled, was extended in order that he might officiate during Lord Irwin's absence, and on making over charge to the latter he will return to this country at once.

The Government were represented by Mr. Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for India, Dr. Drummond Shiels, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, and Mr. George Lansbury, First Commissioner for Works.

EAST INDIA ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the East India Association will be held on Monday, October 21, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, when a paper will be read by Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe on "America and India." Mr. H. Wickham Steed will preside and a discussion will follow.

Arrangements have been made for the reading of a paper at a meeting early in November by Mr. Waris Ameer-Ali, I.C.S., on "Preservation of Indian Fauna." The Chair will be taken by Lord Lloyd, a former Governor of Bombay.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

October 17, 1929 (New Style).

October 4, 1929 (Old Style).

Jumada I. 13, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tishri 13, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Chetwode has left London for India. She will be away for six months.

The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan left London on October 10 for Bombay.

M. K. A. Collas, Counsellor to the Greek Legation, left London last week for Switzerland.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby has consented to unveil Belfast's war memorial on Armistice Day.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie returned to Devonshire House last week from a motoring trip in Czechoslovakia.

Lord Hyde left London on October 10 for Marseilles, and embarked in the Rawalpindi for Bombay.

M. Georges Cattaui has returned to the Egyptian Legation from the Continent.

Mr. Franklin Mott Gunther left London on October 7, to resume his post of American Minister to Egypt.

M. Sibe J. Milichitch, the newly-appointed Secretary to the Yugoslav Legation, arrived last week in London and has taken up his duties.

Lord Ebury and the Hon. Betty Grosvenor left London on October 10 to join the P. and O. s.s. Razmak at Marseilles for Bombay.

M. Madgearu, Roumanian Minister of Industry and Commerce, who has been paying a visit to this country, left London on October 13 for Paris.

Viscount Goschen, Governor of Madras, who has been acting as Governor-General of India during Lord Irwin's visit to England, will arrive in London about November 12. Viscountess Goschen is accompanying him.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will be held at 8.30 p.m. on October 18, when Mr. Frederick W. Ryan will speak on "Malta: Its People and its Rulers." It will take place by kind permission of Mrs. L. Cobham, at 14, Hans Crescent, S.W.1, and Rear-Admiral E. A. Taylor will preside.

Colonel E. S. St. John, C.M.G., D.S.O., late Royal Artillery, who has been appointed A.A.G. in Egypt in succession to Col. E. G. Jury, C.M.G., D.S.O., is expected in Egypt towards the end of October.

Mr. Sterling, formerly Professor of English Literature in Calcutta University, arrived in Cairo at the beginning of this month to take up a similar post in the Egyptian University, rendered vacant by the departure of Prof. Bonomy Dobrée.

The Chairman and members of the Palestine Commission of Inquiry, with the exception of Sir Henry Betterton, M.P., who travelled overland, left Tilbury on October 12 for Palestine. Lt.-Col. H. Y. de Satgé represented the Secretary of State for the Colonies at their departure.

Prince and Princess Peter of Montenegro are paying a short visit to London. Prince Peter, who is the youngest son of the late King Nicholas of Montenegro, studied medicine at Heidelberg University and retains his interest in medical work. His tours of sight seeing in this country include visits to various hospitals.

Sir Arthur and Lady Hirtzel left London on October 10 for a holiday in Italy.

The third Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is being held to-day (Thursday) at 8.30 p.m., at the Swedenborg Hall, Hart Street, W.C.1., Sir Matthew Natham will preside. At 9.0 p.m., a lecture will be given, by Lord Melchett, on "Palestine and the Hebrew University."

Mr. A. T. Waugh, the retiring British Consul-General in Constantinople, was entertained at a farewell luncheon on October 10 by the members of the British Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople. Mr. James Morgan, British Consul-General at Smyrna, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Waugh in Constantinople.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Neville Meyrick Henderson, his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris, to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Belgrade. Mr. N. M. Henderson, who was educated at Eton, was appointed Attaché in the Diplomatic Service in 1905. After appointments in St. Petersburg, Tokyo, Rome, and Nish, he was appointed First Secretary at Paris in 1916. He has acted as H.M. Minister Plenipotentiary at the Paris Embassy since 1928.

YUGOSLAV VISITORS.

A party of a hundred doctors and medical students from the Universities of Yugoslavia arrives to-day (October 17), on a brief visit to London, and leaves again for Paris on October 22. The Yugoslav Society of Great Britain, who are welcoming the visitors, have arranged—with the help of the Fellowship of Medicine—visits to representative medical institutions in London, and have prepared a general programme which includes visits to the British Museum and other places of interest, and an evening reception at Crosby Hall. The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress have kindly invited the party to tea at the Mansion House on Saturday, October 19.

PROBLEMS FOR THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Lord Meston, who spoke on "The League and India," Sir George Paish, who gave an address on "The League and World Economic Progress," and Lady Muir, who lectured on "Bulgaria: Its History and Relation to the League," were the principal speakers at the Autumn School of the Scottish National Council of the League of Nations Union, which was held at Dunblane at the end of last week. Referring to the problem of Minorities, Lady Muir suggested that a practical solution would be for the League of Nations to send out Commissions to the danger spots once a year. Their inquiries would help to prevent frontier incidents. Cultural rights of language, Church and school—equality in the exercise of civic rights—should be advocated by the League for the minorities of Central and Eastern Europe.

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THE WOMAN MOVEMENT IN SYRIA.*

BY E. S. STEVENS.

In Iraq the veil of the Muslim lady is always opaque; in Syria it is often transparent. Clothes, and above all the head-dress, being symbols all over the Near East, this partial concealment betokens that Islam in Syria is inclined to liberalism in its views on the seclusion of women.

Damascus is the centre of Muslim society in Syria, and to Damascus, rather than Beyrout, I went for my first impressions of feminism in Syria. I found that women of the propertied classes had almost without exception adopted Western dress, the black Muslim street garb covering a frock modelled according to the latest fashion from Paris. The Muslim ladies of Damascus are charming. Well-bred, lightly built, animated, they afford a contrast with the more heavily shaped women of the coast. It may be said that as a whole, though few take an active part in politics, their general feeling is definitely, often vindictively, anti-French; indeed, considering that many of their men folk were concerned in the rebellion of 1925 and 1926, and that much family property was destroyed in the bombardment which followed, this can hardly be wondered at.

Syria is at least fifty years ahead of Iraq in the matter of women's education, thought this education has proceeded almost entirely from foreign sources. At present, in Damascus alone there are twenty girls' schools, including a teachers' training college, and a school for midwives. Of these twenty, some are schools kept by religious orders, and in these, education is carried on in the French language, whereas in the Government schools, education is in Arabic. To show how quickly education marches in Syria, in 1927 the number of girl-pupils was 16,159, and in 1928, 17,716; an increase of 1,557 in one year. Aleppo is well-provided with girls' schools, having five elementary and one secondary. Beyrout has practically no Government schools, for the simple reason that foreign missions and private enterprise have provided so many girls' schools that the Lebanese authorities considered that to spend money in this direction was superfluous! Amongst the foreign institutions may be mentioned the *Mission Laïque*, where girl students and boy students work together, (these are, of course, not Muslims), and the American College, which provides for women medical students as well as men.

In spite of these opportunities throughout the country, the proportion of women unable to read or write is still 84 per cent. Education of girls is so far largely confined to large towns and Christian villages, as Muslim girls who become teachers will not leave the shelter of their families and go into villages to teach. Here is a case where the seclusion of the Muslim girl seriously injures her utility.

Feminism in Damascus has taken a very practical and useful form. The ladies of better family have formed a club known as the *Jam'aiyat Ya'qazat al marra ash Shamiya* ("Association for the Awakening of the Syrian Woman"), to which I was invited one day to discuss feminism in the East with its members. It was characteristic that the only language spoken on the occasion was Arabic, for Damascus takes pride in not being polyglot, like Bey-

rouit. The object of the club is the improvement of the social and intellectual life of women and the encouragement of its members to interest their minds and occupy their fingers. In the old days a Muslim lady of rank considered all forms of work derogatory, and would not even employ her needle. The club aims especially at destroying this idea, and one of the members, a young woman of great decision of character, has edited a paper, and is now engaged most successfully in farming her own land. National arts and crafts are encouraged, and every week native-woven materials are distributed amongst the members for embroidery and stitchery. At intervals the work of the members are exhibited for sale, the proceeds going to the upkeep of the club.

The association has rented a pleasant house in the Salahiyyeh quarter, paved, like most Damascus, with marble; its small garden is gladdened by a fountain of running water. It has a lecture hall, a reading-room, a library, an assembly-room and a committee-room, and hopes soon to acquire a tennis court. The rules show the club to be run on practical and business-like lines. Members may drop in when they wish to meet their friends, read the papers and attend meetings. Lectures are given once a month, not only by women, but also by men lecturers, and concerts are sometimes added to the programme of events. The club accepts members of all nationalities and faiths, though at present the members are mostly Muslim Damascenes. Politics and religion are debarred from discussion. The subscription is moderate—one gold lira a year for original members, and half that sum for other members, but the funds of the club are assisted by those rich enough to help. All this does not sound very exciting, but in fact the club represents such a revolution of thought and attitude that its mere existence justifies its name.

Another association of women in Damascus, entitled "Expansion of Culture for Women," is collecting money to found a school for girls in which Arab culture, traditions and literature are especially to be studied, Syrian arts and crafts encouraged, and a feeling of national unity fostered. The objects, therefore, are educational and nationalist rather than feminist, but the effort is interesting as showing how far the women of Syria are capable of concerted action. I attended a sitting of the committee, and was struck by the feverish enthusiasm the ladies showed and the whole-hearted way in which they had thrown themselves into the arduous work which such a scheme demands, though I was not convinced of the necessity of such a school at the present moment.

Beyrout has no fewer than twenty-seven women's associations. Some of these concern themselves with charities, others with self-improvement, but all of them in greater or lesser degrees with what Americans call "uplift." The most outstanding personality amongst the feminists in Beyrout, however, is, perhaps, Nur Khanum Hamada, a Druze lady, whose home is in Baaklin, in the mountains, near the stronghold built at the end of the eighteenth century by the famous Amir Bashir at Bteddin. Her grandfather, Shaikh Husain Hamada, was the Amir's right-hand man, and the religious chief of the Lebanon Druzes. He was known as The Great Shaikh (Shaikh Al Kabir). Her father held the same position for fifty years, and her brother, who bears his grandfather's name, now rules in his stead. Nur Hamada is a zealous worker in the cause of feminism, and not long ago conceived the idea of a league formed of delegates from all the women's societies in Greater Syria, so that a representative body might be formed to unite in itself the activities of feminism in the country. Not only that, but she endeavoured to link her league with the feminist movements in Iraq, Palestine and Egypt, and wrote to the heads of associations of women in those countries suggesting affiliation and a yearly conference to take place in Cairo, Beyrout, Baghdad, and Jerusalem in rotation, and that the countries of the Near East should associate themselves with the activities of European feminists.

The idea of uniting with European feminists was an

* An article on "The Woman Movement in Iraq" appeared in our issue of October 10.—Ed.

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excellent one, and it was a pity that two women delegates, one from Damascus and one from Beyrout, chosen to represent Syrian feminism at a large international feminist conference taking place this summer in Berlin, were unable to leave their homes owing to mourning in their respective families. The death of a relative prohibits a Muslim woman from taking part in social life for some time, and the daring project of making a pilgrimage to Europe was, therefore, abandoned until another year.

The connexion with Egypt of the "Arab Woman's League of Culture" (*Majma'a an Nissai al Aadabi al 'Arabi*) as Nur Hamada's association is named, is, however, not without danger. I have not come into direct contact with the feminists in Egypt, but I understand that the movement has become largely identified with one political party—the Nationalists. One of the most prominent spirits there is a lady of wealth and influence, who edits a feminist newspaper and subsidises many activities amongst the women in Egypt. Her father was the friend of Arabi Pasha and later of Zaghloul Pasha. There is nothing reprehensible in the fact that the feminist movement in Egypt is Nationalist in colour; indeed, it is to be expected that it should be so; nevertheless, it would be regrettable if the surge towards freedom on the part of the women of the Near East were to spend its force and dissipate its strength among the bogs of local politics. If feminism in these countries is really to achieve its aims, it must concentrate with a single mind at achieving social independence and freedom from those bonds of custom which have kept woman shackled for long and humiliating centuries. She can consider her political position when she has freed herself socially, and not till then; else her efforts will end in mere talk.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN PERSIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Persia, once the most powerful empire in the world, has long stood isolated and aloof from the main stream of progress. To-day we are watching what can only be described as a national renaissance under the wise and energetic leadership of Reza Shah Pahlavi. It finds its natural and most creative outlet in a new eagerness for education.

The Persian Government is already developing a wide and comprehensive educational scheme for boys and girls, and scores of students are being sent annually to foreign countries for higher education.

The Stuart Memorial College, Isfahan, was re-opened by the Church Missionary Society after the War, in memory of Bishop Stuart. It is the only English institution in Persia which offers education on the lines of an English Public School. The Persian Government officially recognise and strongly approve of the school. The fostering of games and athletics and the introduction of the Prefect and House system have worked wonders in the development of sound character among the boys, of whom fifty are boarders. The Headmaster, who is a Cambridge man, is supported by five other English University men in addition to Persian masters; and the boys are prepared not only for the Persian Government Examinations, but also for the London Matriculation.

In addition to the fees which are charged to all boys, the expenses of the College are partly met by grants from the Church Missionary Society. For the past six years the Anglo-Persian Oil Company and the Imperial Bank of Persia have also very generously supported the College by grants amounting to £750 per annum (the A.P.O.C. having given a further sum of £3,000 for capital expenditure on new buildings in 1923). These latter grants

have enabled the College to reach a standard of efficiency and education which would otherwise have been impossible. They are now, however, being withdrawn, the A.P.O.C. being obliged to confine their educational expenditure to their own area in Khuzistan, where they are developing new schools.

We share the opinion which has been expressed by many of the leading Persians and Europeans now resident in Persia, that the closing down of this school would be a very grave handicap to the country at this critical stage in her history. Yet, expenditure cannot be reduced; and the only alternative is the raising of an Endowment Fund of at least £15,000 to enable the college to continue its valuable work. This is the only College in Central or Southern Persia where, through the medium of the English language, a sympathetic understanding of Western science and knowledge and Western literature is being encouraged, and experience all over the world shows that such literary and cultural connexions have an important repercussion upon international relationships.

We venture, Sir, to appeal to your readers, and especially to those who are interested in the great and ancient country of Persia, or indeed in India and the Middle East as a whole, to contribute generously to this fund. An account has been opened at the Imperial Bank of Persia, King William Street, E.C.4. Contributions, payable to the S.M.C. Endowment Fund, may be sent direct to the Bank, or to the Headmaster, the Rev. W. J. Thompson, M.A., at 6, Salisbury Square, E.C.4, who will be pleased to answer any requests for further information about the College.—We are, etc.,

C. A. ALINGTON,
P. Z. COX,
FRANK FLETCHER,
WOLSELEY HAIG,
LAMINGTON,
PERCY LORRAINE,
D. S. MARGOLIOUTH,
CHARLES M. MARLING,
E. DENISON ROSS,
P. M. SYKES.

THE INHABITANTS OF PALESTINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—May I point out that to call the majority of the inhabitants of this country Arabs is a misnomer, though this practice of so doing has of late years becoming very general?

They are certainly not Arabs by race, being essentially a North Semitic people, and to every Arab-speaking native here and of whatever religion, an "Arab" means, and rightly, a Bedouin, who really has a large amount of Arab blood. It may seem immaterial what we call a people as long as we all know whom we mean, but this is not invariably so. Certainly nine out of every ten people who have read in some London morning journals about the gratitude due to the Arabs for helping us to conquer Palestine have been under the impression that Palestinians, and not this real Arab contingent under Col. Lawrence, are meant.

This is unfortunate. For, instead of helping us, the so-called Arabs of Palestine were either fighting against us in the Turkish Army or were most persistent looters of our wounded and dead, especially of arms and ammunition, with the result that a large proportion of the rifles taken from fellaheen prisoners or found in their villages during the recent outbreak have been the No. 15, used by the E.E.F.—I am, etc.,

Jerusalem, September 26.

J. A. GRANE.

[Ethnographical considerations are not the only factors. To limit the term "Arab" to the *Badawin*, as our Correspondent suggests should be done, would, in our opinion, have much more "unfortunate" effects than has the possible confusion of the inhabitants of Palestine with the tribesmen who fought with Colonel Lawrence.—ED.]

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Preserving the Countryside.

Those superior people who are wont to assert that all these societies for "keeping England as it always was" are composed of cranks should read the report of the National Conference for the Preservation of the Countryside which met last week in Manchester. For that conference was composed in the main of men of affairs, practical men who realise that of necessity the face of England must be transformed, but who plead that the change may be made decently and harmoniously.

Building of houses, must, of course, go on. But let it be in keeping with the countryside. So many parts of England are now being spoiled by those very people who, wishing to escape from the crowdedness of the suburbs, go farther afield into the country and there repeat precisely the mistakes which have been made nearer the big towns. New roads must be built, but why beribbon them with villas and bungalows that fill only the speculative builder with satisfaction?

Beauty and harmony with the landscape can be achieved without great difficulty: it is a matter of sensibility and a willingness to fall in with the fitness of things. That fitness cannot be demonstrated by Parliament—no further legislation is needed for preserving England's beauty—but it can be supplied by local authorities. During a tramp that I took at the week-end in north-western Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, I encountered some most terrible examples of hideous disfigurement of landscape by advertisement and bungalows, but I also saw new buildings of dignity, natural growths, as it were, from the soil around. The matter is not, as has been suggested, one of economics, for the jerry-builder is not always the cheapest builder: it is one for education, and primarily for vigilant local opinion.

Mob Hysteria.

Many wise heads were shaken last week over the conduct of the mob in the Reading murder case. That our educated democracy should be capable of such a crazy outburst had scarcely been thought possible, for though hero-worship in decent circumstances may be a virtue, in the peculiar circumstances at Reading it was

revolting. As *The Times* suggested, the flowers which women brought to garland Mr. Drew, the actor who occupied so prominent a place in the proceedings, had more fitly been placed on the murdered man's grave.

Largely, of course, this display of mass emotion was the result of Press publicity. That the public of Reading should get it into their heads that the man whom some witnesses identified as being outside the theatre at the time of the murder was being unfairly treated was comprehensible enough, but resentment of this treatment could not alone account for the quite remarkable outburst of hysteria.

It is even easier now than ever, it seems, for the hysterical feelings of large masses of people to be stirred, and this fact has grave national dangers in it. It means that electorates can be handled and cajoled in a manner that lends an easy excuse for corruption. Certainly few crimes have attracted wider attention than this Reading affair, and certainly never before has such nausea been created among decent-minded folk by the attitude of the extra-mural mob.

One good thing, however, may result from this coroner's inquest at Reading, and that is a change in the regulations governing such proceedings. There is little doubt that certain recent events in Coroners' Courts have shocked public opinion, which will insist on alterations in practice. This determination arises, however, rather in spite of the improper conduct of the Reading mob than because of it; one could see it in process of forming long before certain citizens of Reading disgraced that town's reputation for sobriety and moderation in judgment.

The Delius Festival.

Thanks to the man who is sometimes, but quite erroneously, supposed to be the least practical of our musicians—Sir Thomas Beecham—there is being held in London a festival of the works of Delius. Delius cannot, of course, be claimed absolutely as an Englishman, though he was born at Bradford, but England may take just and peculiar pride in the fact that he is indubitably a world figure.

One cannot describe the works of Delius in other than technical language. For, intangible, they touch one as closely as any music can; non-intellectual, they move one to thoughts more deep than tears; unemotional, they catch the breath, or make the heart-strings quiver. His best works is of ethereal beauty, a beauty that bewitches, sometimes beguiles, but never merely bemuses.

It is good that England has so handsomely recognised the genius of this blind composer, and for those who will have heard the festival that began last Saturday the memory of it will be cherished late and long.

London's Theatres.

The production of a new play by Mr. Sean O'Casey is now recognised by the discerning as something on no account to be missed, for it is generally agreed that there is genius in this Irish playwright. There have been in London since the War few things richer or more imaginative than "Juno and the Paycock" and "The Plough and the Stars"; and "The Silver Tassie," which was produced for the first time last week, appears to contain many of those marks of originality which distinguished the two earlier plays. As an example of what serious people are saying about Mr. O'Casey, the utterance by one of our best critics may be quoted. Mr. Agate has just written that in this young Irishman we have the biggest playwright in the making for the last three hundred years.

London is particularly happy at the moment in plays of worth. Apart from Mr. Sherriff's "Journey's End," which has achieved the success it deserves, there is Mr. Bernard Shaw's "The Apple Cart," which contains most entertaining and shrewd comment upon our democratic times. And of the ordinary entertainments, which pleasantly while away a few spare hours, there is at least the usual number.

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Book Reviews

A FINE OLD INDIAN GENTLEMAN.

"ZAKA ULLAH OF DELHI." By C. F. Andrews. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd., 7s. 6d. net.)

All who know and love India will be grateful to Mr. Andrews for putting on record this sketch of his old friend's life and character. This record is doubly welcome, both because it is a picture of an Indian Muslim of a type which, we trust, will never die out, and because of the circumstances in which Zaka Ullah's character developed. We are apt to forget that the frothy politician is not truly representative of India, and we are also apt to forget the Mutiny and the years immediately preceding it.

The subject of this book was a scion of a family which had been for generations hereditary tutors at the Imperial Palace of Delhi, and for the poor relics of the Imperial family he ever retained affection and attachment. He was brought up in the old Delhi College during the period of the "English Peace," where he had the advantage of association with some very remarkable men, both as teachers and as fellow-students. He lived through the terrible times of the Mutiny and the worse times which immediately succeeded it, remaining undisturbed in his serenity and loyalty, though sorely tried. He emerged as a very sincere admirer of Queen Victoria, to whom he seems to have transferred his devotion as a righteous Ruler of India. He filled important educational appointments under Government, and was specially conspicuous as a lover of the Urdu language, that legacy of the late Moghul Empire in the knowledge and study of which he had grown up. His knowledge of English, though he scarcely ever spoke it, was profound, and he used this knowledge in translating very numerous scientific and other educational works into his own pure Urdu. It is sad to think that he was fighting a losing battle—he recognised this himself—for the advocates of English as a *lingua franca* for the Indian Intelligentsia won the fight, a result which many of us deeply deplore. He was a deeply religious man and a devout Mussulman, but his heart was full of charity, and bigotry was far from him. Indeed, he was full of love for his fellow beings and of humility as regards himself. He was the kind of man whom it was not possible to know without loving him. His very defects, which were mainly shyness, undue modesty and diffidence were, as between friends, positive virtues.

We urgently exhort those of our readers who are wearied of reading of the unrealities of Indian politics to study this book and so refresh themselves with the realities which lie far above them and permit of no one who has known the like of Zaka Ullah to despair of India's future.

C. S-W.

INDIA IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

"OVINGTON'S VOYAGE TO SURAT" Edited by H. G. Rawlinson (Oxford University Press: Humphrey Milford. 12s. 6d. net.)

It is somewhat remarkable, as the Editor points out, that this book of travel to India has never been reprinted since its first publication in 1696. It clearly attracted considerable attention at the time, since it is freely referred to by the author, probably Burnell, of the anonymous account of Bombay published in 1710, and by Alexander Hamilton in his "New Account," which appeared in 1727. It was translated into French, and received the laudation of a Poet Laureate in the person of Nahum Tate. Perhaps a certain lack of raciness in the book as compared with that of John Fryer, like Ovington, a chaplain, or with the entertaining if scandalous pages of Hamilton, accounts for the book never having been re-issued. Perhaps also it was too much of a compilation based on other people's reports rather than on Ovington's own observations except as regards Bombay and Surat. But the book was well worthy of re-issue since the description of

the condition of affairs at Bombay and Surat at an interesting if very troubled time was certainly first hand.

When Ovington visited Bombay it was almost at the lowest point of its fortunes. The incompetence and miserliness of the "General," Sir John Child, had a few years previously driven the garrison and an excellent officer, Keigwin, into rebellion, and had led to the siege of the Fort of Bombay by the Sidi, which was only terminated by an ignominious compromise. Moreover, Bombay was more than ever a charnel house for Europeans, who ably assisted the climate in disposing of them by heavy drinking. Compared with Bombay, the Factory at Surat with its President and Chaplain, and its regularly ordered banquets and prayers, on both of which Ovington dilates with unction, was the essence of respectability. In spite of the pomp and circumstances of the Factors, however, they were liable at any time to be seized and imprisoned by the Moguls on the pretext of the activities of European pirates, and this had already led to the decision to transfer the seat of the Company's trade to Bombay. The real value of Ovington's book lies in his account of the habits, not only of the English in India of his time, but also of the Indian inhabitants, and particularly of the Banias and Parsis. It is wonderful how many of the customs and habits have persisted to our day: among them, let us hope, is the extreme kindness of the European husbands to their wives which Ovington admiringly observes. The revered author was obviously a safe man, whose behaviour earned the commendation of the Factors in India, and of the Company at home. He should, therefore, be read along with his contemporary, that unrepentant old interloper, Alexander Hamilton. But Ovington's account has much value to the student of Indian History, and Mr. Rawlinson is once more deserving of our thanks for bringing an old book within our reach. One may not agree in every case with Mr. Rawlinson's annotations, but the editing has been adequately done, and Ovington's own life history has for the first time been traced.

TRAVELS AND REFLECTIONS.

"TRAVELS AND REFLECTIONS." By Noel Buxton. Illustrated. (George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 10s. net.)

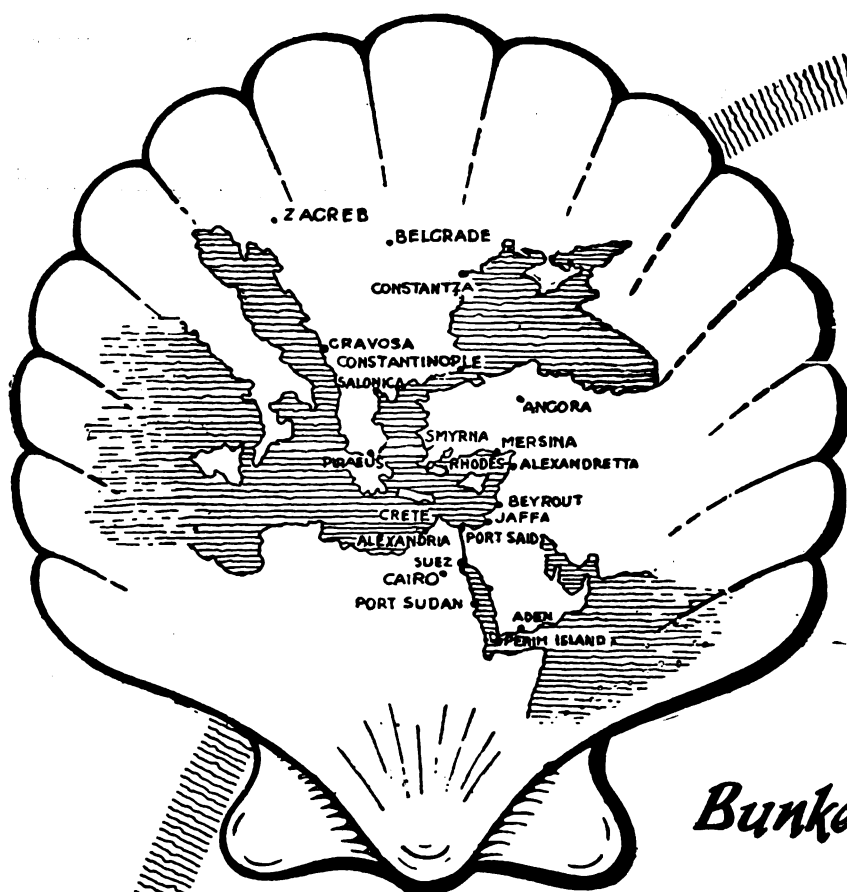
There will be many who, like ourselves, gratefully hear of an addition to Mr. Buxton's interesting works on the Near East. This time he has, in a bundle of gathered sketches, given us glimpses of Japan, Persia, Kurdistan, Armenia and the Sahara in addition. It is in the Near East, however, that he is most at home, though we would not willingly have dispensed with his chapters on the Kurds and their Armenian neighbours. If, in some cases, the sketches are too "sketchy" to allow of much in the way of "reflections," we cannot say so of the quietly drawn but hideously gruesome chapters dealing with the human sufferings consequent on the Balkan war of 1912. In these chapters Mr. Buxton is a very efficient advocate of peace, none the less so because he carefully avoids any appearance of desiring to pose as such. He has a gift of getting well under the surface in a few words, as where he tells us that "Bulgarian feeling runs deep—so deep that some think it non-existent."

The book is, as it deserves, delightfully produced, and its illustrations are an additional pleasure.

C. S-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Seven Months with Mahatma Gandhi." By Krishma Das. Two Volumes. (Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co. Rs. 3/8 each.)
 "Indian Practical Banking." By O. S. Krishnamoorthy. (Bombay: Taraporevala Sons and Co. Rs. 2/-.)
 "Hindu Exogamy." A Systematic Study of Hindu Marriage outside the Gotra. By S. V. Karandikar, M.A. (Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co. Rs. 6.)
 "I Discover Greece." By Harry A. Franck. (London: Methuen. 12s. 6d. net.)



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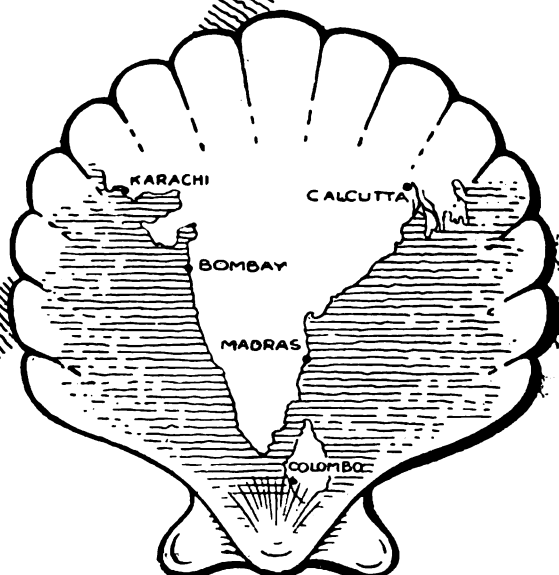
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Developments in Egypt.

Mr. Turner's report on Egypt, extracts from which will be found elsewhere in these columns, throws a vivid light on the efforts that are being made to improve the economic position of Egypt. The major works of development, in progress or on the tapis, as, for instance, the heightening of the Aswan Dam, for which tenders have just been received, are well known, but the projects that are being undertaken, or are contemplated, cover almost every aspect of the country's life. They range from the major question of electrification schemes and drainage projects to the construction of 150 hospitals (this programme is spread over five years), the creation of a Cereals Exchange, and the establishment of various factories. The complete programme provides a clear illustration of the scope of the Government's activities. Financially, it may be pointed out, Egypt is well situated to carry out comprehensive works of development. Last year there was a substantial trade balance in favour of the country, while the Reserve Fund of the State amounts to about £E40,000,000, but even so a programme of the nature indicated will entail the expenditure of larger sums than are available, and the question of new sources of revenue is therefore being considered. In the case of many, one might say most, of the projects, the expenditure will be of a directly productive character, as, for example, in the case of the irrigation works, and that fact is an ample justification for undertaking the necessary expenditure.

Roumania and Great Britain.

It is to be hoped that it is an earnest of greatly improved economic relations between Roumania and Great Britain that an important road contract should have been given to this country and also one for the coinage of 50,000,000 twenty-lei and 60,000,000 five-lei pieces. The two countries are in the position of being able to supply each other's requirements to some extent. On the one hand, Roumania has her grain to export, while Great Britain is able to supply manufactured goods and to carry out development works, such as the projected canal which is to link Bucharest with the Danube and thus with ocean traffic. The handicaps to developments since 1918 have been the impoverished state of Roumania and the fact that the Government has been unwilling to embark on schemes involving considerable expenditure. Under the Maniu Administration conditions have steadily improved, and if only world conditions were favourable the country could count this year on greatly replenishing its purchasing power through grain exports. The adverse conditions that have obtained are not likely to be repeated, so it may be taken for granted that before long the Roumanian market will be showing signs of recuperation. The desire of Roumania to develop economic relations with this country has been the subject of strong emphasis by M. Madgearu during his visit here, and he has expressed the hope that a commercial treaty between the two countries will be one of the first to be arranged by Roumania and that Great Britain will be able to make use of the minimum tariff. Our manufacturers, therefore, have every reason now for beginning to pay more attention to this market than they have in the past.

A New Palestine Company.

It is obviously sound policy for Palestine in the present stage of her development to concentrate chiefly on the expansion of her staple product, the Jaffa orange, which

has been for so long the mainstay of the country's export trade. Between the years 1924 and 1928 the area under orange plantations was more than doubled, and the rate of planting has been steadily on the increase. The latest development is the formation in Palestine of "Palestine Plantations, Ltd.," with a capital of £P300,000, under the auspices of Lord Melchett, who holds a controlling interest in it, among others interested in the company being the well-known fruit brokers, Messrs. White and Son, Ltd. The company possesses large areas of land in Palestine, and its objects are the cultivation of citrus fruit and other agricultural produce, but I understand that orange growing will constitute the principal activity of the company. It is proposed to set aside part of the company's estate for disposal as orange groves on the instalment system with a view to promote the participation of small investors in the important orange industry. The directors include Mr. A. I. Kastelianski, chairman and managing director, Mr. C. Weizman, Palestine manager of Imperial Chemical Industries, Mr. P. A. Batty, director of White and Son (Levant), Ltd., Sir Frederick Keeble, and Mr. Michael Naamani.

The Question of Tariffs.

In the course of his speech at the meeting of the Prince Line Sir Frederick Lewis referred to the question of tariffs, and it is symptomatic of the changing views with regard to the possibilities of any great removal of tariffs that he said that while from the shipping point of view they would like nothing better than the complete abolition of tariffs, probably the most to be hoped for was that matters would not get much worse than they are. The recommendations of the recent conference at Geneva, as a matter of fact, seem to have had no effect at all. To take the most recent instance, Turkey has just imposed a tariff framed on prohibitive lines, while Egypt is preparing a new tariff one of the objects of which will be to raise the revenue from Customs duties, and there are other examples which could be cited to show that the present is not a favourable time for a campaign for tariff reduction. The fact of the matter is that the subject is so fraught with difficulties that it is impossible to visualise a general agreement on it. Emphatically only the individual country can gauge the need or otherwise for tariffs, and if in particular instances the duties are framed on too high a scale the operation of the economic laws will certainly bring about their reduction sooner or later. COMMENTATOR.

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growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives. The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 9.

The Financial Situation.

The *Argus*, in its weekly French edition, publishes the report of an interview with M. Charles Rist, Foreign Adviser to the National Bank, in which the latter reviews the present situation of the currency with gratifying optimism. M. Rist confidently states that the stabilisation of the currency is now an accomplished fact, and that there need no longer be any fear of fluctuations. This is extremely satisfactory, and it is further encouraging to read that the increase of the grain export trade and influx of foreign exchange, consequent upon the abundant harvest of this year, has justified the Bank in issuing fresh currency to the amount of 2½ milliard lei (between June 15 and September 21). Thus while the fiduciary currency in circulation amounted to about 20 milliard lei on June 15, it had been increased to 22.65 milliards by September 21. The sale and export of grain brought foreign bills into the National Bank and the Bank paid these in gold lei. Thus the increase in the currency in circulation is not in the nature of a dangerous inflation for the needs of the State Treasury, but an issue covered by foreign capital flowing into the country.

The favourable effect of the new issue upon the market was immediately noticeable, and indeed M. Rist is of opinion that conditions generally have already begun to improve. He comments with satisfaction on the action of the State Railway Administration in drawing up a programme for the systematic payment of all its outstanding debts both at home and abroad, beginning on October 1. These payments will give a welcome impetus to the home industries on the one hand, while on the other they will serve to raise the credit of Roumania abroad.

The Roumanian Banking Company.

An important event in the financial world was the inauguration on October 1 of a new large Roumanian bank bearing the above title. Its President is M. Argetoianu, a former Minister in several Cabinets, and among the Roumanian members of the Board are Prince Nicolas Cantacuzino, and M. Garoflid, M. Manoilescu and M. Mitileneu—all former Ministers. The new Bank has been founded on the initiative of the Bucharest branch of the Dresdner Bank of Berlin, which it will henceforth replace, the premises and staff of the Dresdner Bank branch having been taken over by the Roumanian Banking Company. The Dresdner Bank is one of the principal shareholders, while among other foreign subscribers are the Amsterdamsche Bank of Amsterdam, Messrs. Japhet and Co., of London, the Commerz und Privat Bank of Berlin, etc. The principal object of the Bank is to facilitate commercial operations with a view to improving economic conditions in Roumania, and it is hoped that important transactions with the State will also be carried out. The formation of this bank is viewed with considerable displeasure by the Liberals, who control several of the most important banking institutions in the country, and the participation of M. Argetoianu has made him extremely unpopular with the leader of his party.

The Oilfields.

The petroleum industry continues to progress, though slowly, in spite of the commercial and industrial depression through which the country is passing. On September 2 seven perimetres of State oil lands were sold by public auction to various companies, the Astra Romana obtaining 3 at a price of 164,876,000 lei. Seven more perimetres are to be offered for sale on October 20. The total production of crude oil during the first six months of this year was 2,240,000 metric tons as against 2,004,000 metric tons for the same period of 1928. The refineries are said to be working at about 73 per cent. of their capacity, and during the first six months of this year

they are said to have refined 2,160,000 tons of crude oil, as compared with 1,900,000 tons in the first half of 1928. Over the same period the internal consumption has risen from 625,940 tons in 1928 to 750,240 tons in 1929, while the exports amounted to 1,308,700 tons, being an increase of 283,500 tons over those of last year.

TURKISH CUSTOMS STATISTICS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, October 2.

A serious controversy, which has found an echo in the daily papers and which turns on the sustained depreciation of Turkish currency, has lately divided the official and administrative milieux of Constantinople into two hostile camps. M. Jacquart, the Belgian specialist, who entered the services of Turkey in order to carry out the census of her population, started the ball rolling by declaring that Turkish Customs statistics are not to be relied upon, and that the adverse Turkish trade balance which, for years past, these tabulated statements have denoted, is no more than a myth. Turkish exports, M. Jacquart seems to think, if they do not exceed imports, at least equal them in volume, and he can see therefore no serious impediment to the gradual rise in value of the Turkish circulating medium, measured in terms of foreign exchange.

The Turkish Customs authorities, as might be anticipated, have joined issue with M. Jacquart and have expressed much concern at the slur he has cast on their statistical service. Their returns, they maintain, reflect a true picture of the situation, and they consider that nothing is to be gained by blinking at obvious though unpleasant facts. Turkey's trade balance, the Customs authorities aver, is a distinctly adverse one, and the debased value of the lira must be attributed solely to this circumstance.

The Secretary-General of the Constantinople Chamber of Commerce, who sees eye to eye with the Belgian specialist in respect to the unreliability of the Customs returns, goes further afield however in his investigations into the causes underlying the weakness of the lira. This official seems to think that a careful scrutiny of the balance sheets of certain Constantinople banking establishments would immediately reveal the fact that the mercantile community of this city has been over-indulged in the matter of credit—in other words, that the depreciation of the currency medium has gone hand in hand with over-inflation of credit. The Secretary-General's thesis has been met by a rejoinder from the Commissary of the Bourse to the effect that, as the supervision of bank credits lies within his particular province, the Chamber of Commerce may take it for granted that, far from inflation, the controlled policy of the banks has tended, particularly of late, towards curtailment and restriction.

There would seem to be one or two essential factors in this vital problem which all parties to the controversy have apparently overlooked. One is that, granted the adverse trade balance, the effect produced on the somewhat exiguous exchange market of Constantinople by the activities of the Turkish Treasury itself must inevitably tend towards a shortage in the supply of foreign bills wherewith to meet the Treasury's foreign commitments in connexion with railway construction and other enterprises. Account must also be taken of the Government's demand for bills to finance the service of Turkey's External Debt. Last but not least, there is the sustained demand for foreign exchange from the mercantile community of Constantinople during the past few months as a result of the increase in the import of European and American commodities arising out of the forthcoming application of the new Turkish Customs tariff.

CORRESPONDENCE

TRADE AND CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Through the medium of the Press the business world is being constantly reminded that the solution of unemployment lies in increased trade overseas; it is therefore exceedingly vexing to find that one's efforts to put this exhortation into practice are frequently stultified or hampered by official attitude and action. The prevailing indifference in certain Government Departments is strikingly illustrated by the following facts relating to the procedure of H.M. Customs.

Annually a large number of fractured motor car and machinery parts are expressly sent to this country for repairs which cannot be executed elsewhere. We have at this moment 13 cases of fractured parts from Persia held up at the docks pending the completion of Customs formalities. These parts are so urgently required by the owners that, to save time, all correspondence relative thereto is being transmitted by Air Mail.

The Customs authorities have asked for the name of the vessel upon which the goods were originally shipped, and the date of its sailing. But, most absurd of all, they require us to declare the value of the goods when new. Now, manifestly we cannot possibly supply this information, as we do not know where the parts were made. Moreover, they were not sold as separate units, but as parts of a complete machine or motor vehicle.

We have offered to pay a deposit of duty, or, alternatively, to give bond pending the re-exportation of the goods but in spite of this, the goods remain at the docks—apparently because the Customs authorities cannot make up their minds as to the value of them. Actually, until they are repaired, the value of the contents of these cases is that of scrap metal. It does not need an expert

to see that these broken parts are absolutely useless in their present state.

We admit that the Customs must see that proper duty is paid on all dutiable goods imported into this country, but we feel very strongly that in the execution of their duties, they should endeavour to assist business firms, especially when documentary evidence exists to prove that damaged goods are being sent to reputable firms for the sole purpose of reconstruction. In placing obstacles in the way of prompt clearance the authorities are actually destroying the chance of extended business, by making prompt delivery of the repaired goods to the owners a sheer impossibility.—I am, etc., C. W. BRETT.

Barimar, Ltd., 14-18, Lamb's Conduit St., Theobald's Road, London, W.C.1., October 11.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

BULGARIA.

Locomotives.—Tenders are invited for the construction and supply of three shunting locomotives D-1, in conformity with the tender conditions and plans. November 8. (D.O.T.)

Rails and Fittings.—The Ministry of Railways invites tenders for the supply of rails and fittings. Tenders are called for in three lots and are due in Sofia on November 6, 11, and 14, respectively. (D.O.T.)

EGYPT.

Medicinal Oils.—The Egyptian Department of Public Health invites tenders for the supply of medicinal oils required during the year commencing May 1, 1930. December 7. (D.O.T.)

Disinfectants.—The Egyptian Department of Public Health invites tenders for the supply of disinfectants for medical and general purposes required during the year ending April 30, 1931. December 7. (D.O.T.)

Sewage Mains.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, Main Drainage Department, invites tenders, to be presented in Cairo by November 13, for (1) supplying, laying, jointing, and testing approximately 16,300 metres lineal of 30 inches diameter cast-iron pipes; (2) supply and laying of 16,300 metres lineal of 0.60 metre gauge light railway; (3) supplying, laying, jointing, and testing 15,000 metres lineal of cast-iron sealed sewage and air mains; (4) supplying special castings, spare parts and materials at the site of the Giza Pumping Station. (D.O.T.)

Electric Refrigerators.—The Egyptian Department of Public Health invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 31 electric refrigerators, small and large sizes, with white porcelain panelling. November 5. (D.O.T.)

Microscopes and Accessories.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of microscopes and accessories required during the year 1930-1931. December 7. (D.O.T.)

GREECE.

Exploitation of Waterfalls.—The Minister of Communications invites tenders for the exploitation of the waterfalls of Verria, Voden, Vladovo, Acheloos, and Aliakmon, for use in generating electricity for industrial and chemical purposes.

IRAQ.

Welded Steel Tubes.—The Department of Overseas Trade has received a communication from a distributor of engineering products in Baghdad, who is desirous of forming a connexion with British firms in a position to supply light welded steel tubes with welded-on flanges suitable for pump suction and discharge, in the following sizes: 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 20 in. internal diameter in lengths 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9 ft., together with bends.

INDIA.

House Service Meters.—The Indian Stores Department, New Delhi, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of house service meters required during the period October 20, 1930, to January 19, 1931. October 28. (D.O.T.)

Crude Oil Engine Generating and Motor Generator Set.—The Indian Stores Department, New Delhi, invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of a crude oil engine driven D.C. generating set, and a motor generator set complete with switchgear and all accessories for the Military Engineering Services, Razmak. November 14. (D.O.T.)

Pelton Wheels.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of 2 Pelton wheels, 2 three-throw ram pumps, steel piping, etc. November 8. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Irrigation Works.—The Turkish Government invites tenders for irrigation works, etc. The dates for the submission of tenders vary, the latest being November 2. (D.O.T.)

A call for tenders for the supply of 285 kilometres of rails and accessory material has been issued by the Administration Générale des Chemins de fer et des Ports d'Etat. October 22. (D.O.T.)



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to the Secretary

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Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

The Sarda Canal Barrage Scheme.

For a considerable time past one of the most important sections of engineering has been the construction of barrages for irrigation work, of which there are a large number of installations in the Near East and in India and the Far East. In this latter connexion highly interesting is that of the great Sarda Canals Irrigation Barrage, on the Nepal-United Provinces frontier, commenced in 1923 and recently completed. This steel sluice gate installation is a fine example of modern British engineering, and the object of the scheme is to provide sufficient reserve of water to eliminate the serious danger of famine in the Province of Oudh and to a lesser extent in the adjoining Agra Province, now partly supplied by the Ganges, Tumna, and Agra Canals.

The main barrage is situated across the Eastern Channel of the River Sarda at Banbasa, at the foot of the Himalayas, practically the whole of the Sarda River being in the independent State of Nepal, representing a drainage area of something like 6,400,000 acres. At this point the river is comparatively shallow and of low velocity, although having a normal flow in the cold season of 5,560 cubic feet of water per second. The barrage is nearly 2,000 feet long, being controlled by a series of sluice gates, impounding the water just as it enters the plains of India, and discharging as required in the dry season through a complete system of feeder canals controlled by subsidiary barrages with sluice gates.

Ever since 1870 numerous schemes have been drawn up for utilising the Sarda River, and the total cost of the present scheme is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees representing approximately £5,000,000, while the area of land in Agra and Oudh being irrigated is not less than 1,382,400 acres and it is calculated that the revenue will pay 7.9 per cent. interest on the capital as against 7.4 per cent. for the average irrigation scheme in India. The steel sluice gate equipment for the different barrages representing over 2,200 tons dead weight of steel, has been designed, supplied and erected by Messrs. Glenfield and Kennedy, Ltd., of Kilmarnock, Scotland, and the contract included 30 mild steel sluice gates 50 ft. span by 10 ft. and four mild steel sluice gates 50 ft. span and 13 ft. deep, complete with free rollers, rocking paths, staunching tubes, lifting attachments, and adjustable plates on the bottom of each of the gates, together with the necessary gearing, and other appliances for operating the same, as well as 16 gates 20 ft. span and 6 ft. 4 in. deep, all complete as before with the necessary operating gear and accessories for the intake to the main irrigation canal.

The scheme further includes the utilisation of part of the Deoha River bed as a canal, and for this purpose a subsidiary barrage is situated just North of Bareilly on the United Provinces frontier, about 160 miles north of Lucknow. The length of the barrage necessary for the river between the extreme abutments is 530 ft., and 11 Glenfield steel sluice gates are installed, each 40 ft. span, by 12 ft. deep, of the free roller type, operated by hand control gear from the steel superstructure above.

Generation of Electricity.

The work of the Electricity Board has drawn renewed attention to the question of suitable prime movers for power for generating electricity on a large scale, and the supporters of the steam turbine are finding their position, so far as numbers are concerned, rather threatened by those who still feel that the reciprocating engine is quite a good proposition. The general public seem to have an idea that the latter is practically obsolete and that for heavy duty its place has been taken, for good, by the turbine, but engineers are aware that is not the case. Each has to be regarded on its merits, and there is no doubt that a good steam engine is not only reliable but efficient and economical. It will operate either at high pressure or with a simple condenser, and most designs give the best results, taking everything into consideration, at a moderate steam pressure; but the chief drawback to their use for electric power generation, as compared with the turbine, is their slow speed. The turbine, on the other hand, occupies far less space for a given output, is compact, operates at high speed, which can be geared down, if necessary, without appreciable loss of power and consumes rather less steam per horse-power. The general view is that the turbine has the advantage where steam is produced at suitably high pressures, so far as the generation of electric energy is concerned, especially in situations where there is so ample a supply of water as to eliminate all difficulties connected with condensation. There is very little in it; makers of each kind of plant are prepared to turn out a prime mover that will meet any requirements. The turbine shows to advantage in medium power units, small turbines being rather wasteful and turbines of big output being but little if any more economical than reciprocating engines of a similar horse-power.

Inspecting Concrete.

The intensive use of concrete has had the effect of practically standardising such matters as proportions and kinds of sand and aggregates, sizes of aggregates, water content, and so on, and in connexion with this standardisation the need has arisen for a closer inspection than was considered necessary in those days when every contractor and engineer was a law unto himself, and concrete was mixed and used in a very haphazard manner. It is true that the aggregate for the concrete and the quality of the concrete are always laid down within narrow limits in the specifications, but it is as well, from time to time, to see that they are up to sample and that proper gauging boxes are being used. It goes without saying that wherever possible concrete should be machine mixed, as in that way a far more evenly mixed material results; but if for any reason machine mixing is not possible, and hand mixing has to be done, it should be seen that the cement is spread well over the measured aggregate and turned over twice in the dry and twice in the wet state. One thing the competent inspector will never allow is the use of a hose for watering concrete, and the throwing on of water by

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means of buckets is equally wrong. Nothing but rose sprinkling should be allowed, as otherwise the cement and sand content is washed out of one part of the aggregate into another and a concrete of weak and uneven character results.

A good deal has been written about the amount of water that may be permitted in concrete, and it is certain that, all other things being equal, the drier the concrete, the stronger it is at all periods. At the same time, no hard and fast rule can be laid down about it and the inspector will be called upon frequently to exercise his own judgment as to the quantity he should allow. The aggregate or the sand may be bone dry or of any degree of wetness; the weather may be bakingly hot or it may be drizzling with rain. All such factors make a difference, but concrete should be sufficiently wet to allow it to be properly rammed into place, but should not show any superfluous moisture on its surface until it has been well rammed down. Care should also be taken to see that enough water is used to allow all parts of the mixture to be wetted through.

Another point the inspector should watch is the way in which the concrete is put in place. If it is thrown violently, particularly from a height, the proportions of aggregate get disturbed; the large portions are driven to the bottom and the centre and top layers are robbed. Where concrete has to be deposited into deep pits or trenches, a trimmer pipe or an approved form of chute should be used. If concrete has to be laid under water, as is frequently the case in certain classes of work, sealed trimmer pipes must be used or else depositing boxes of approved type. On no account must the concrete be dumped so that it has to sink through the water, or else the proportions of aggregate will become altered and the mixture will be robbed of cement.

One thing the inspector will often have to deal with is the leaving about of batches of concrete which are not needed at the time owing to the completion of some portion of the work before the shuttering or trenching for some other portion is ready. At meal times and at the close of work there is a tendency for the men to leave a batch or part of a batch, but this should not be permitted. Great importance attaches to this, as breaks in the depositing lead to interstices in the concrete and consequent weakness. Another point which may seem to some to be of minor importance is nevertheless of great moment in the foundationing of heavy buildings, and that is the getting out of the foundations trenches. As everyone knows, where these trenches are deep the ground is got out in two or more operations, but where the trench is wet and water may seep, the second or third spit should not be got out until the concrete is ready to be laid, as otherwise there will be a good deal of mud about and this is certain to get mixed up with the concrete, weakening it and making it unreliable.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

ASSAM RAILWAYS.

The total net revenue of the Assam Railways and Trading Company for the year ended March 31, 1929, was £155,846, as against £157,513 for the previous year. Railway revenue amounted to £68,320, and that from general trading £75,864. After deducting debenture interest and preference dividends and transferring £15,000 to the reserve for renewals and depreciation, there remains £112,231. The service of the "A" stock requires £50,400, and the directors recommend a final dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the "B" stock, making $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., writing £11,000 off discount on debentures, and leaving £13,331 to be carried forward.

LAKE COPAIS.

The report of the Lake Copais Company for 1928 shows a net profit in Greece of £36,131. Adding interest and other receipts in London, deducting London expenses, making provision for taxation and transferring £5,000 to capital reserve, the balance is £25,614. This sum is carried to the credit of "A" and "B" debenture stockholders' interest accounts. In order to provide funds to complete gravitation drainage works and for other capital expenditure, separate class meetings of "A" and "B" debenture stockholders are convened to permit the issue of a further £50,000 "A" debenture stock, in addition to £12,756 of this stock at present unissued, making a total authorised issue of £350,000 "A" debenture stock. "B" debenture stockholders are asked to accept, at the price of 80, up to £42,756 "A" debenture stock in lieu of cash in payment of interest which may become due to them from time to time. This includes the unissued balance of "A" debenture stock which would otherwise be issuable to them at par in respect of "B" debenture stock interest. The directors propose to pay in cash interest, less tax, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on "A" debenture stock to December 31, 1928, amounting to £13,897. The balance to credit of "B" debenture stockholders' interest account is £11,717, which, with £187 brought forward, makes £11,904. The directors recommend, subject to the passing of the above-mentioned resolutions, the distribution from interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, on "B" debenture stock in respect of the year 1928, payable in fully-paid Five per Cent. "A" debenture stock taken at 80, and ranking for interest as from July 1, 1929. This will leave a balance of £54 at credit of "B" debenture stockholders' interest account to be carried forward.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. California for Bombay (Glasgow, October 15; Birkenhead, October 21); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Glasgow, October 30; Manchester, November 4; Birkenhead, November 5). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahrona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 22); s.s. Circassia for Calcutta (Glasgow, October 24; Birkenhead, October 31).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Cheshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 30).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 19); s.s. Domala for Bombay (London, November 2).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bosnia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, October 19); s.s. Brescia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, and Gruz, if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, October 26; and Swansea, October 29).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 19); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 8). (This steamer will be the last sailing of the season to the ports of Galatz and Braila, and sailing November 9.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, October 25); s.s. Padua for Calcutta (London, October 25).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sicilian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Cyprus ports, Tripoli, Alexandretta, and Mersin (London, October 23); s.s. Italian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, October 26).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Andalusian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 24; Swansea, October 19); s.s. Lesbian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 2; Swansea*, November 2); A steamer for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, November 7). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, October 15.

The fortnightly settlement on the Stock Exchange passed off without the disclosure of any serious difficulties, but the monetary situation, the unsettlement caused by the Hatry position, and the uncertain tone of Wall Street still conspire to produce a feeling of general disquiet, and the new account opened under unsettled conditions. Gilt-edged stocks and home rails have made a little headway, but fresh liquidation in various directions has disturbed the industrial section. The decision come to by the Stock Exchange Committee to postpone the "Hatry" Settlement to an indefinite date serves as a reminder of the unusual influences which must affect markets for some time to come. A glance at the yields obtainable on many prominent industrial stocks shows that, in spite of the recent deflation of values, the necessary evil of dear money has not yet been fully discounted in speculative markets.

Important Iron and Steel Merger.

The long-drawn-out negotiations for the amalgamation of the two important iron and steel firms of Dorman, Long and Co. and Bolckow, Vaughan and Co. have at last been brought to a successful conclusion and the scheme of the merger was officially notified over the week-end. The terms of the merger, drawn up by Sir William McLintock, who investigated the position on behalf of both companies and approved by Sir William Plender and Sir William B. Peat acting in the interests of Bolckow, Vaughan and Dorman Long respectively, arrange that Dorman Long should buy up the other company by the process of an exchange of shares, and this will result in the merger firm having a capital of £5,855,773 in debentures and £11,248,146 in preference and ordinary shares, the debenture and share capital thus amounting to £17,103,919. The exchange of shares will be in the following ratio: each 100 of £1 Bolckow Vaughan ordinary will receive 46 £1 ordinary and 11 £1 eight per cent. non-cumulative preferred ordinary shares of Dorman Long; and each 10 five per cent. £20 cumulative preference shares will receive 155 £1 six per cent. cumulative preference shares of Dorman Long, who will pay all odd amounts for fractions on the basis of the prices quoted for

the shares of the respective companies. The exchange appears to be on an equitable basis and should be acceptable to shareholders. Of the merger itself they will no doubt approve as considerable economy in workshop expenses and future capital developments now become possible.

H.M.V. Expansion.

The accounts of the Gramophone Company, the makers of His Master's Voice records and gramophones, for the year ended June 30, 1929, show that profits further advanced even on the record level of last year. Net profit amounted to £1,146,508, compared with £1,099,099 last year. A final dividend of 50 per cent. is to be paid, which will make a total for the year of 60 per cent., compared with 55 per cent. a year ago, which represented an increase of 15 per cent. on the previous distribution. This year's results did not fully realise the market's hopes, and a decline in prices was seen after their publication. They are regarded as evidence that the phenomenal rate of expansion recently experienced has now ended, but it could not be expected to continue for ever. That any appreciable advance should be recorded is, in fact, satisfactory in view of the considerable competition the success of this great company has encouraged, and it will be remembered that at the last general meeting the chairman stated that he would be satisfied if last year's results were maintained. A policy of conservative distributions has been pursued and the reserves and carry forward at June 30, 1929, amounted to £1,450,216. The outlook for the ordinary shares is complicated by the fact that the recently created capital will receive a dividend next year, but it is certainly promising in view of the expanding sales and the heavy expenditure on extensions last year. The 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares, whose dividend requires only £5,000, yield £5 3s. per cent.

Snowden on Savings.

In welcoming the delegates of 29 nations assembled in London for the Second International Thrift Congress, Mr. Philip Snowden gave some interesting statistics of the progress made by thrift organisations in this country in recent times. Deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1928 amounted to over £288,000,000, while those of the trustee savings bank were £160,000,000, an increase of £9,000,000. A relatively greater advance is shown by the deposits and shares of building societies, which at £250,000,000 were £37,000,000 more than in the previous year. At the same time National Savings Certificates retain their popularity, and the amount outstanding including accrued interest is £500,000,000. When the depressed industrial conditions of the last year are borne in mind, the size of these figures, which represent after all only a part of the savings of small investors, is very satisfactory. As Mr. Snowden pointed out, however, for many reasons there has been a decline in the aggregate accumulation of new capital compared with pre-War days, and the need for further encouraging thrift on economic, apart altogether from ethical, grounds is undiminished.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., announce the payment by warrants on November 1 of interest for the half-year ending October 31 on their four per cent. mortgage debenture stock. The transfer books of the debenture stock will be closed from October 26 to 31, both days inclusive.

Mr. H. L. Kenward, sales manager of the Dunlop Rubber Company, has been elected President of the Institute of the Motor Trade for the current year, and Sir Herbert Austin, Sir George Beharrell, Earl Howe, Mr. George Lucas, and Sir Edward Manville have been re-elected vice-presidents.

The directors of the Burmah Oil Company have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum (2s. per share), less tax. Dividends on the Six per Cent. Preference, the Six per Cent. Second Preference, and the Eight per Cent. Preference shares for the half-year to June 30, 1929, less 2s. 7½d. in the £, being the amount of British tax, less relief in respect of Dominion income-tax, are payable on October 31.

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DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E. C. 8

ROUMANIAN MARKET CONDITIONS.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended October 5:—

Grain.—Markets were characterised this week by sudden rises and falls in the price of grain, with the result that attempts to effect fresh business were seriously interfered with and frequently broke down altogether. In fulfilment of old sales, however, large shipments of grain, especially barley, continued to be made, the principal destinations being Weser and Hamburg, with Rotterdam a good follower. The freight market continued to be very active and a considerable amount of tonnage has been chartered both from the Danube and from Constantza at rates varying from 18s. 9d. to 19s. and 13s. to 13s. 6d., respectively, basis Continent, full London terms. Spot vessels have been able to obtain cargo up to 16s. 3d., but in the case of later positions and for large parcels less than 16s. has been accepted. The position at Constantza has been adversely affected by the congestion of tonnage, and although the elevators have been shipping at full pressure there is an appreciable turn for berth. There is, however, no lack of cargo there, since in spite of the heavy shipments, arrivals by rail have been coming forward in such quantities that the silos have been unable to receive the full quantities offering, and for several days the railways had to stop delivery of waggons at Constantza. Rates of from 9s. 6d. to 10s. have been current.

Timber.—The deficiency in available rolling stock, aggravated by some congestion in the handling of grain trucks at railway junctions and sidings, has become more acute, so that arrivals of timber continue on a reduced scale. There is consequently no pressing demand for space, but freight rates have remained steady and in some cases have hardened on account of the limited tonnage offering. A moderate activity is being maintained for Italy, and a full cargo of about 140 waggons has been closed at about £11. A parcel of 70 waggons to Cyprus paid £10 per waggon prompt loading. For Greece, up to about £8 is quoted; other rates unchanged.

Weather and Crops.—The temperature has risen steadily during the week and the present summer-like weather, even the nights being very mild, is in great contrast to the almost wintry weather which prevailed recently. In the Northern districts the sky was more or less cloudy during the earlier part of the week, and some light local rains were reported; but generally the weather has been dry, bright, and warm in the greater part of the country, and the slowly rising barometer appears to indicate a continuation of these genial conditions. Notwithstanding the favourable conditions, there is an absence of encouraging news as to the progress of ploughing and autumn sowings, and some fears are entertained that severe winter weather may set in before the young seedlings have been able to get sufficiently established to withstand hard frosts. It is to be hoped, however, that better progress is now being made, and that reassuring news will be received during the coming week.

Sulina.—Bar depth, 24 feet.—Although dredging was interrupted several days by heavy seas, the depth of 24 feet has been maintained without difficulty, and in the absence of bad storms no reduction is feared in the near future. River depth.—The minimum is now 23 feet at the 57th milepost, and two dredgers are working to restore normal conditions.

Constantza.—Arrivals from the interior during the week amounted to about 11,500 tons, and about 9,500 tons were shipped, mostly to Antwerp/Hamburg range. Two steamers of 9,10,000 tons capacity are loading at the elevators at the time of writing, and two others are waiting for berths. Eight vessels loaded over 25,600 tons petroleum products and two took oil fuel for bunkers. About 4,500 tons constructional timber were shipped to Buenos Aires, this business having been closed some time ago when the Danube Bar was in a less satisfactory condition than it is to-day.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, September 28.—Arrivals of new maize are increasing and about 1,500 tons have been booked for Antwerp or Rotterdam at rates from 11s. to 11s. 6d. per unit, October shipment. About 1,000 tons of sunflower seed have also been engaged at 18s. per ton. To Mediterranean destinations about 700/800 tons maize and 500/600 tons sunflower seed, together with small quantities of barley and other cereals, have been shipped during the week.

The weather has been mostly cloudy and cold. Except in the mountains surrounding Sofia, where rain and light falls of snow are reported, there have been no precipitations, and from several parts of the country there are complaints that autumn ploughing is progressing with difficulty owing to the dryness of the ground.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, in their report for the week ended September 28, state:—

Sultanas.

The sales this week amount to 3,780 tons, while the estimated sales to date total 2,1750. Closing prices, Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London: Type 11, 23s. 6d.; type 12, 27s.; type 13, 32s. 6d.; type 14, 36s.; type 15, 41s. 6d.; type 16, 50s.; type 17, 61s.; type 1, 62s.; type 3, 50s.; type 5, 36s. C.i.f. Liverpool: Type 11, 25s.; type 12, 28s. 6d.; type 13, 34s.; type 14, 37s. 6d.; type 15, 43s.; type 16, 51s. 6d.; type 17, 62s. 6d.; type 1, 63s. 6d.; type 3, 51s. 6d.; type 5, 37s. 6d. Prices remain irregular and values cannot yet be accurately fixed for each grade. Market, however, is gradually assuming a more normal aspect.

Again this week rain was general for a spell of about 24 hours and a further quantity of fruit exposed on the drying sheds will be damaged. The market shows an easier tendency generally, but, on a comparison between this and last week's closing prices, it will be observed that it is on the lower grades that the reaction is more apparent. Good qualities are in relatively small supply and dealers show no disposition to make any material concessions in price for same.

We have been busy collating the reports reaching us from our agents in the various vine districts since the rains, and, on the information given us, we are inclined to revise our earlier estimates of the yield. While a large quantity of fruit, probably some 15,000 tons, was destroyed as a result of the continued wet weather, it is apparent at the same time that the yielding capacity of the vines has been increased through the branches retaining their sap and bringing to maturity the top crop of grapes. Moreover, with the actual gathering of the fruit, more accurate figures are available of the yields per district, and the latest estimates would indicate the following distribution:—Sound undamaged fruit, about 31,35,000 tons; rain-damaged fruit, about 27,30,000 tons; destroyed fruit, about 12/15,000 tons; total, about 70,80,000 tons. Rain-damaged sorts, dark in colour but otherwise of bold and meaty berry, show good value at actual prices, and a strong demand for same is developing.

For the week ended September 28 Messrs. Giraud report that the sales of sultanas amounted to 3,570 tons, the total sales to date being 25,320 tons. Closing prices, Smyrna, c.i.f. London: Type 11, 24s. 6d.; type 12, 27s. 6d.; type 13, 32s.; type 14, 35s.; type 15, 41s.; type 16, 50s.; type 17, 61s.; type 1, 62s.; type 3, 50s.; type 5, 36s.; type 31, 22s. 6d.; type 32, 28s. C.i.f. Liverpool: Type, 26s.; type 12, 20s.; type 13, 33s. 6d.; type 14, 36s. 6d.; type 15, 42s. 6d.; type 16, 51s. 6d.; type 17, 62s. 6d.; type 1, 63s. 6d.; type 3, 51s. 6d.; type 5, 37s. 6d.; type 31, 24s.; type 32, 20s. 6d.

The market throughout the week has ruled very steady. Demand has been running mostly on rain-damaged fruit, of which a marked increase in supply has been available. Business has been active for these sorts for both the United Kingdom and the Continent. Prices for rain-damaged sorts opened at about a shilling (1 florin) below last week's close, but moved up gradually under the heavy purchases effected and have closed at about 2s. over bottom level. Demand from abroad for sound, undamaged qualities remains inactive, but, in face of this, the firmness of prices on spot is noteworthy. The supply on offer shows a material reduction compared with the quantity available a fortnight back, and this factor, coupled with the stability in prices in spite of slow demand, would indicate that the hidden stock remaining in the interior would be light.

The weather continues very unfavourable for drying operations. Throughout the week it has been cold and bleak, with intermittent showers, resulting in the probable loss of the little fruit that still remained on the vines and the rotting of a considerable quantity of fruit exposed on the drying sheds, which cannot dry out under existing wintry conditions. The estimates of production given in our last report will undoubtedly be affected as a consequence.

Figs.

The arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 13,218 tons, and the sales to date are put at 10,940 tons.

The weather, more than ever before, constitutes the barometer of the market and the position can be readily understood when we state that wintry conditions have obtained throughout this week, with low temperatures, bleak skies, and intermittent rain over the whole country. The reports from the fig belt are very disheartening and give little hope of supplies of sound figs being available henceforward, even granted an improvement in weather conditions. We regard the position as so serious that we have sent principals on our staff on tour over the whole fig belt to investigate, at first hand, the conditions obtaining in the fig orchards. Packing for the United States has ceased in most packing stores as a result of the heavy rejections of figs ex the first shipment of the season in New York per s.s. River Tigris.

The directors of the London and Lancashire Insurance Company have decided to pay on November 1 an interim dividend of 9s. per share, less tax, to shareholders registered on October 19.

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British Consular Reports

V.—EGYPT.

The outstanding feature of the economic position of Egypt at the present time is the attention that is being paid to works of development of various kinds. In his report on the "Economic and Financial Situation of Egypt" as at June last, Mr. R. M. Turner, O.B.E., British Commercial Secretary at Cairo, devotes considerable attention to this aspect. We give the following extracts from the report:—

The reserves of the Egyptian Government are now estimated to amount to some £40,000,000, while in 1928 Egypt had an active trade balance of some £5,500,000. So far, therefore, the financial position of the country may be regarded as excellent. The distribution of wealth is, however, very unequal and the improvement in the spending capacity of the fellah as compared with pre-War times is stated to be scarcely noticeable. This is due, among other things, to the rent system and to other, largely traditional, factors, as a result of which the small agriculturist, who constitutes some nine-tenths of the population, is in practice always in debt to his landlord, and in many cases to the village usurer also. Time, supplemented by the various Government measures already introduced and contemplated, should eventually improve this state of affairs, but progress will be slow.

The very extensive Government programme for the increase of cultivable land will do much to relieve congestion in the provinces, while the efforts to build up local industries, of which the Banque Misr is one of the leading protagonists, will in time also provide employment for the surplus population, the rapid increase in which is regarded with misgiving by some Egyptian national economists. The Government programme of social legislation, particularly as regards hygiene and education, will in course of time also materially improve the standard of health of the population and decrease the percentage of illiterates. On the other hand, in some quarters anxiety is expressed lest, if these improvements proceed more quickly than the economic development of the country, the impetus given to the normal increase in the population, coupled with the improved standard of education, may produce a surplus of educated persons for whom no suitable employment will be available. Even to-day there are complaints that "the professions" are overcrowded.

It is, however, possible and indeed probable that these difficulties will be automatically counteracted as the general development of the country proceeds. At the present moment, although the great majority of the population live in comparative poverty—though as a result of their frugality definitely removed from the hunger line—Egypt is as a whole a prosperous country. Her natural wealth, as represented by the important Government undertakings and constructions, is steadily increasing; private building continues, often on an extensive scale; while the quantity of Egyptian securities held in the country is constantly augmented. The high price level maintained by these securities on the world's market is, moreover, evidence of the good credit enjoyed by the country. At the same time the amenities of life in the principal towns are being constantly improved and modernised, and compare favourably with those in many towns in Europe.

Side by side with this "Europeanisation" of the towns has proceeded a sophistication of the commercial life of the country. This has its good sides, for example, in the development of the use of banks, with a consequent reduction of "hoarding" and increased use of cheques (a clearing house for Cairo was opened in November, 1928, and for Alexandria in May last), and a close contact with the majority of European and oversea markets. On the other hand, it has led to a very great increase in the number of people engaged in business and consequently

to greater competition. The phenomenon of the entry into business in post-War years of young men with no experience, and some little capital which is often soon lost, is not indeed peculiar to Egypt, but it would appear to be continuing longer in this country than in most. Concurrent with this increase in the number of men engaged in business locally is increased competition on the market by foreign shippers, the inter-reaction of the two resulting in price-cutting, failures and realisation of stock at under cost price, with consequent disorganisation of the market.

Financial conditions in Egypt were comparatively favourable during 1928. A steady cotton market was, of course, mostly responsible for the improved conditions, with the result that, despite minor fluctuations in cotton prices, the 1928 market can be regarded as having completed the general recovery from the so-called slump in 1926. In 1927 the majority of cultivators delayed fixing the price of cotton, thus receiving no benefit from the good prices ruling during the early part of that year, but in 1928 actual prices ruling at the time of delivery seemed attractive, and a large proportion of the crop was fixed. During the year the banks who specialise in the cotton industry carried out a cautious policy in regard to credits to growers, with the result that a healthier situation now exists. Furthermore, the fact that the 1929 cotton crop is estimated at 7,500,000 kantars and has, on the whole, sold freely at prices which are remunerative to growers, would seem to indicate that the satisfactory conditions will continue during the present year. On the other hand, wages in the provinces remain low, viz., Pt.4 and Pt.5 for men and Pt.2 and Pt.3 for boys and girls per day.

The total imports into Egypt increased by some three and a half million pounds Egyptian as compared with 1927 and total domestic exports increased by about seven and three quarter million pounds Egyptian. Exports of cotton during 1928 were 7,433,000 kantars valued at £45,137,000, as against 7,383,000 kantars worth £39,000,000 in 1927.

There was some increase in postal savings figures and in Agricultural Bank returns, while banking conditions generally were comparatively favourable during the year. The average Egyptian Government bank note issue for 1928 was about £27,700,000 against £28,600,000 in 1927, but this figure is affected by the withdrawal during the later year of Egyptian bank notes from circulation in Palestine.

In spite of the apparently improved conditions of the market during the year under review, bankruptcies (mostly in the textile business) in many cases involving considerable losses to manufacturers, were more prevalent than in 1927. On the whole it may be said that the general situation is such as to warrant no small degree of optimism in regard to the economic development of the country. In many quarters Egyptians are becoming more generally alive to their country's potentialities, and while there is always some risk of such new-born enthusiasm over-running itself, yet there are grounds for the belief that, given political stability and wise guidance, the progress which of recent years has manifested itself in Egyptian economic life should continue and indeed be accelerated.

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State Finance and New Works Projects.

The State budget for 1929-30 provides for expenditure of £E47,410,000, while revenue is estimated at £E38,950,000, the deficit of £E8,460,000 being charged to the Reserve Fund, which amounts to some £E40,000,000. This large reserve is the result mainly of underspending, in previous years, of sanctioned credits.

In justification of the contemplated heavy draft upon the Reserve Fund, viz., £E8,460,000, the Egyptian Government advances the necessity, in the interests of the country, of the execution of major works, particularly in respect of irrigation, drainage, communications, public health, roads, buildings, etc., many of which must ultimately become productive not only from the point of view of the well-being of the nation but also as revenue producers. Thus, in the Irrigation Department's budget appears a credit for £E3,900,000 in respect of works required for assuring sufficient Nile water during the low-water period, and the Ministry of the Interior is granted a credit to the amount of £E654,000 to be devoted to advances to municipalities and local commissions for purposes of water, lighting and sewage installations. Also the Egyptian State railways budget includes a credit of £E404,000 for the laying of new lines and the conversion to double track of certain existing single lines.

With the object of meeting the increased expenditure necessitated by the proposed creation of a cotton reserve and of the vast expenditure required for the public works, the Egyptian Government is seriously exploring ways and means of increasing the State revenue, not the least important of which is the proposed change in the customs tariffs to come into operation when the last commercial treaty expires in February, 1930. It is understood that, roughly speaking, it is hoped to double the revenue from customs duties.

Among the items of expenditure, interesting from the manufacturer's point of view, are the following:—

Ministry of Public Works.—Total grant £E9,737,635, of which the Irrigation Department takes £E4,664,000 for new works, as compared with £E2,538,000 in 1928. The credits for new works provide for £E648,000 to be spent on the heightening project for the Assuan Dam, for which the total cost is estimated at £E3,800,000; £E1,480,000 in respect of the continuation of the works on, and connected with, the Nag Hamadi Barrage; and £E405,000 for the White Nile projects, including £E40,000 for aerial survey. In all, the large credit of £E3,000,000 has been sanctioned in the 1929-30 Budget in respect of works destined to augment the supply of Nile water during the low water season. The total final cost of these projects, the completion of which will take several years, is estimated to amount to no less than £E21,000,000.

Works to be executed include the installation of Diesel four-stroke plant, high or low compression, mechanical or air injection, viz.:—1 of 166 h.p. and 1 of 110 h.p., required for Giza and Gezira Water-works; 2 of 100 h.p., required for Amria Conversion Project. Instead of installing Diesel engine plant in Upper Egypt, it is proposed to erect water turbine generating sets at Nag Hamadi with a number of motor-driven pumping stations north and south. Ten motor-driven pumping stations will be required for Esna.

The initial expenditure for the installation of two 3-phase transmission lines for feeding 14 subsidiary stations of powers varying from 10 to 15 cubic metres per second with central switch gear for drainage purposes is also included in the Budget estimates of the Ministry of Public Works. It is estimated the ultimate cost of the transmission cables for this project will amount to some £E500,000, but it must always be realised that actual expenditure usually comes well within the estimates. It may be assumed that similar transmission equipment will later be required for the Upper Egypt projects, the power for which would be provided by Seru Station, but no provision has yet been made for these projects.

Total credits allocated to the Main Drainage Department for the current financial year amount to £E492,748, of which £E411,500 is in respect of New Works. The heading "New Works" comprises £E173,000 in respect of advances to municipalities for drainage works at Demanhour, Port Said, and Zagazig, and £E75,000 for

various works which the Department undertakes each year with the object of gradually completing the drainage system of the capital. The remaining credits comprise the execution of new works, expenditure for which is spread over more than one year, for example the construction of a second collector and drains and improvements of existing water flushes in Cairo; £E80,000 for the establishment of a drainage system on Rhoda Island, at Zamalek and to the west of the Nile between Guizeh and Embabeh; and £E12,000 for the purchase and installation of a fifth pump and auxiliary steam engine at Kafr-el-Gamous.

As the existing drainage system of Cairo was only laid with the object of functioning for 25 years, it was appreciated that important projects would soon have to be devised for replacement and improvement. Of course, the Amria station will take up the outlying drainage, but as the population of Cairo has increased by some 15 per cent. above the increase foreseen when the system was laid out and as water requirements have reached an unexpected level, it is to be anticipated that in the near future the Egyptian Government will have to contemplate considerable expenditure in this direction. It is satisfactory, however, to feel that a start has been made with the project for the installation of drainage at Guizeh and Rodah, estimated at £E217,000, which was approved by the Council of Ministers on August 23, 1928, and is intended to form an integral part of the Cairo system, and will form a welcome addition to the works in operation and under consideration. The pump and steam engine for the Kafr-el-Gamous station, the cost of which is estimated at £E22,412, are required to prevent water from invading dwelling houses on occasions of heavy rainfall in the winter or when Nile levels are very high.

The Mechanical Department receives a credit of £E259,252, of which £E51,574 is to be devoted to new works, but as the Irrigation Department bears the lion's share of expenditure in connexion with the major works, the Mechanical Department's budget remains more normal. It is expected that the pumping station at Maghagha will begin to function by the end of November, and that the power pumping station at Seru will be ready for work by December.

State Buildings Department received £E1,506,938, of which £E1,200,000 is allocated to New Works, which include £E408,000 for the construction of hospitals in the Provinces, and £E459,000 for the Ministry of Education and the Egyptian University. This figure includes a credit for £E73,000 in respect of three new primary schools at Damietta, Beni Suef, and Assiout, and two new industrial schools at Damietta and Minieh for the 1929-30 financial year, the total cost of which will ultimately amount to £E203,000.

It should be observed that the procedure in regard to new buildings is for the Ministry concerned to send its proposals with the budget to the Ministry of Finance, and at the same time to notify the State Buildings Department of its proposals, placing them in order of priority. The Department is responsible for placing the contracts for the construction of the buildings, but only a certain number of the proposals reach this stage during the year, with the result that many credits have to be carried over to the next year's Budget. For example, in the Budget of 1928-29 appears a credit for £E60,000 towards the building of a new Arts and Crafts School at Abbassieh, but as only a portion of that credit was expended during that year it has been necessary to carry over the required expenditure to the budget of 1929-30.

Of the total budget allotted to the Ministry of Education amounting to £E3,137,007, only £E279,271 is in respect of new works (the Antiquities Department taking £E20,500 for this purpose), but it must be remembered that all that Ministry's new building projects are included under the budget of the State Buildings Department.

The Cairo Tanzim Department receives £E1,007,624, of which £E356,411 is to be devoted to new works mostly comprising macadamisation and widening of roads, construction of a tunnel, etc. The sum of £E285,000 is to be devoted to the continuation of new works, credits for which had been opened in the 1928-29 budget.

The Physical Department receives £E61,918, of which £E2,340 is to be devoted to the participation of the Egyptian Government in the cost of administration of the proposed East African Meteorological Observatory.

Ministry of Communications.—The expenditure budget of the Ministry of Communications amounts to £E0,789,180, of which the Egyptian State Railways receive £E6,318,588. This is £E430,248 above that of 1928-29, but £E40,700 of this amount is destined for the erection of workmen's cottages.

Railway credits for new works are estimated at £E1,730,430, as compared with £E1,365,400 in the previous budget. This grant comprises, among other projects, the sum of £E880,000 in respect of the continuation of works approved in 1928 and £E297,930 for the execution of new projects of which the following are the most important:—Construction of a workmen's hospital, £E11,000; inland water transport in Upper Egypt, £E50,000; motor bus service, £E45,000; enlargement of the electric power station at Gabbari, £E77,000; construction of an hotel at Cairo Station (total estimated cost, £E100,000), £30,000; laying of a line between Cairo and Suez (total estimated cost, £E180,000), £20,000. The sum of £E30,000 is also included in the budget as a first contribution towards the £E190,000 which it is estimated will ultimately be spent on the electrification of the Matarieh line, if or when this project is put into execution.

Having invited international tenders for the electrification of the Helouan line, in connexion with which the services of an eminent consultant engineer had been engaged, the Egyptian Government later decided to postpone the execution of the project, to which reference was made in discussing the budget of 1928-29. Other projects, partly included in the 1929-30 and partly to be carried over to the 1930-31 budget, are the following:—(1) Construction of the

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new Kossair line (two-thirds of this expenditure is borne by the 1929-30 budget and one-third to be carried over to 1930-31. (2) Construction of Mersah-Matruh line (one-fifth to be charged to the 1929-30 budget and the remainder to the 1930-31.

As before stated, the estimated cost of the new lines, conversion to double track of existing single lines, etc., will amount to some £E404,000. Provision has also been made for the purchase of the following material:—Six river steamers and 20 barges, £E50,000; 20 steam rail cars (estimated cost, £E12,000), £E2,000; 20 side tank locomotives, £E160,000. Rolling stock (normal renewals and new works). Egyptian State Railway projects also include the removal of the existing locomotive workshops to another site, which was foreseen in the 1928-29 budget. A credit of £E2,640,797 in respect of general and normal expenditure provides for ordinary maintenance and renewals of existing equipment for which important orders are placed during the year.

The Egyptian State Telegraphs and Telephones Department receives a credit of £E1,335,085, of which £E616,500 is in respect of new works. The grant allotted to "General Expenses," viz., £E196,980, while mostly required for works in service, also contributes a certain amount towards new works. Of the grant for new works £E93,000 is in respect of works which continue from year to year; £E366,350 for the continuation of works in hand, and £E150,150 for new projects. The very important increase in expenditure on works already begun compared with the previous budget allowance is due to the fact that it includes the sum of £E200,000 in respect of the underground telephone line between Cairo and Alexandria, and another £E90,100 for different automatic exchanges against £E29,000 in the previous budget. Of these projects, one of the most important is that for the proposed 15,000 line exchanges at Alexandria, which in future years will probably be extended by a further 5,000.

The credits asked for new projects are the following:—Telegraphs: Purchase of 4 portable wireless installations for use in the desert, £E10,000; installations of wireless stations in the oases, £E8,000. Telephones: Laying of new underground lines at Cairo (£E27,000), Alexandria (£E12,000), and Heliopolis (£E11,000), £E50,000; installation of a cable to connect the Central Exchange at Cairo with Helouan and Meadi in place of the existing overhead wires, £E18,600; metallic casings for Provincial lines, £E10,000.

The Egyptian Postal Administration receives £E721,440.

The Ports and Lights Administration's budget of £E608,437 includes £E406,155 for new works, of which £E367,155 is to be devoted to the execution of works for which credits had been opened in the budget of 1928-29, and £E39,000 to new projects. The credits under the first category are destined notably for the construction of a lighthouse at Abu-el-Kizan (£E42,700); two depôts for the Port of Alexandria (£E62,000); landing wharves for the pilgrim traffic at El Tor (£E30,000); and towards the construction of a petroleum basin and nitrate quay in the port of Alexandria (£E80,500).

Of the credits allocated to new works the most important are the following:—Enlargement of the Port of Montazah, £E15,000; construction in the Port of Alexandria of a new quay for coal and quarantine service, £E20,000.

The various credits for improvements of Alexandria Harbour mentioned above are, of course, comprised in the general Alexandria Harbour development projects submitted by an International Committee of Experts in 1926, in connexion with which the Egyptian Government have recently engaged the services of an eminent consulting engineer. The total final cost of these works is estimated to amount to some £E2,000,000.

Main Roads and Bridges Department.—The total grant for this Department amounts to £E535,849, of which £E317,930 is for new works. Of this last, £E169,730 is to be devoted to works already begun and to those which are renewed from year to year, and £E138,200 to new projects. The first category comprises mostly construction of bridges for the Municipalities and repairs of unsafe bridges (£E45,000); the construction of a Nile bridge at Benha (£E40,000), and the macadamisation of the road from Kafr-el-Dawar to Abu Hommos (£E15,000).

New works include the following:—Repair of Kasr-el-Nil Bridge (total cost estimated at £E400,000), £E20,000; widening of the Cairo-Alexandria road (total cost estimated at £E70,000), £E20,000; widening of the Cairo-Luxor road, £E35,000; macadamisation of the Giza-Bahrashein road, £E13,000; widening and improvement of the Aboukir road, £E10,000. Moreover, the credit in respect of the widening and improvement of roads has been increased from £E7,500 to £E15,000 as a result of the decision to charge to that credit the expenditure for road works of which the cost does not exceed £E5,000, instead of charging such amounts to new works.

The total credit of the Ministry of War and Marine amounts to £E2,072,545, of which £E149,848 is allotted to new works, which are mostly to be devoted to the construction and modification of barracks, stables, and other buildings.

£E9,165 is allocated to the Frontier Districts Administration for the construction of hospitals, and provision is also made for the erection of a condenser at Sollum.

The total grant to the Ministry of Finance amounts to £E3,553,783, of which the following items of expenditure are perhaps the most interesting from the manufacturer's point of view:—

Survey Department.—Total credits, £E634,914. New works receive £E110,000.

Government Press receives £E124,777, of which only £E2,950 is allotted to new works. The only matter of particular interest in connexion with this Department's operations is the decision of the Egyptian Government to have all official envelopes manufactured by the Government Press instead, as hitherto, of importing such stationery from abroad.

State Domains Administration.—This Department, whose total grant is £E434,917, is an important purchaser of agricultural machinery and fertilisers.

Coast Guards and Fisheries Administration.—This Department's total grant is £E386,128, of which £E105,131 is in respect of new works. The more important items of expenditure are the following:—A credit of £E66,331 for the remainder of the amount sanctioned in December, 1928, for the purchase of a troop transport. £E19,440 in respect of the purchase of a vessel destined for fisheries research work. £E17,500 in respect of the 1929-30 contribution to the cost of a training ship in connexion with the projected naval school. The necessary credits for the vessels above mentioned were opened in the 1928-29 budget.

Department of Commerce and Industry.—Total grant £E190,156, compared with only £E35,454 in 1928-29. A wide programme has been elaborated for this Department, of which the following proposals are indicative of the intention of the Egyptian Government considerably to enlarge the scope of the Department's activities:—(1) Collaboration of technical experts to study different industries such as marble, pottery, glass-work, furniture, chemicals, canning, etc., and to institute measures with a view to the development of such industries. (2) Creation of a Cereals Exchange and an office for the control of exports. (3) Creation of a tannery, dyeworks, and shoe factory. (4) Subventions to chambers of commerce. (5) Amelioration of the rice industry (hulling). (6) Purchase of materials to be sold on credit terms to small manufacturers.

The services of British experts have already been engaged in connexion with projects for rice hulling, tanning, and dyeing, to which reference is made elsewhere in this report. It has further been decided to appoint as head of this Department an official with the rank of Director-General in place of the former less elevated grade of Controller. The Director-General will, it is understood, be assisted by a Consultant Adviser.

Ministry of Interior.—The item of most interest in the budget of the Ministry of the Interior is a credit of £E481,000 in respect of advances to Municipalities and Local Commissions for purposes of lighting and water installations. The Department of Municipalities and Local Commissions purchases most of its requirements on the Continent, but it engaged the services of a British consultant engineer in 1928 to advise on the question of domestic water supply in the provinces. It is understood that this consultant has already submitted his report on this important question.

Department of Public Health.—The Department of Public Health has elaborated a programme for the construction over five years in the Provinces of 150 hospitals and to add a clinic to each provincial hospital for treatment of out-patients for ophthalmia, bilharzia, etc. Credits under the above Department's budget of £E1,614,257 provide for the execution of the first section of the new hospitals project. Estimates are also included at £E200,000, £E45,000, and £E10,000, respectively, for marsh reclamation, malaria campaign, and destruction of mosquitos responsible for dengue fever and yellow fever. Provision is also made for the establishment of four dispensaries for infant welfare, two clinics for the treatment of leprosy, three Cantonal hospitals, six sanitary offices, and for the purchase of 104 beds for provincial ophthalmic hospitals. A credit of £E10,000 is included for disinfection services.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 9:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—One of the chief features of the week has been the publication of the first Government estimate; this was issued on the 7th inst. and showed an anticipated yield of 2,502,992 kantars, against final totals of 2,533,307 and 2,520,332 kantars for the two preceding seasons. The initial effect on the estimate was to cause only a slight decline, the advancing tendency of the American markets at that time being rather encouraging to those holding contracts. Since this we have had to face the after-effects of the American Bureau report and, with the development of a more widespread acknowledgment that supplies of fine stapled cottons are going to prove ample, probably more than ample, to meet the season's requirements, a weak tone has supervened. The action of near cotton has proved particularly disconcerting to those working for higher prices; liquidation has concentrated mainly on the November position, with the result that this month has widened to 36 points below January. A certain amount of trade calling has been noticeable throughout the week, particularly during to-day's session; at the time of writing, however, it appears improbable that the offtake from this quarter is going to develop on lines sufficient to counterbalance other factors, amongst the most prominent of which is the increasing pressure of the crop movement. To-night's closing rates show declines of 70 points for near and 60 to 48 points for more distant positions on the week.

Upper Contract.—Only a moderate amount of interest has been shown in this contract during the past week, and fluctuations have been mainly governed by the action of the American markets. The preliminary official estimate of Egyptian varieties (apart from Sakels) is given as 5,341,877 kantars, against the two previous seasons' totals of 5,313,843 and 3,512,167 kantars, respectively. Whilst the probable supply is undoubtedly large, it must be remembered that we

are starting the season with values at a much closer basis with other varieties than in past seasons, and on this account consumption will probably be well maintained. Two factors that rather temper operations on the long side have cropped up during the week: the first is the satisfactory showing in the Mississippi and Delta portions of Arkansas and Louisiana in yesterday's Bureau report, and the second concerns the rather pessimistic advices from mills producing tyre fabrics in the U.S.A.

Egyptian Spot.

Spot business has been quite brisk during the past week. It appears evident that Egyptian values are attractive at current levels, and each drop of 10 to 15 points has brought buyers into the market. Sakels have been particularly weak and quotations show a substantial fall on the week, but Uppers, everything considered, have maintained a fairly steady front.

Sakel has been in improved request for practically all qualities, and sellers have been disposed to lighten their holdings.

Uppers.—The inquiry has continued good, and buyers have shown a tendency to purchase better cotton, the reason being presumably that the stock of 15 to 20 on cotton no longer contains anything attractive. With the new crop so close at hand, buyers have had rather the best of it.

Pilion has been in moderate request only.

Nahda.—Owing to the shortage of the medium qualities of Sakel, this cotton has met with a much improved inquiry. Prices have been very irregular and sales have been somewhat disappointing on the whole.

White, Maarad, etc., have been neglected.

Sudan Sakel.—A large business has taken place, principally in the lower qualities.

Tokar Sakel.—Rather more inquiry has been in evidence, but buyers are slow to bid, and actual sales have been few.

C.i.f. Business.—Less activity has been witnessed in spite of the somewhat improved conditions up country. Forwardings to the trade last week were returned as 5,931 bales Egyptians and 1,480 bales Sudan. Estimated spot sales for the week, 2,400 bales Egyptians and 3,350 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel have been reduced 85 to 50 points, those of Upper 18 points, and those of Pilion 12 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 15.90d. F.G.E. Upper to-day, 11.15d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 12.10d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 3, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has again shown considerable activity, with fairly wide fluctuations. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 32.76 dollars, 0.49 dollars down; January, 32.28 dollars, 0.49 dollars down; March, 32.86 dollars, 0.44 dollars down; May, 33.34 dollars, 0.36 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 20.50 dollars, 0.12 dollars down; December, 20.88 dollars, 0.28 dollars down; February, 21.35 dollars, 0.25 dollars down; April, 21.77 dollars, 0.23 dollars down; June, 22.15 dollars, 0.25 dollars down.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Oct. 14	Railways.		Prices on Oct. 14	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Sept. 25.
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	78 1/2		Assam-Bengal ...	...	83 1/2	3 1/2 Government Paper ...	...	69 1/16
Do. Pref. 3 1/2 p.c. 1890 ...	68		Bengal Doonars ...	...	182 1/2	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	1.385
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	82 1/2		Bengal Nagpur ...	...	88 1/2	Bank of India ...	...	100
Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	78		Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	...	43 1/2	Central Bank of India ...	...	18 1/2
Bulgaria 4 1/2 p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	28 1/2		Nizams Gtd. ...	...	265	Banks		
Do. 7 p.c. ...	81		Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ...	...	42 1/2	Baraboni ...	...	6 1/2
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	67		Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	...	59	Bengal ...	...	49 1/2
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	67		Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	...	58	Burrakur ...	...	16 11/16
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	50 1/2		Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	...	190	East India ...	...	27
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	68		Southern Punjab ...	...	68	Equitable ...	...	26
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	68		South Indian ...	...	115 1/2	Pench Valley ...	...	40 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1904 ...	56		Rubber.			Ranegunge ...	...	45
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	57		Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	8 1/2	Standard ...	...	65 1/2
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	71 1/2		Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	19 1/2	Cotton.		
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	100 1/2		Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	13 1/2	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	34 1/2
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	85 1/2		Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...	15 1/2	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	766 1/2
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	100		Keptigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	16	Bowrah ...	...	592
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	83 1/2		Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	30 1/2	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	174
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	69 1/2		Shipping.			Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	327 1/2
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	44 1/2		Anchor 5 1/2 p.c. Pref. ...	...	8 1/2	Century ...	...	485
Do. 7 p.c. ...	78 1/2		Cunard ...	...	23 1/2	Central India ...	...	91
Sudan 5 1/2 p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	104 1/2		Furness Withy ...	...	37 1/2	Elgin ...	...	90
India 3 1/2 p.c. ...	64 13/16		Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	53 1/2	Klatau Makaanji ...	...	237
Do. 3 p.c. ...	55 7/16		P. and O. Deferred ...	...		Muir ...	...	161
Do. 3 1/2 p.c. ...	99 1/2		Tea.			New Ring ...	...	327 1/2
Do. 4 1/2 p.c. ...	85 1/2		Assam Co. ...	...	1 15/16	Phoenix ...	...	415
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	20 1/2		Bengal United Tea Ord. ...	...	1 1/2	Svadeshi ...	...	540 1/2
Banks.			Bramapootra ...	...	31 1/2	Alliance ...	...	295
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	7 1/2		British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	2 1/2	Barnagore ...	...	587
Bank of British West Africa ...	4 1/2		Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	1 1/2	Budge Budge ...	...	39 5/16
Bank of Roumania ...	80 1/2		Carolina ...	...	3 1/2	Clive ...	...	566
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl. ...	28 3/4		Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	5 1/2	Dalhousie ...	...	578
Chartered Bank of India ...	19 1/2		Consolidated Estates ...	...	2 15/16	Delta ...	...	982
Eastern ...	6 1/2		Darjeeling Co. ...	...	2 15/16	Fort Gloster ...	...	465 1/2
Hambros ...	9 31/32		Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	3 11/16	Gourepore ...	...	58 1/2
Ionian Bank ...	6 11/16		Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	2 1/2	Howrah ...	...	650
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	10 1/2		Dooloogram Tea ...	...	15 1/2	Kamarhatty ...	...	536 1/2
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	16		Doom Dooma ...	...	3 1/2	Kankannarrah ...	...	653 1/2
Lloyds ...	61 1/2		East Assam ...	...	4 5/16	Khardah ...	...	1,000 1/2
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	30 1/2		Empire of Ind. ...	...	2	Kinnison ...	...	31 1/2
Do. B ...	33		Halem Tea ...	...	1 1/2	National ...	...	462
National Bank of Egypt ...	31 1/2		Imperial Ind. ...	...	2	Standard ...	...	730
National Bank of India ...	48 1/2		Jhansie Tea Association ...	...	2 7/16	Union ...	...	
Ottoman Bank ...	11 1/2		Jokal (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	3 9/16	British India Corporation ...	...	23 1/16
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	8 1/2		Jorehaut ...	...	3 1/2	Bengal Paper Mills ...	...	404
Westminster ...	75 3/4		Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	2 1/16	Bengal Timber Trading ...	...	213 1/2
Land.			Lungia (Syliet) Tea Ord. ...	...	15 1/2	Burns and Co. ...	...	37 1/2
Kasala Cotton ...	8 1/2		New Dimbula ...	...	6 15/16	Cawnpore Sugar ...	...	17 1/2
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	5 1/2		Nawara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...	5 1/2	Champaran Sugar ...	...	134
Sudan Plantations ...	45 3/2		Nedem ...	...	2 7/16	Howrah Oil Mills ...	...	12 1/2
Mines.			Ouvah ...	...	8 1/2	ALEXANDRIA		
Belaghat Gold Mining ...	5 1/2		Pabbojan ...	...	5 7/16	Prices on Oct. 4, supplied by G.L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Burma Corp. ...	18 3/4		Standard ...	...	5 1/2	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	27 5/16
Champion Reef Gold ...	9 1/2		Scottish Assam ...	...	1 15/16	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	2730
Mysore ...	12 1/2		Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...	3 1/2	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	214 7/32
Nandyaag ...	17 1/2		Upper Assam ...	...	2 7/16	Behers Ord. ...	...	22 1/2
Oerogram Gold Mining Ord. ...	8 1/2		Insurance.			Ciments d'Egypte ...	...	Fr. 120
Oil.			General Accident Fire and Life (25, 21 1/2 paid) ...	...	15 1/2	Div. ...	...	174
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	2 1/2		London & Lancs (25, 21 paid) ...	...	28 1/2	Comptoir Fin. & Com. d'Egypte ...	...	Fr. 850
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	4 11/32		Royal Exchange (£1) ...	...	6 1/2	Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	...	Fr. 2,500
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	25 3/4		Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	...	39 1/2	Fondateur ...	...	Fr. 138
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	28 1/2		Miscellaneous.			Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	...	26 7/16
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	97 1/2		Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	14	Frigorifique d'Egypte ...	...	215 3/32
Brit. Burmah ...	7 1/2		Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	16 3/4	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	...	216 3/16
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	4 11/32		Dunlop Rubber ...	...	69 1/16	Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	...	2210
Do. 8 1/2 Cum Pref. ...	26 1/2		Egyptian Hotels ...	...	24 1/2	Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	...	Pt. 190
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	3		Do. Markets Ord. ...	...	36 1/2			
Phoenix Oil and Transport f.p.) ...	11 1/2		Do. Salt and Soda ...	...	36 1/2			
Do. (11/-) ...	7 1/2		Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	...	84			
Shell Transport ...	43 1/2		Mortgage Telephone ...	...	60			
Steena Romana ...	10 1/2		Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord. ...	...	17 3/4			
			Waring & Gallow ...	...	24 1/2			

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	445	INDIAN NOTES ...	447	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—				Notes and News ...	461
Progress in the Sudan ...	448	SPECIAL ARTICLE—		The Economic Advance of the Sudan ...	463
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Libraries in the Near East ...	455	The Week's Finance ...	465
Egypt ...	449	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	457	The Motor Show ...	466
Cyprus ...	450	BOOK REVIEWS ...	459	British Consular Reports—	
Turkey ...	450	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	458	V.—Egypt ...	471
Calcutta ...	452			Company Meetings—	
				1. Lake Copias Company ...	467
				3. Nizam's Guaranteed State Rlys ...	467
				2. Eastern & Overseas Products ...	468

Notes of the Week.

King Nadir of Afghanistan.

There can be little doubt that the army under Nadir Khan which was responsible for the defeat of the Amir Habibullah's forces and the capture of Kabul has done well in brushing aside its leader's reluctance to assume the Crown and in acclaiming him King of Afghanistan. A hiatus in the succession to the Throne is not a good thing for a primitive people, and the East as a whole is more impressed by a ruler who has won his position by his own prowess or whose character bespeaks his capacity to govern, than by one who has to be summoned from obscurity or a hiding place to mount the Throne by a method of selection. The loyalty of General Nadir Khan to the former dynasty was above question; but King Amanullah had so gravely compromised his own position and the succession of other members of his family that the Afghans would need to be far more constitutionally-minded than they are to allow the claims of the hero of the moment to be overlooked. It is hardly to be supposed however, that King Nadir's troubles have ended with the occupation of the capital. He commands as much support in the country as any other possible Sovereign, but the Afghans make no pretence of being willing, law-abiding subjects of any ruler. Amir Habibullah has made good his escape, as far as is known at present; and it remains to be seen whether he can rally to his standard a sufficient following to challenge the course of events. Such opposition as there may be to King Nadir is more likely to arise from the traditional lack of cohesion among the tribes of Afghanistan than from excess of devotion to the cause of any particular claimant to the Throne. The best that could happen to the country would seem to be that King Nadir should be able to establish his authority gradually and introduce an enlightened form of government free from the impetuous irresponsibility that characterized King Amanullah's reign. The latter's efforts at reform may have been well meant, but their method of introduction betrayed the ill-balanced mind that had been responsible

a few years previously for the launching of an attack that aimed at the conquest of India. The desire of Amanullah Khan to become a member of the Diplomatic Corps in Rome should relieve King Nadir of one embarrassment.

Verbum Sapienti in Egypt.

The new High Commissioner in Egypt has done well to make a statement on British policy in Egypt, and it is to be hoped that certain Egyptian politicians will not only study the wording carefully, but will also be able to read here and there between the lines. It goes without saying that a treaty of the nature contemplated for the settlement of Anglo-Egyptian relations, to be effective, must have the Egyptian nation behind its own Government's signature. The difficulty in a country where four-fifths of the adult population are illiterate is to ensure that the people understand what it is asked to vote upon and is under no dictation in recording its opinion. No other method of reaching this end seems to have commended itself to Egypt than the holding of a general election, and it is not to be expected that even the most doctrinaire Government in Great Britain will want to examine the election address of each successful parliamentary candidate in Egypt, to make quite sure that he laid sufficient emphasis on his unqualified support of the proposed Treaty. We may suppose, therefore, that the stress laid by Sir Percy Loraine on the Egyptian nation's being behind its Government does not look beyond the ordinary acceptance of the Treaty by a suitable majority in Parliament, whether individual members were returned to support the Treaty or because their constituents were too cowed to vote for anyone else. If the British Government desired only to place on record that the existence of a parliament is, in its opinion, the hall-mark of a "free" country, Sir Percy Loraine need hardly have spoken. He was on much more important ground when he stated that "the will to apply the Treaty must exist alongside the will to sign, and that will can fructify only in a spirit of mutual regard and mutual confidence, and with a common understanding of the common aims which the Treaty consecrates." Without mutual respect there can be no satisfactory relationship between the Egyptian and

British peoples. Such respect on the part of the Egyptians would be impossible, if, after the signature of the Treaty, Great Britain tried to restore in Egypt conditions prevailing before 1922. The British equally could have no respect for a people who, before the ink on the Treaty is dry, proceed to clamour for "better terms." If the Treaty is not to consecrate "the common aims" of the two nations, no good will come of its signature; and those Egyptians who propose to use it at once as a basis for further agitation will be playing a braver and more honest part, if they come out into the open and denounce the proffered terms now.

The Political Trend in Roumania.

Public life in Roumania has been not a little disturbed by a series of incidents following the death of M. Buzdugan, President of the Council of Regency. The appointment of M. Saratzeanu to the vacancy in the Council has caused the Minister of Finance, in deference to the outcry raised over his relationship to the new Regent, to resign his Portfolio, and a change in this particular Ministry at this moment can hardly fail to be an embarrassment to the Government. A more serious development is the open hostility shown towards the new Regent by the Liberal Party, whose deputies had absented themselves from the joint session of Parliament summoned to fill the vacancy in the Regency. How high feeling is on the subject may be gauged by the fact that a Liberal organ published a statement which it put into the mouth of Queen Marie, attacking the Government for its refusal to appoint Her Majesty to the Council of Regency. This uncompromising statement was worded in the first person and undoubtedly bore on the face of it a sufficient semblance of authenticity to serve as a bombshell for the Roumanian public. As the inevitable repudiation could not follow for a day or two, it says much for the strength of the Government's position that it was not more seriously inconvenienced by its opponents' tactics. In the opinion of Professor N. Yorga, who is an historian first and a politician afterwards, an important change is taking place in the political situation of the country, as a result of the attitude of the Liberal Party. The country, he considers, is on the threshold of a far more serious struggle than any that it has experienced before. The poverty of the Liberals in men animated by real love for their country and able to understand its needs makes the Party a manifest peril to the peace of the State and its future development. Its present leaders have allowed themselves to be carried away by their political passions and are arousing ambitions that will prove beyond their control. In order to prevent actions which may bring about "the irreparable" Professor Yorga wants to see a mobilisation of all thoughtful people to interpose a sufficiently strong barrier against all agitation and every attempt to destroy the national unity.

M. Venizelos in Greece.

Time was when Germany's three Emperors were facetiously known respectively as *Der Greise*, *Der Weise*, and *Der Reise-Kaiser*, the last from his weakness for foreign travel. All three qualifications are united in the person of Greece's Prime Minister, who has now returned to Athens after a ten weeks' tour of Europe. To judge by the frequency with which the expression has been used during his absence, the *dossier* of subjects put on one side "to await M. Venizelos's return" must by now assume formidable proportions. It is a tribute to the peculiar position which he holds in the country that so many matters have to be postponed until the Prime Minister's return; but from the point of view of national progress the reluctance of other Ministers to take decisions must be as embarrassing to the people as a whole as it may well prove to M. Venizelos himself. To the outside world it appears as if Greece, having concluded a pact with Italy and Yugoslavia, could set her mind at rest in regard to her relations with all foreign countries, with the one ex-

ception of Turkey. It is, however, on Turkey alone that M. Venizelos omits to bring to bear the persuasiveness of his personality, to which most European countries can testify. His visit to Angora was promised a year ago, but has so far not taken place. Relations between the two countries have materially deteriorated during the interval; yet, while both Governments protest their readiness to reach a settlement, the one step that might lead to the desired goal is not taken. Apart from the constant tension with Turkey, which, after all, need not be taken too seriously in view of the detachment with which M. Venizelos himself regards it, Greece's major preoccupations at this time, it would be thought, must be of an economic character rather than in the realm of foreign affairs. It is, however, for the most part economic questions that have had to be put aside to await M. Venizelos's return. If, therefore, Greece is able to keep her peripatetic Prime Minister long enough in the country to deal with some of the more pressing economic problems, which range from the issue of loan bonds to the grant of a minor contract, a fresh accession of confidence in the future of Greece may materialise abroad.

Peace in Palestine?

It is beyond doubt that the military measures taken in Palestine have completely stifled all prospects of any major operations on the part of those who wished to disturb the peace. So long as the troops remain in Palestine, in fact, there is scarcely a remote possibility of further complications involving life and death. But those who find consolation in this fact are easy to please. For it is perfectly obvious that the keenest resentment still exists. The regulations regarding the Wailing Wall have, as was in all probability foreseen, caused fresh annoyance to the Muslims—a fact illustrated by the general strike ordered on October 16; the boycott still continues; and the sentences upon those Arabs involved in the recent riots are causing considerable anger. That the Government has to do its duty, that crime must be punished, goes without saying—but this should not blind one to the truth that the situation is still ugly in the Holy Land. The attempt made to represent the anti-Zionist sentiments of the Arabs as consisting merely of the hostility of the effendi class is not convincing, for what was taken by observers who believed that material advantage would always silence the Semitic Muslim's mouth to be tolerance of the new settlers, is now being interpreted as resignation, or fatalism, that on any major provocation can convert itself into active antagonism. Only by a change in psychological attitude, indeed, can the Zionists hope to win the good will of the Arab majority. To judge by a recent remark made by so eminent and so intelligent a Zionist as Dr. M. D. Eder, who said that a final solution of the Arab question could be achieved only when there was a Jewish majority in Palestine, the prospects of real peace in Palestine are doleful, unless considerable changes are made in the lines of administration in the country.

Different Prescriptions.

In the last few weeks prominence has been given to two diagnoses of the situation in Palestine, by the *Brith Shalom* Society of Jerusalem, and by the Seventh Dominion League respectively. The *Brith Shalom* Society, despite that it is much frowned upon by both Jew and Arab, appears to contain an essentially reasonable idea, the idea of fostering unity and co-operation in Palestine as between Arab and Jew. Perhaps its weakness lies in its vagueness, particularly upon the ultimate size of the Jewish population in Palestine. The fact that it does not seem very precisely to have defined its conception of a Jewish "homeland" in Palestine has given a handle to Arabs to say that it is but the ordinary Zionism presented in the guise of a sweet reasonableness. From a psychological point of view, however, this Society marks a considerable advance upon other institutions, or schools of

thought in Palestine. But of the other idea which has recently received fresh publicity it is impossible to write so favourably. The conception of Palestine as a seventh dominion of the British Empire may or may not be sound, but certainly the method by which its sponsors hope to make the Holy Land a dominion will not help towards the establishment of peace and good will in Palestine. The first and immediate object of this League, as was explained by Colonel Wedgwood last week, is to promote the progress of Palestine as the national home of the Jewish people and to secure the co-operation in this endeavour both of the British people and the British Administration. But from this statement it will be seen that the crux of the matter is ignored. Not a word, be it noted, of securing the co-operation of the Arab majority. Presumably it is taken for granted. But is it not in essence the main problem of Palestine: to secure Arab good will for whatever the Jews do? Is it not, in fact, a *sine qua non* for the permanence of Jewish enterprise in Palestine? It will be retorted, of course, that no antagonism to the Arabs of Palestine is implied in this Seventh Dominion idea, that the development and the progress of the Arabs are, on the contrary, ardently desired by its sponsors. Possibly; but of what use is that desire when it is not mated with, but preceded by, a desire for the establishment of a Jewish majority in Palestine? This idea has, in fine, not the slightest chance of making any appeal to the better nature of the Arabs, and, as such, must be dismissed as both undesirable and unpracticable.

Iraq and the League.

There appears to exist very considerable misapprehension upon the justice of the claims of Iraq to membership of the League of Nations, particularly among those who imagine that, because the frontiers of Iraq are so long and vulnerable, and because she might never be strong enough to withstand, say, an invasion by Turkey or Persia, to talk of granting her independence is so much sentimentality. Critics who fasten on the military weakness of Iraq at the present time—weakness, that is, when non-Iraqi forces in Iraq are left out of account—are apt to forget that the League already contains as members some States which certainly are not in a position to defend themselves. Without suggesting that such countries as Haiti or Cuba may be taken as a necessary model for Iraq, we may remind such critics that in these two States, which are members of the League, the United States maintains permanent officials. Panama, again, which is a member of the League, similarly allows America to station forces on her territory. There is, indeed, no inexorable obligation on Iraq to accept British support or advice. But it is not to be thought that with the entrance of Iraq into the League in 1932 will be witnessed the complete disappearance of the Royal Air Force from Iraq, for even if public opinion in Great Britain wished it, the Iraqis themselves might well ask for the continuance of the air arm. Great Britain and Iraq are friends, and it is on the basis of friendship that their relations, whether military, commercial or political, will persist. Misunderstanding has been largely cleared away, and the ground is now ready for a frank discussion of the most desirable and most practicable course to be taken. Iraqis in authority are not unmindful of the realities of the situation, and we look forward with confidence to seeing the negotiations that are about to begin for a new Anglo-Iraqi Treaty crowned with an agreement eminently satisfactory to both the desires and the needs of Iraq and of Great Britain.

INDIAN NOTE.

The Export Duty on Indian Hides.

The Indian Fiscal Commission of 1921 condemned the export duty on Indian hides as being wrong in principle and dangerous in its effects. A majority of the members of the Taxation Inquiry Committee of 1924-25 endorsed

this condemnation. The Government of India agreed that the duty ought to be removed; and in the Indian Finance Bill of 1927 they provided accordingly. But the Legislative Assembly vetoed the proposal by the casting vote of the President. The duty is consequently still in existence. It is not so onerous an impost as it was, as it has been reduced to 5 per cent ad valorem. But there is really nothing that can be said in its favour. It was originally designed to protect the Indian tanning industry, and to divert the tanning of Indian hides from Germany to the British Empire. It failed, of course, to achieve either object. If the Indian tanning industry needed protection, such should have given, as the Fiscal Commission pointed out, by an import duty on leather. India has no monopoly of hides in the markets of the world. It follows, therefore, that Indian hides ought not to be made to bear an export duty. And as the production is enormously in excess of the requirements of the Indian tanners such a duty is indefensible. In these circumstances we are glad to see that the Government of India are still trying to get rid of the duty; and that with this object in view they have now appointed a Committee of Inquiry. They think that the voting in the Assembly reflected a definite well-balanced conflict of interests. And they are disposed to believe that a satisfactory solution of the difficulty may perhaps be found in the replacement of the export duty by an export cess. The proceeds of this cess would be expended—under the direction of an administrative Committee for the benefit of the industry as a whole. The Inquiry Committee have accordingly been asked to investigate the matter and to advise the Government regarding: (a) the articles on which the cess might be levied and the rate of cess on each article; (b) the constitution and personnel of the administrative Committee; and (c) the functions of the Committee and the objects upon which the cess might be expended. Dr. D. B. Meek, Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, has been appointed Chairman of the Inquiry Committee; and the members, six in number, represent the various sections of the industry. We hope that the Government may have thus at last found a way out of the difficulty. But Indian opinion has a curious way of clinging to theories that are discredited in other parts of the world, and there may be, therefore, still further delay before this objectionable tax is finally removed.

Mr. H. N. Krunzu, member of the Indian Legislative Assembly and Vice-President of the Servants of India Society, has arrived in London as the representative of the Indians of East Africa to lay their case in connexion with the Report of the Hilton Young Commission and of Sir Samuel Wilson before the Government, the leaders of the political parties and the general public.

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PROGRESS IN THE SUDAN.

Great Britain's task in the Sudan is of a three-fold character—to place the country on a sound financial and economic basis, to provide for the social and cultural improvement of the native population, and to promote the material development of this land of far-reaching distances. The Governor-General's Report for 1928—the transmission of which to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was one of the last acts of Lord Lloyd's High Commissionership—throws into strong relief the conscientiousness and thoroughness with which this three-fold task is being carried out. That the maintenance of peace and order is the basis of all constructive administration goes without saying, but it is not to be expected that a country of the size of the Sudan, with its multiplicity of native races and tribes, should always be free from disturbances or unrest. Over many tribal sections occupying the more remote parts of the country no form of control has yet been established, and their good behaviour is conditioned more by a shadowy respect for the distant arm of British law and their own interpretation of their own interests than by any enforcement of order on the spot. The generally pacific nature of the country threw the Nuer outbreak of 1927, which was responsible for the murder of Captain V. H. Fergusson, into strong relief: unrest spread throughout the numerous tribal divisions of the Nuer, and in spite of punitive measures the year under review passed without a final pacification, as a result of the ease with which the more rebellious spirits could take refuge in inaccessible territory. The experience of this outbreak has served to stress the need for a much larger programme of road construction, to enable regular contact between the Government and the tribes to be maintained. At the same time, the policy of strengthening the authority of chiefs will be extended, as occasion offers, over a wider area, with a view to paving the way to an administration based on native custom and in harmony with tribal institutions. Already in some of the more advanced regions native courts administering tribal or customary law under chiefs have been established, as a further stage of the policy laid down a few years ago for the native administration.

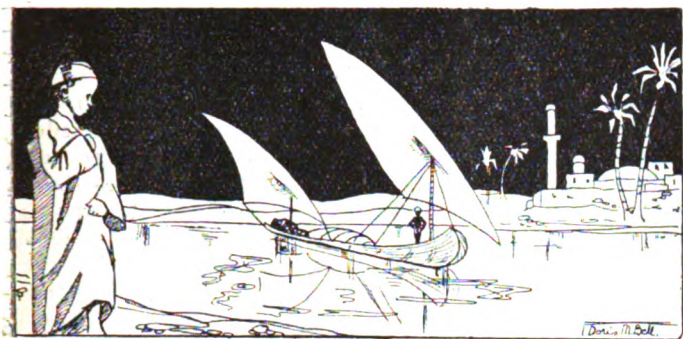
The work of placing an agricultural country on a sound financial and economic basis must necessarily be subject to many fluctuations. Lean seasons inevitably occur and tend to eat up the accumulated benefits of normal or good seasons. The Sudan bids fair to have found salvation in the great Gezira scheme, which already provides some fourteen per cent. of the country's revenue, apart from the indirect contributions for which it is responsible. The Gezira radiates wealth far beyond the actual area that it comprises. If a close analysis of the distribution of money earned in the Gezira could be made, the Report points out, it would probably be found that most of the central area of the country has derived benefit from it in greater or lesser degree, and that it is the Gezira scheme which has kept native trade solvent during the last few years of drought and misfortune, by providing employment and putting money into the home market. It is not, however, a wise policy to keep all the country's eggs in one basket,

and the furtherance of schemes to widen the basis of prosperity must always be a preoccupation of the Government. For the moment the considered opinion of the authorities is that the financial position may be described as on the whole satisfactory, but not yet stable. Two not unimportant factors in the situation are the call for a reduction in taxation and the question of Egypt's contribution to the Sudan Budget. The policy of tax reduction was not lost sight of during 1928, and further reductions of direct taxation have been possible in the 1929 Budget. An interesting note in the Report states that a careful inquiry into the standard of taxation in the various provinces showed that in certain cases taxation was above the general standards aimed at and was possibly hampering development. Reductions were accordingly made in such cases, and it is thought that the stage has now been reached where further reductions will have to be general and not local. When the proposed treaty between Egypt and Great Britain is signed one of the first steps to be taken is an examination of the question of the indebtedness of the Sudan to Egypt with a view to a settlement "on fair and equitable lines." Even if the present contribution is not disturbed, it may be expected that the settlement will add to the annual loan charges. Apart, however, from such considerations the normal development of the country must continually raise the question of adjustments in the manner of obtaining revenue, with the object of distributing equitably the incidence of taxation.

Not the least interesting feature of the 1928 Report is the emphasis laid on the construction of roads. The railway was a determining factor in the conquest of the country, and it was inevitable in the earlier period of settled administration in a territory as vast as the Sudan that the railway system should be regarded as the backbone of the country. Supported by river navigation, it provided not only the chief means of communication, but also a convenient source of revenue. Conditions, however, in the Sudan are undergoing a rapid change; there is the need for more effective control of the remoter regions with a view to the inculcation of law and order among the more primitive tribes, as well as for their provisioning in times of dearth, and the position of the country on the high road between the north and East and South Africa, with the now unlimited range and capacity of mechanical transport, calls for a forward policy in road construction. With the necessarily restricted funds at its disposal it is unlikely that the Sudan Government will be able to satisfy at any one time all the demands on its exchequer in regard to both railways and roads; it will be enough, perhaps, if it succeeds in avoiding the charge of neglecting one for the other. The salient point of the history of the year 1928, the Report points out, is undoubtedly the development in transport and communications in respect of roads, railways and motor transport all over the country. The native motor-bus now plies between Khartoum and Wad Medani (110 miles) and the Abyssinian frontier, four hundred miles away, can be reached by the same means for sixteen shillings. The Kassala railway is now completed from Port Sudan to Makwar, and it may well be that the Government Railways will be more concerned in the immediate future to deal with the accrued liability for depreciation of assets than to embark on new schemes of construction. Thousands of miles of dry-weather road are now open to motor transport, but the construction of all-weather roads in various parts of the country is still in an initial stage. The most important from the point of view of through traffic is the road from Juba, the new southern port of the steamers on the Nile, to Nimule, the northern terminus of the Kenya and Uganda railways and steamers system. This road at present, over a hundred miles in length, is only a dry-weather thoroughfare: but it is inevitable that, as soon as it has been made usable for all seasons of the year, there will be a demand to extend it northward towards Khartoum, in order that motor transport may more fully take the place of a railway from Cairo to the Cape.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, October 12.

Accession Day Celebrations.

The usual Accession Day reception was held at Ras el Tin Palace on October 9 by King Fuad, and it was noticeable that among those who attended were a large number of prominent Wafdists. In view of the proximity of the anniversary to the arrival from Europe of King Fuad, when a grand reception was held at the Municipality, it was decided to dispense on this occasion with the usual afternoon function, but the customary garden-party was given in the Antoniades Gardens by the Governor, while in the evening there was a banquet of over 250 covers at San Stefano, and the City was brilliantly illuminated. To-day the King gave a luncheon party in honour of the Second in Command of the Mediterranean Fleet, Vice-Admiral Kelly, to which the High Commissioner and the Ministers were also invited. There is as yet no news on the return of the Court to the capital, and it is believed that no move will be made until next month. The King and the Queen are thoroughly happy at Montaza, which agrees well with the Royal children, and it is quite understandable that His Majesty should wish to wait until the last moment to return to Cairo.

Electoral Preliminaries.

Meanwhile, Adly Pasha, who, in addition to being Premier, is also Minister for the Interior, is working hard at getting the preliminaries completed so that the election decree can be issued. It is anticipated that it will be promulgated towards the end of the coming week; this would mean elections in the first week of December. Every effort is being made by the Cabinet to ensure that those elections shall be as "free" as it is possible for elections to be in a country like this. The presence of the Mudirs for the Accession Receptions was taken as a good opportunity by Adly Pasha to impress upon them the necessity for maintaining public order and for preserving an absolutely neutral attitude during the electoral period. At the same time one cannot say that the Wafdist Press is contributing much towards the control of public feeling at the present moment. It is doing its utmost to make the public believe that the Adly Cabinet is pro-Wafd, and, in fact, under the influence of the Wafd, and to this quite naturally the organs of the other parties are replying—with the result that Egypt can expect to be treated to another of those political polemics between party organs, which in the past have done so much to obscure real vital issues and make impossible the furtherance of the true interests of the country. To make matters worse, the European organ of the Wafd has now started a series of articles attacking in the most gross manner both Lord

Lloyd and Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha—another illustration of the inability of the Wafd and those who serve it to appreciate their responsibilities and how such tactics do not conduce to the existence of those good relations which they profess to have so much at heart.

A Conflict of Jurisdiction.

A serious conflict of jurisdiction between the Italian Consular Court and the Mixed Tribunals has just been averted. The subject was the estate of the late Countess Marie Kahil Pasha, who died recently. A dispute arose over the will, which, as the deceased was an Italian subject, was handed to the Italian Consulate by her secretary. The other heirs took the matter to the Mixed Courts, which, deciding that it had jurisdiction in the matter, ordered the sequestration of the estate and the appointment of administrators to administer it until the Courts could deal with the dispute. The Italian Consular Court itself also took action, appointed another person as administrator and had its seals placed on articles included in the estate on which the seal of the Mixed Tribunals had already been opposed. The Mixed Court, which had given the decision, on being appealed to by its nominees, upheld its judgment, and ordered the seals of the Italian Consular Court to be removed—*manu militari* if necessary. Recourse was had by both parties to the Egyptian Government, which replied that, faced with an order of the Mixed Tribunals, it could not do otherwise than carry it out in virtue of the international agreement to which, it pointed out, Italy had been a party. The conflict thus threatened to develop into an international dispute, but fortunately the Italian Consulate, recognising that it had made a mistake in taking action in a matter which was before the Mixed Courts, and on which a decision had been taken by those Courts, removed its seals before the Egyptian authorities could intervene. Thus the incident is closed until the Mixed Court of Appeal, which assembles next month, can deal with the case and decide whether the lower court was correct in claiming jurisdiction.

Al Azhar.

The approval by the Council of Ministers of a law reforming Al Azhar and converting it into a theological university organised on the most modern lines, has been followed by the resignation of the Rector, Shaikh Meraghi, who was mainly responsible for the elaboration of this most important reform. Exactly what the cause of this unexpected development is cannot be discovered, but, as in his letter of resignation the Shaikh states that he finds it impossible to continue working under existing conditions, it can only be assumed that he is referring to the delay in promulgating the new law, which, it is stated, is due to the objection of the Palace to certain of its provisions, including those for the appointment of the Rector and the Grand Ulama. The retirement of Shaikh Meraghi is most regrettable, for, even though his successor, the head of the Tanta seminary, might be the most enlightened of men, it would obviously have been preferable for the new reforms to be introduced under the direction of the man who had inspired and elaborated them. Shaikh Meraghi is regarded as the greatest

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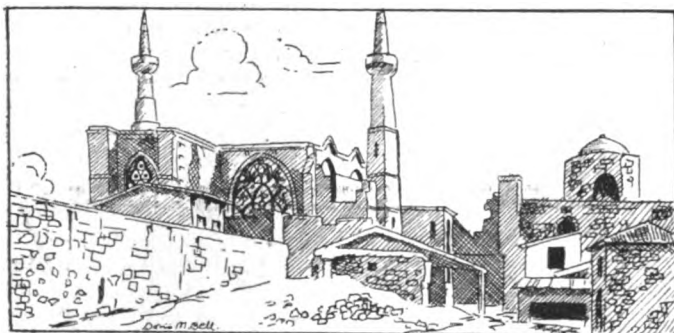
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Islamic reformer since the days of Gamel Eddine El Afghani, who was responsible for the starting of reform movements in many Muslim lands a quarter of a century ago, particularly for that headed in Egypt by the celebrated Shaikh Mohamed Abdu, and his retirement is considered to be a great blow to the cause of religious reform in this country.



CYPRUS.

Nicosia, October 9.

The Greek Deputation.

The Greek petition for union with Greece is by no means endorsed by all sections of the population. Not only the Turks, but the Armenians, and Maronites also, are protesting strongly by memorials submitted through the Governor, against the present movement. Their numbers are comparatively small, but the Greek leaders and Press are, of course, annoyed over the fact that these committees have no desire to exchange British for Hellenic rule. The Greeks must have been aware that the Turks were sure to oppose their fresh efforts, as they have consistently opposed all such movements during the 50 years of British occupation and rule. The two Greek delegates and secretary, arrived in London on September 27, and

took up residence at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, as reported by telegram.

Destruction of Rats.

It is announced, in the useful Agricultural Supplement to the last *Cyprus Gazette*, that a specialist in rat destruction, Mr. H. E. Cayley, is to visit the Island in October "to organise an intensive campaign in the Island," extending probably over two months. Very considerable damage is caused to products by rats, especially to carob (locust bean) trees, which yield one of the principal articles of export. War against these pests has been carried out on some former occasions, the Government paying various rates for rats brought in to different centres, as is done for locusts and queen hornets. But conditions are such that only very partial and transitory success can be hoped for. Carob trees are widely scattered over extensive areas; and when certain numbers are destroyed, their places are soon taken by others. It will, however, be interesting to watch the results of Mr. Cayley's methods and plan of campaign.

General News.

Mr. Herbert Henniker-Heaton, C.M.G., the new Colonial Secretary, arrived on September 27, and has taken over the duties of his office at Nicosia.

It is stated that ex-King Husain will shortly leave the Island, and that he will establish his abode at Baghdad early in November. He recently took tea at Government House with Sir Ronald and Lady Storrs.

Dr. E. S. Corsellis, O.B.E., Director of Health, is retiring on September 19, after a service of many years in the Island, as District Medical Officer and Chief Medical Officer. He is at present on leave in England. He is succeeded by Mr. R. E. Hopton, C.M.G. Mr. A. S. Millard is Assistant Director of Health.

Once more Cypriot youths are being warned by the Press to avoid the serious risks of emigration to Britain and the United States. Many who have done so in recent years fail to find employment, and are in a bad plight.

A Russian vessel arrived at Famagusta recently, with a cargo of cement. After strict examination the crew were allowed to land.

A French hydroplane, bound from Syria to Marseilles, was obliged last week to put into Famagusta harbour owing to engine trouble; but after repairs was able to resume its course the following day.

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TURKEY.

Constantinople, October 14.

Visit of British Squadron.

On October 12, amid the booming of saluting batteries both ashore and afloat, there anchored in the Bosphorus the first British naval units to visit Turkish territorial waters since the Armistice. A detached squadron of the Mediterranean Fleet, consisting of the Fleet Flagship Queen Elizabeth, flying the flag of Admiral Sir Reginald Field, the aircraft-carrier Courageous, and four destroyers cast anchor partly off Dolma-baghtche Palace (the Queen Elizabeth and two destroyers) and partly off Moda Point (Courageous and two destroyers). The squadron.

was followed at a short distance by H.M.S. Bryony, the Admiral's yacht.

The official visits, scheduled to take place, according to a two-column programme published by the whole local Press, began as soon as the flagship had cast anchor, the Admiral receiving in succession the Acting-Governor of Constantinople, the Commander-in-Chief of the Third Army Corps, the Turkish Senior Naval Officer, the Judicial Bench and the British Diplomatic and Consular authorities. Admiral Field returned the visits the same day, being received on the steps of Dolma-baghtche Palace, where he disembarked from his barge, by a detachment of Military Cadets, a picked platoon from the Third Army Corps and a contingent of Turkish marines who rendered military honours and were inspected by the Admiral.

At a later stage the Admiral received a representative body of Turkish journalists, headed by the Correspondent of *The Times*, who translated the Admiral's observations into the French language while the reporters discussed British naval cocktails of becoming potency. Whether the cocktails may be held to account for the hilarity which distinguished this function, it is not for the writer to say, but certain it is that the Press representatives went over the side *in corpore* much invigorated by the Admiral's remarks. Sir Frederick Field explained to his guests that the primary object of his visit was to rekindle and to reaffirm the secular relations which had ever subsisted between the British and Turkish navies. No one would be happier than he if the diplomatic relations between the two countries could be invested with the same spirit of cordiality, when there might be a return to that *camaraderie* which distinguished Anglo-Turkish relations during the Crimean War.

On the morning of October 13, the Admiral, in the name of the British Navy, was to have deposited a wreath at the foot of the Monument to the Republic at Taxim. Every preparation had been made—the street had been sanded, Persian rugs had been laid down, a guard of honour had been drawn up—when it came on to rain without interruption, and the ceremony had to be postponed until the Admiral's return from Angora.

On October 14, Sir Frederick Field, in the company of the British Ambassador, proceeded to Angora, where, after calling on the Foreign Minister and the Minister of National Defence, he was received in audience by the President of the Republic, who cordially welcomed the Admiral to Turkey, holding him in conversation for an hour and a half. The Ghazi expressed the view that, in the realm of international relations, an hour of personal contact was worth years of diplomatic effort.

The social amenities usually attendant upon a visit of this sort have not been wanting on this occasion. Sir George Clerk gave a ball at the Embassy on October 12, the Admiral being the principal guest at a banquet given the following day by the acting Governor of Constantinople. The British community was entertained in the flagship on the afternoon of the 15th, whilst the Captain and officers of the *Courageous* entertained a large party at a ball given last night. From the taking-off deck of the latter vessel, a display of solo and group flying will take place to-morrow at which a number of senior Turkish officers and officials will be present. In the afternoon a fleet team will meet Galata Serai Club on the football field.

Constantinople Guides and Interpreters.

The Constantinople guides and interpreters, among whom are to be found a number of ex-officers, have protested in the local Press against the wearing of the uniform which the Prefecture of the City is trying to make them don. The cicerone complain that they look like so many hall-porters and that the treatment meted out to them by tourists is consequently off-hand and offensive. The Prefect has promised to look into the matter and to remove the source of the trouble if it is possible to do so.

Agricultural Credit Scheme.

The General Manager of the Agricultural Bank has arrived in Constantinople in order to discuss with the local authorities the details of a scheme for extending credits to the agricultural community through co-operative societies. Henceforth all agricultural credits granted by this establishment will pass through the channels of the co-operatives, and it is hoped in this way to obtain more detailed and reliable information on the status and requirements of individual farmers than it was possible to collect in the past. It is anticipated also that the agricultural community will take a practical interest in the societies by subscribing towards their working capital, individual subscriptions being limited to 300 liras for villagers and 500 liras for townsmen.

Loans are to be granted without collateral, the signature of the borrower and two guarantors being taken as sufficient security. It is hoped that the co-operatives will be of assistance to farmers in disposing of their produce.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY IN IRAQ.

A meeting will be held on November 8, at 3 p.m., at the Central Hall, Westminster (the small hall), in support of the scheme to found a British School of Archæology in Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial). Major-General Sir Percy Cox will preside, and the speakers will include the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister, the Viscountess Acton, and Sir Frederic Kenyon. Mr. H. R. Hall, of the British Museum, will exhibit lantern slides illustrative of recent discoveries in Iraq.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN "JOURNAL."

The *Journal* of the Central Asian Society (in which is incorporated the Persia Society), Vol. XV., Part IV., is a full number. In addition to the text of lectures of which summaries have appeared in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* at the time of their delivery, there are interesting articles on "Some Hitherto Unpublished Dispatches of Sir John Malcolm"—which throw a most valuable light on Anglo-Persian relations at the beginning of last century—and on the "Duzdab-Baghdad Motor Route." The review section is marked by refreshing originality.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

"Malta: Its People and Its Rulers" was the subject of the lecture given by Mr. Frederick W. Ryan at the first meeting of the autumn session of the Near and Middle East Association, held on October 18 at 14, Hans Crescent, by kind permission of Mrs. L. Cobham. Mr. Ryan traced the history of Malta through the ages and pointed out that in the traditions and institutions of the Island are to be found many elements which, if investigated scientifically and properly exploited, would prove of great international interest, and might well be useful in furthering the common causes of the East and the West.

The discussion that followed the lecture was opened by Lord Strickland. Rear-Admiral E. T. Taylor presided, and among those present were Admiral Sir Frederick Fisher, Baroness de Goldsmid, the Hon. Lady White-Thomson, Lady Eckstein and Miss Eckstein, Lady Royds, Lady Connolly, Sir William Clark, Lady Tighe, Lady Hewitt, Dr. and Mrs. Gert Feine, Colonel and Mrs. St. John Cooke, Colonel and Mrs. Hawkes, Captain Semini, Mrs. P. H. Row, Mrs. Wesley Watson, Major and Mrs. Hamer, Miss Brunner, Commander and Mrs. Hare, Captain Gordon Canning, Mrs. Margaret Hasluck, Dr. Kapadia, Mrs. Gibson-Smith, Mrs. Sherwood-Kelly, Mr. Scott Duckers, Miss Gertrude Lonsdale, the Rev. G. Henniker-Gotley, Mr. T. P. Gill, Miss Toynbee, and Mrs. James Wilson.

The opportunity which is being taken of the visit of the Mediterranean Fleet to Corfu to send letters by air, as it is a port of call of the England-India Air Mail, is the first of its kind. The ships which are visiting Corfu from October 23 to 30 are:—Queen Elizabeth, *Revenge*, *Malaya*, *Warspite*, *Royal Sovereign*, *Resolution*, *Courageous*, *Veteran*, *Wanderer*, *Eagle*, *Woolston*, *Witherington*, *London*, *Sussex*, *Curacoa*, *Caledon*, *Calliope*, *Cairo*, *Mackay*, *Vampire*, *Vivacious*, *Vendetta*, *Voyager*, *Wryneck*, *Whitley*, *Walrus*, *Vimiera*, *Keppel*, *Wild Swan*, *Wishart*, *Wolverine*, *Broke*, *Sandhurst*, *Bryony*, *Maine*, and *Assistance*.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 3.

The Statutory Commission.

A cablegram from London this week concerning the proceedings of the Indian Central Committee has made one think again about the ill-conceived Statutory Commission. "Ill-conceived," one says, and it was so; and as the Indian Constitution problem still has no actuality, why one thinks the Statutory Commission was ill-conceived to deal with it has also an actuality. It might have been composed of Sir John Simon and two of his present colleagues, three Indians, say Mr. Gandhi, Pandit Motilal Nehru, and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, and one of the Governors, Sir Malcolm Hailey for choice, and an Indian Army man, and a medico-psychologist. The Cabinet should have said to it: "Propose a Constitution for India, giving as much authority and power of initiative as possible to the peoples of India; but do not forget to have regard to their capacity: lest you should forget that, we have made a medico-psychologist one of your number. He will tell you, but indeed you partly know it already, that great capacity is very rare among the Indians; he will tell you that, and why it is so. It is because factors in India make unceasingly against men having capacity, that India since Alexander the Great's time and before it has been a prey to invaders from other countries."

The Central Committee.

A proof of the wrongness of conception of the Statutory Commission, if one is wanted, is that it has brought us to that cablegram I have mentioned concerning the proceedings of the Indian Central Committee, and the comedy of that. I happened to be present when Pandit Motilal Nehru received his newspaper that day. He read the cablegram aloud to us; then laughed—a laugh of contempt. The cablegram said such things as this: "The report drafted by the Secretary was then read para by para. The four members, constituting a majority of those present, expressed disapproval of every para. They characterised the report as inadequate and not fully conveying the intentions of the Committee. Finally the Chairman declared that he would not put the report, or any portion of it, to the vote of the Committee, but merely ruled it as having been passed." Things are done so in those operas we recall of Gilbert and Sullivan. There was already a great point to make against the Statutory Commission, and any validity that its report might be put forward as having, that none of the leading Indians had appeared as witnesses before it. There is now the point that the proceedings of the Committee of the Central Indian Legislature appointed to co-operate with it ended in such a manner.

The Congress Presidentship.

As it happened, as if to heighten the effect, when that cablegram of comedy came, the Indian leaders who despise the Central Committee most, were all together, or most of them—Mr. Gandhi, Pandits Motilal Nehru and Jawaharlal Nehru, and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. They had come together to decide finally who should preside over the Lahore sessions of the Indian National Congress. It is to be Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Gandhi having persisted in his refusal. Many regret that; but if your Prime Minister is wise in time, and so far sets aside the Statutory Commission as to send invitations to a Round Table Conference to the Indian leaders—if he sends them before Christmas—the Lahore Congress will not be the historic gathering that it threatens to be, and it will not much matter who is the President. If the British Cabinet is unbending, and says it must abide by Sir John Simon's report, and introduces legislation without consulting the Indian leaders, then the Lahore Congress will need keeping in hand, if not half India too, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is not the man for that. Not from lack of strength

of character, but from not believing in such measures. One has but to look in his face to know how ready he would be to go to prison, or to hunger-strike and die as a protest.

Royal Commission on Labour.

Another cablegram of the week summarised a leading article on the subject of the task of the Royal Commission on Labour in India. A natural wish of any Englishman long resident in India is that the publicists in England should know more of the facts of India. To any one of you who have never been in India it must sound dreadful to hear that men in India, in the Hot Weather, sleep in hundreds on the pavements of such cities as Calcutta; but one who has walked night after night homewards by the sleeping rows will know that the men sleep soundly, and that their women who are shut up wish they could sleep on the pavements too. Just as a man, after lying awake for two or three nights, because he has taken lodging in the dark, and finds that his new bedroom looks on a great railway shunting yard in London—just as he cannot sleep for the first two or three nights because of the noise, but sleeps ever afterwards as sound as a top, so any of us would learn to sleep soundly on pavements.

Poverty in India.

It is a mistake to write things like this: "The industrial and agricultural workers of India form a majority of the inhabitants of the whole of the British Empire and of all people on the face of the earth the poorest and the most miserable are in India." It is true that India is full of the very poorest of the poor, but you must not think that poverty in India brings the same misery in its train that poverty does in your slums. This country is warm. That alone makes an enormous difference. It is pleasant even to a hungry man to lie in the sun. Food is scarce among classes in India; most of them have only one meal a day; but few miss that meal, and it is eaten in peace. There is very little of that anxiety that gnaws into your poor. I would far rather be very poor in India than just ordinarily poor in London. The worst misery in India comes from disease to those who die, and to the survivors from being left behind. But men here do not fight against disease, but give in easily, and the survivors must find the wherewithal to satisfy their hunger, and are therefore too busy to grieve much.

The Practical Remedy.

Let the conditions of labour, industrial especially, be looked into carefully, but do not imagine that anything that could be done will make any great difference to the lives of the masses in India. The leading article ended with: "Drastic evils call for drastic remedies. We trust the work of the Commission is a prelude to further reforms to put an end to a condition of affairs which is a black disgrace to everyone of us, who is, however indirectly, responsible for its perpetuation." Don't think like that: it does no one any good. There are no drastic remedies possible. The remedy will come from a growth among the Indians of a desire for comfort and healthier lives, when they will seek that limitation of their numbers which would make possible a life of greater comfort and health for each one. The present condition of affairs cannot conceivably be put an end to by any conceivable reforms, such as the work of a Commission might be the prelude to. Suppose you were to try to secure twice as much food and twice as much new clothing for each person in India. You would have to provide as much money as now pays for the food and clothing of over one hundred and fifty million people. And wealthy England has been hard put to deal with one quarter of one million out-of-work miners. Let us not forget our arithmetic.

Postscript.

I have just seen another cablegram. It quotes the *Daily Telegraph* as saying—but only what the *Pioneer's* Special Correspondent said nearly a month ago, and what

I have said myself, more than once, ought to be done—that the Prime Minister ought to take matters into his own hands—after all the Indian question is more pressing than disarmament—and summon the Indian leaders to confer with him. The *Daily Telegraph* says that will be done. The point is to do it soon, to get down to real things at once.

SIR ATUL CHATTERJEE'S EXTENSION OF OFFICE.

Sir Atul Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, returned to London last week after attending the September session of the League of Nations. It is learned that while he was at Geneva Sir Atul was invited by the Government of India to accept an extension of his tenure of office, which he would ordinarily be vacating at the beginning of next year, until April 1931. The invitation, which was warmly supported by the Secretary of State, Mr. Wedgwood Benn, and will be cordially endorsed by Sir Atul's wide circle of friends and official acquaintances in this country, has, it is understood, been accepted.

Apart from being a well-deserved tribute to the signal services which Sir Atul has rendered during his term in a variety of important directions, the extension possesses the additional advantage of enabling the present High Commissioner to instal all departments of his office, other than that of the stores department, which is separately housed in Lambeth, in the new India House, Aldwych, the construction of which is now nearing completion. It is expected that the formal opening of the building, which has cost approximately £300,000, will take place next summer.

INDIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The members of the Indian Central Committee, which has been co-operating with the Statutory Commission, held their final meeting on October 18. Sir Sankaran Nair, Chairman of the Committee, presided and it is understood that the Committee's report was signed by the eight members who are still in this country, but in most cases subject to notes and minutes of dissent on specific points.

One member of the Committee, Mr. Kikabhai Premchand, as already announced in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, left England in the middle of September after writing a separate report. Sir Sankaran Nair leaves London this week for the Continent and is expected to sail for India early next month.

SIR MICHAEL O'DWYER ON THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The future government of India was the theme of an interesting address by Sir Michael O'Dwyer, a former Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, at the Oxford Luncheon Club on October 18. The vast majority of the population of India who had no vote, he said, wanted peace and security and progress, and realised that they were more likely to find those conditions under the British Administration than under Swarajist rule.

In India at present, Sir Michael proceeded, there were no foundations for responsible government as we understand it and, assuming that we accepted the Swarajist plan, could such a Government be trusted to give fair play to minorities? Even if they wished to give fair play to the "under dog," they would not be able to do so. Again, would the Indian Princes listen for a moment to the fiat of the Parliaments of lawyers and journalists in Delhi, Calcutta, or anywhere else? India would become a prey to foreign invasion and internal disorder. The Indian Muhammadans made no secret of the fact that, if they were placed under such a Government, they would invite the Afghans and the frontier tribes to come to their assistance. Several of them had told him so.

It was essential, in the present circumstances, to have

a strong Central Government containing a substantial Indian element, but responsible to the British Parliament. It must be in a position to repel foreign invasion, to repress internal disorders, and to ensure fair play for minorities. It could not discharge those functions, unless it had a substantial British element.

THE EDUCATION OF INDIAN WOMEN.

The appeal of the Four and a Half Indian Colleges Fund was strongly pressed at the meeting which was held at the Mansion House on October 14, and at which the Lord Mayor presided. The aim of the Fund is to promote the higher education of Indian women—an object the importance of which it would be almost impossible to overestimate. Indeed, Lord Lytton was entirely right when, in addressing the Conference of Educational Associations some months ago, he said that there is nothing else which comes anywhere near it in importance, or which will have such far-reaching and incalculable results.

The four colleges in question are the Kinnaid College for Women at Lahore; St. Christopher's Training College, Madras; the Women's Christian College, Madras; and the Women's Medical College, Vellore. The so-called "Half" is the Missionary Settlement for University Women at Bombay. All these institutions are doing a great deal for the cause of the higher education of Indian Women. The Kinnaid College prepares candidates for the Arts Degrees at the Punjab University. It has fifty-five students, and it needs an additional hostel and other new buildings to enable it to meet the educational demands which have recently become so urgent in Lahore. St. Christopher's Training College trains women to be teachers in the villages. It admits women matriculates and graduates; and it has sixty-seven students. It wants money for the purchase of the property wherein it is housed, and for an endowment. The Women's Christian College at Madras, which is affiliated to the Madras University, has 137 women students reading for the degrees conferred by that University. It is reported to be one of the finest of the Women's Colleges in India; but it badly needs an endowment fund, as its income is very low in proportion to running costs. The Women's Medical College at Vellore has 83 Indian women studying for medical degrees. Since it was started, in 1918, as many as ninety-five doctors have graduated from it. Like the other colleges it also needs an endowment, the lack of which greatly handicaps its work. The Missionary Settlement for University Women at Bombay is not a college. It provides a hostel for thirty-five University women students. In Bombay there is no women's college and the Settlement plays a considerable part in focussing the activities of educated women of all communities.

The object of the Mansion House meeting was to help the Fund in the effort which it is making to raise a sum of £50,000. Lord Meston, the Honorary Treasurer, said that the needs of the institutions had been most carefully scrutinised, and it had been found that this amount was urgently wanted for building extensions, endowments, etc. In opening the meeting the Lord Mayor emphasised the point that the progress of India was bound to be hampered so long as one half of the population is unable to take any practical part in it. A great extension of education among the women of India was therefore an urgent necessity; and the Four and a Half Colleges were making a far-reaching effort to meet that need. Mrs. Rama Rau, Lord Lytton, Lady Simon, and Miss M. D. Brock spoke strongly in support of the appeal. Lord Lytton referred to the fact that Indians who acquire Western culture exercise surprisingly little influence on the Indian social system. To him the explanation seems to be that in the Indian home the influence of the women is supreme, and that their outlook is essentially Eastern. In his opinion it is therefore imperative, if the ambitions of India's young men are ever to be realised, that the

women, as well as the men, should be educated. Miss Brock announced that the Headmistresses' Association had collected for the Fund a sum of £1,481. Other donations amounting to nearly £1,000 were also reported, and Lord Meston announced that prior to the meeting a sum of £2,525 had been collected.

It may be added that the vital importance of the education of the women of India is also insisted upon in the report, which has been issued since the Mansion House meeting, of the Simon Commission's Auxiliary Committee on the growth of education. It is pointed out in this report that the middle and higher classes of India have long suffered from the dualism of an educated manhood and an ignorant womanhood; and that this dualism lowers the whole level of the home and domestic life, and has its reaction on personal and national character. The education of women, especially in the higher stages, will make available to the country a wealth of capacity that is now wasted. The Committee go on to say: "We believe that the difficulties in the way of women's education are beginning to lose their force, and that the opportunity has arrived for a great new advance. We are definitely of opinion that in the interest of the advance of Indian education as a whole priority should now be given to the claims of girls' education in every scheme of expansion."

REVIEW OF THE GROWTH OF EDUCATION IN BRITISH INDIA.

Many points of fundamental interest for the political future of India are revealed in the report of the Auxiliary Committee appointed by the Statutory Commission to review the growth of education in British India. The report, which was published last week (Cmd. 3407) is signed by the Chairman, Sir Philip Hartog, and the five members of the Committee. The signature of Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge is, however, subject to certain reservations and qualifications on particular points and a minute of dissent is appended by Raja Narendranath, objecting to the proposals relating to (1) the introduction of religious education in public schools, and (2) the reservation of seats in schools for Muhammadans and other communities, if necessary. Separate notes are also submitted by the Chairman and Sir George Anderson on the relation of the Government of India to Universities, which was not discussed by the Committee; by the Chairman and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi on Boards and Committees for women's education; and by Dr. Muthulakshmi on women's education generally. The review is issued in the form of an interim report by the Statutory Commission, the Chairman and members of which state that they will derive great assistance from the result of the Auxiliary Committee's inquiries.

The Auxiliary Committee, it should be borne in mind, was required to prepare a review within moderate compass, limited by the general scope of the broad inquiry with which the Statutory Commission was charged, rather than a general survey of the whole field of education in all its branches and aspects throughout British India. It was therefore instructed to regard itself "as primarily concerned with education and its organisation in British India in relation to political and constitutional conditions and potentialities of progress." The Committee, while keeping in mind limitations which were not altogether easy to define or to observe, has, however, wisely tried to present a general picture of the aims and present condition of the progress of educational institutions rather than to confine itself to the strict letter of an inquiry which must otherwise have been so narrow as to defeat its own purpose. The Committee's conclusions are summarised in the final chapter of the report, the text of which is reproduced below:—

"Our Review of the growth of education reveals many points of fundamental interest for the political future of India. The largely increased enrolment in primary schools indicates that the old time apathy of the masses is breaking down. There has been a social and political awakening of the women of India and an expressed demand on their behalf for education and social reform. There has been rapid progress in the numbers of Muhammadans receiving instruction. Efforts have been made to improve the condition of the depressed classes and those classes are beginning to respond to that effort and to assert their right to education. On all sides there has been a desire on the part of leaders of public opinion to understand and to grapple with the complex and difficult problems of education; and large additional expenditure has been proposed by Education Ministers and willingly voted by the Legislative Councils. That is one side of the picture, but there is another.

"Throughout the whole educational system there is waste and ineffectiveness. In the primary system, which from our point of view should be designed to produce literacy and the capacity to exercise an intelligent vote, the waste is appalling. So far as we can judge, the vast increase in numbers in primary schools produces no commensurate increase in literacy, for only a small proportion of those who are at the primary stage reach Class IV., in which the attainment of literacy may be expected. In one province, despite

a very large increase in the number of primary schools and pupils and in the expenditure, the number of pupils who reached Class IV. was actually less by nearly 30,000 in 1927 than it was ten years previously. It is to be remembered that under present conditions of rural life, and with the lack of suitable vernacular literature, a child has very little chance of attaining literacy after leaving school; and, indeed, even for the literate, there are many chances of relapse into illiteracy.

"The wastage in the case of girls is even more serious than in the case of boys. The disparity in education and literacy between women and men, so far from decreasing by the effort made, is actually increasing. The disparity between the wealthier parts of the country and the poorer parts also tends to increase.

"In the sphere of secondary education there has been an advance in some respects, notably in the average capacity of the body of teachers, in their improved conditions of service and training, and in the attempt to widen the general activities of school life. But here again there are grave defects of organisation. The whole system of secondary education is still dominated by the ideal that every boy who enters a secondary school should prepare himself for the university; and the immense numbers of failures at matriculation and in the university examinations indicate a great waste of effort. Such attempts as have been made to provide vocational and industrial training have little contact with the educational system and are therefore largely infructuous. Many of the universities and colleges showed marked improvements in their methods of teaching and in the amount of original work which they have produced; and in some of them there is undoubtedly a better training for corporate life than formerly. But the theory that a university exists mainly, if not solely, to pass students through examinations still finds too large acceptance in India; and we wish that there were more signs that the universities regarded the training of broad-minded, tolerant and self-reliant citizens as one of their primary functions. They have been hampered in their work by being overcrowded with students who are not fitted by capacity for university education and of whom many would be far more likely to succeed in other careers.

"We have no doubt that more and more money will be gladly voted for education by the legislatures of India but, as we have shown, the improvement and expansion of education do not depend merely on money. Money is no doubt essential, but even more essential is a well-directed policy carried out by effective and competent agencies, determined to eliminate waste of all kinds. We were asked to report on the organisation of education. At almost every point that organisation needs reconsideration and strengthening; and the relations of the bodies responsible for the organisation of education need readjustment.

"We are of opinion that the divorce of the Government of India from education has been unfortunate; and, holding as we do that education is essentially a national service, we are of opinion that steps should be taken to consider anew the relation of the central Government with this subject. We have suggested that the Government of India should serve as a centre of educational information for the whole of India and as a means of co-ordinating the educational experience of the different provinces. But we regard the duties of the central Government as going beyond that. We cannot accept the view that it should be entirely relieved of all responsibility for the attainment of universal primary education. It may be that some of the provinces, in spite of all efforts, will be unable to provide the funds necessary for that purpose, and the Government of India should therefore be constitutionally enabled to make good such financial deficiencies, in the interests of India as a whole.

"We have not suggested, nor do we suggest, that the responsibilities of Ministers in the provinces should be reduced. On the contrary, we are of opinion that they have been reduced too much already by a devolution on local bodies which has taken the control of primary education to a large extent out of their hands, with unfortunate results. The relations between provincial Governments and local bodies demand further consideration and adjustment. The formation of an educated electorate is a matter for the nation. Under recent legislation, powers have been devolved on local bodies in such a way that the Ministers responsible to the legislatures have no effective control of the expenditure of money voted for mass education; and in some cases, owing to inadequate inspection, they have little information as to the results of that expenditure. It is clear that the new factor of ministerial responsibility has not been taken sufficiently into account.

"The Directors of Public Instruction have been loyal and enthusiastic, but they are grappling with immense responsibilities, without sufficient support. The headquarters staffs of provinces should be largely increased, so that important schemes of development may be considered with greater care and the ordinary work of education supervised more effectively. An increase in the inspecting staffs should lead to economy and not to extravagance. The reconstitution of the provincial educational services can suffer no further delay.

"Despite the growing increase in girls' education, the measures taken to promote it have been inadequate. The education of the girl is the education of the mother. The school-education of each additional girl counts more towards the future than the school-education of an additional boy. We are definitely of opinion that, in the interests of the advance of Indian education as a whole, priority should now be given to the claims of girls' education in every scheme of expansion.

"India has reached a critical stage in the development of her education, and the decisions to be made are of vital importance. It will be for those in authority to consider what shall be the next step. If we have taken a broad view of our reference, it is in the hope that our suggestions may be of some assistance to those responsible for the great task that lies before them."

LIBRARIES IN THE NEAR EAST.

On October 16, at the School of Oriental Studies, the Director, Sir E. Denison Ross, delivered the first of a series of public lectures which are to be given during the present term. His subject was "Libraries in the Near East," and it will, we understand, be published in full in the School's *Bulletin*.

Sir Denison spoke first of the Khedivial, or (as it was now called) the Royal Library at Cairo, which possessed one of the finest collections of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish MSS., and had, moreover, the advantage, rare in the East, of being able to boast a complete catalogue. It was founded by Ismail in 1869. The excellence of its organisation was largely due to the fact that it had at its head a succession of eminent German scholars, such as Spitta, Vollers, and Moritz. Spitta devoted seven years to the cataloguing of the MSS. The first volume of the Catalogue in Arabic appeared in 1884 under the name of Hasanayn. The library was now being run by Egyptians, and great improvements had been made. Several former students of the School were now employed in this library at Cairo, and it was Isa, who took a Librarianship Diploma in London and studied epigraphy under Sir Thomas Arnold and the lecturer himself, who recently showed Sir Denison over the buildings. The MS. treasures of this library included old Qurans and a number of Arabic letters written on papyrus or paper, dating from the first and second centuries of the Hijra. It was a point worth remembering that Egypt alone in the Islamic world had been able to preserve some MSS. unravaged by the Mongol invaders of Muslim lands. Sir Denison said that he wished to see two books in particular in Cairo: a Quran written for the last of the Mamluk Sultans named Qansauh al-Ghuri (this Sultan, who at the age of eighty, perished in battle against the conquering Turk in 1517, had usually been called Qansuh al-Ghuri, but the dedication on this MS. settled that the former reading was correct), and the famous Uighur book, called *Kudatku Bilik*, which was written in the Arabic *naskh* character, whereas all the other known MSS. of this Turkish work dating from the XIIth century were in the old Uighur character.

After mentioning the private collections in Cairo, the most famous of which belonged to Timur Pasha, the lecturer deplored the ease with which Islamic MSS. had been obtained by dealers from their owners. One famous European library, in fact, had obtained many priceless treasures through exchanging sugar-cane for MSS.!

Turning to Tunisia, Sir Denison spoke first of the private library of Baron Rudolf d'Erlanger, who, as is well known, is devoting his life to the study of Arabic music. The results of his profound studies, both practical and theoretical, would shortly be published in Paris. And then the lecturer told the pitiful story of the remnants of what was once a great library in the old Mosque at Qayrawan. Despite the pillaging which this library had suffered, however, it still contained a large number of Qurans written on parchment and dating from the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries of the Hijra. Many of them, incidentally, had been written by women. The library—access to which was difficult for a non-Muslim—was situated behind the great pulpit in a room about twenty feet square. At one end was a bookcase reaching to the ceiling, protected only by wire-caging, in which were stowed away without method or order bundles of parchment documents in cardboard boxes, where they were slowly but surely crumbling to pieces. On the other walls were a few glass cases in which selected Qurans were once preserved—but very little was left of them now. In a separate part of the Mosque enclosure the lecturer had found two large lead bins full of parchment bearing writing—indicating that a quantity of old MSS. had been allowed to perish for want of care.

Of the new Hebrew University at Jerusalem, Sir Denison said that no University had a fairer site than this

one on Mount Scopus, overlooking the Dead Sea. An Arabic Department had been established here, and the nucleus of the library for it was the library of the great Islamic scholar, Dr. Goldzier, of Budapest. The scholars employed in this Department were now employed on making a concordance of Arabic poetry from the beginning down to the end of the Ummayyad period, and an edition of the work of the historian Baladhuri.

In Damascus the best collection of MSS. existed in the Bibiothèque Royale, which occupied the buildings round the Mosque and tomb of the Sultan Baybars, who was the first Muslim to withstand the invading Mongols in the thirteenth century. One of the most important MSS. here was the only complete copy of Ibn al-Asakir's "History of Damascus." This library also possessed the only complete copy of Sakhawi's "Biographical Dictionary of Famous Men" belonging to the ninth century of Hijra. This MS. ought to be reproduced by photography.

The chief library in Baghdad was that of the Marjaniyya Mosque. The main bulk of this collection was bequeathed by the Alusi family, and about two years ago the collection of Shukri Effendi was added. (This library, however, as was explained by H.E. Jaafar Pasha, who was in the audience, had fallen into decay, like that at Qarawyan.)

Passing to Persia, Sir Denison said that Teheran teemed with precious MSS. The four most important libraries of Teheran were the Gulistan, or Royal Palace Library; the Library of the Sipah Salar and the Marvi Mosques; the Library of the Ministry of Education; and the Library of the Majlis. The Gulistan Library contained thousands of volumes, closely packed together in shelves, apparently without any order. In the short time that he had, the lecturer was able to examine half a dozen MSS. Among them he found an album containing examples of Persian miniature painting of the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries, which belonged once to Nadir Shah. This collection contained some of the most beautiful specimens he had ever seen. The lecturer then described the Peacock Throne and the jewelled globe of the world which were in the long Durbar room adjoining the library.

The Majlis library was the only one in the Middle East to be compared, in arrangement and convenience, with that at Cairo. Members of Parliament, however, had not yet learned to appreciate it: the average attendance was one a day! It had a fine collection of European printed books on Oriental subjects, including the leading journals (something quite new this, for Persians to want to know what Europeans thought of them), and about 300 important MSS. Two of these MSS. were especially interesting: a copy of *Khulasat ul-Ash'ar*, by Taqi Kashi, one of the most important of the biographies and anthologies of Persian poetry, and a copy of the *Munis ul-Ahrar*, a very valuable anthology of Persian poetry.

Of the private libraries in Teheran, Sir Denison visited only four. Of these, by far the most important belonged to Hajji Husayn Aga Malik. Another interesting one was that of Mirza Mahmud Khan Mahmudi (whose name used to be Pahlavi, but had been changed into Mahmudi in deference to the reigning dynasty), and yet another, that of Vahid ul Mulk.

The lecturer then devoted attention to the subject of preservation, cataloguing, and photographing of MSS.

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ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS.

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in the East. He mentioned first the deficiencies existing in our knowledge of Islamic literature in general. There were thousands of Arabic works known to us by name only; there were also the books of which all trace had been lost until they turned up, as it were, from nowhere. The development of Islamic study was comparatively recent—as an example of which fact he mentioned the Congress of Orientalists held in London in 1874, when not a single Islamic subject was touched, Egyptology and Sanskrit monopolising attention. But advancement of Islamic knowledge should not come about through the removing of MSS. from suitable homes in the East—a step to which he was strongly opposed in principle. Countries such as Persia and Egypt, which were now on the right lines, should be encouraged to retain their own treasures of literature and art. The greatest service that could be rendered to scholarship lay in the cataloguing of the contents of all collections and making those catalogues known. Individual rare books should be photographed.

Sir Denison, after protesting strongly against the barbaric destruction of MSS. by dealers who, owing to the fabulous prices now paid for Persian miniatures and even for title-pages of old MSS., would tear a precious book to pieces, suggested the lines on which future development might take place. Professor Brockelmann some thirty years ago published his invaluable "History of Arabic Literature," but a new edition was a crying need. A similar book was in course of preparation by Mr. Storey, of the India Office. In both these books, which were arranged according to subject, after the author came the titles of his various works, and if they had been printed, where and when, and if they had not been printed, in which libraries copies were to be found.

After the lecture, Sir Thomas Arnold gave some amusing examples of the carelessness with which libraries were sometimes supervised. He suggested that the practice of the India Office was an admirable one to follow—a practice by which books could be freely borrowed on the condition that at the end of every six months the borrower had to report that book was in his possession and in proper condition.

The death was reported last week from Sofia of the Archimandrite Theodorit, who had been Abbot of the Bulgarian Monastery of Zographou, on Mount Athos, for about twenty years.

The Albanian Legation in London explains that the discontinuance of the Albanian Legation in Angora is purely a measure of economy and does not in any way affect the friendly relations between the Kingdom of Albania and the Turkish Republic.

At the International Congress of Penal Law, which was opened on October 6 in Bucharest by the Acting Minister of Justice, the delegates from 18 countries included M. Kouleff, Bulgarian Minister of Justice, and two representatives from the League of Nations.

The birthday of King Zogu on October 9 was celebrated in Albania as a holiday, and all the towns and villages were decorated with flags. The Albanian army was reviewed, and all the Muslim women appeared unveiled in accordance with King Zogu's programme of reforms.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has conferred the dignity of Knighthood on Mr. Ganesh Datta Singh, Minister-in-charge of the Ministry of Local Self-Government, Bihar and Orissa; Maulvi Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla, member of the Assam Executive Council; and Mr. Hadji Abdul Karim Abu Ahmed Khan Ghuznavi, member of the Bengal Executive Council.

The Lord Mayor, Sir Kynaston Studd, on behalf of his predecessor, Sir Charles Batho, received on October 16 at the Mansion House from Lord Melchett a certificate of the inscription in the Jewish "Golden Book" of the names of the Guildhall, Sir Charles Batho, and Sheriffs of the City. The "Golden Book" is a record kept in the Jewish National Fund's offices in Jerusalem, and perpetuates the names of those who have rendered exceptional services to the Jewish people. Sir Charles Batho was Lord Mayor when, for the first time in history, a Jewish function was held at Guildhall. The banquet was in aid of the Balfour Forest in Palestine, and resulted in the raising of £17,000. Lord Melchett, referring to the banquet, said that the fund was inaugurated for planting the hills of Judea, which had been treeless for many generations, with a forest, in commemoration and in the name of the Earl of Balfour. Two years ago 57,000 trees were planted, and last year the number was 151,000.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Bulgaria has notified Yugoslavia that it approves the settlement of frontier difficulties worked out by the recent joint conference.

An agreement for the abrogation of the Consular Court in Egypt was signed last week by Austria.

M. Ponsot, French High Commissioner in Syria, left Paris last week on his return to Beyrout. He visited Jerusalem on October 20.

A monument to the Emperor Napoleon I. was unveiled on October 12 at Liubliana, which was the capital of the Styrian Provinces when they formed part of the French Empire from 1809 to 1812.

Famine was reported last week in the Hadhramaut, and disease has broken out among the camels, so that transport has been disorganised. Many starving people have proceeded to Makalla.

The second son of the Amir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan, Amir Naief, arrived recently at Alexandria to join Victoria College, where his cousin, the son of Amir Ali, is already pursuing a course of studies.

The International Diplomatic Academy in Paris has unanimously elected Sadek Wahba Pasha, Egyptian Minister at Berlin, an associate member.

Mr. A. T. Waugh, British Consul-General at Constantinople since the War, who has been forty years in the Consular Service in Turkey, left for England on October 17, on his retirement.

Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary-General of the League of Nations, will leave Geneva on October 28 on a visit to Rome and Belgrade at the invitation of the Italian and Yugoslav Governments.

Over 80,000 visitors from overseas have attended the Industrial Exhibition organised by the Amir Ali al Jiziri in Damascus, which is being kept open for an additional fortnight.

The R.A.F. West African flight of three Fairey 3F machines took off from Helwan, near Cairo, on October 19, on a flight to Nigeria and the Gold Coast.

Three Arabs were sentenced to death at Haifa last week in connexion with the rioting in Palestine last August. They were convicted of killing a Jew at Safed.

The Yugoslav Minister of Finance, M. Sverlyuga, left Belgrade at the beginning of this week for Paris for important conversations about the pre-War and War debts of Yugoslavia to France.

Thirty aeroplanes from H.M. aircraft-carrier *Courageous* gave a display of formation and acrobatic flying over Constantinople on October 18. The people of the city were greatly impressed.

M. Venizelos, in an interview last week with the Greek Royalist leader, Mr. Tsaldares, failed to persuade the Royalists to resume attendance of Parliament, which they left in June owing to the inclusion of M. Gonatas in the Cabinet.

Mr. Sydney Waterlow, the new British Minister to Bulgaria, presented his credentials to King Boris on October 19. M. Liapcheff, the Prime Minister, attended as Minister for Foreign Affairs *ad interim*.

Major-General Sir Fabian Ware, vice-chairman of the Imperial War Graves Commission, on arriving at Aleppo last week, expressed great satisfaction at the condition of the cemeteries in which those who fell in the fighting at Palestine are buried.

The Amir Saif-al-Islam Sayyid Muhammad, eldest son and commander-in-chief of the Zaidi Imam of Sanaa, on October 1 occupied Bait-al-Faqih, the chief town of the Zaranqi tribe, in the Tihama of the Yaman, which had recently been in revolt against the Imam.

Mr. J. H. Dunn, structural engineer of H.M. Office of Works, who superintended the erection of the new British Consulate in Alexandria, left Egypt by the s.s. *Romania* on October 4 for Constantinople, and Angora, where he will superintend the building of the new British Embassy in that city.

According to a message from Sofia, M. Vassilieff, secretary of the National Committee of the Macedonian Emigrants, whose brother recently murdered the Protogeroffist leader Bjaroff, was mortally wounded on October 17 as he was returning from harvesting. The Mihailoffist revolutionary leader Avramoff, who was accompanying Vassilieff, is also reported to have been killed.

During the first six months of this year the revival of Jewish immigration into Palestine, which had begun to recover from the depression of 1927 (when 2,358 more Jews left the country than entered it), and 1928, when the excess of immigration (2,178) over emigration (2,168) was ten, was quite strongly marked. In January, 352 Jews entered Palestine and only 89 left; for February the figures were 378 and 104; March, 373 and 155; April, 322 and 70; May, 195 and 184; and June, 205 and 179. In all 1,825 Jews entered the country during the first half of 1929, an excess of 1,044 over the 781 who left.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

October 24, 1929 (New Style).

October 11, 1929 (Old Style).

Jumada I. 20, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tishri 20, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

General Sir John and Lady Shea and the Misses Shea left London on October 17 for India.

The Earl of Inchcape left London on October 16 to join the Countess of Inchcape at Glenapp.

Sir John Maffey, Governor-General of the Sudan left London on October 15 for Alexandria and Khartoum.

Captain and Mrs. Duncan McCallum returned last week to 7, Cheyne Walk from Scotland.

Orhan Tahsin Bey, Secretary to the Turkish Embassy, left London last week for Angora.

Sir Alexander and Lady MacDougal left London last week on their return to Madras.

Abdolahad Khan Yekta has been appointed Secretary to the Persian Legation in London.

On November 13, at 5.15 p.m., Mr. H. A. R. Gibb will deliver at the School of Oriental Studies a public lecture on "Ibn Battutah."

The Maharaja of Rajpipla, the Yuverajah of Mysore, and Sir Muhammad Habibullah embarked in the Ranchi at Marseilles on October 18 for Bombay.

The Yugoslav Minister held an afternoon reception at the Legation on October 20, to meet Yugoslav doctors and medical students from the Universities of Yugoslavia.

Sir Atul Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India in London, has been given an extension of his term of office until April 1931.

Mr. Kenelm Preedy left Croydon on October 19 by air on his way to Palestine, where he will represent the Palestine Government before the Commission of Inquiry.

Lord and Lady Edward Gleichen returned on October 16 from Court-in-Holmes, Forest Row, Sussex, to 35, Catherine Street, S.W.

Lady Stephenson, Sir Leonard and Lady Adami, Sir Gordon and Lady Fraser, Sir Robert Dunlop, and Sir Thomas and Lady Smith left London on October 17 for Marseilles, to join the Ranchi, en route for Bombay.

His Majesty has approved the appointment of Mr. Reginald Hervey Hoare, C.M.G., a Counsellor in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service, to be a Minister Plenipotentiary whilst employed at the Residency at Cairo.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place tomorrow at Poona, India, between Major P. C. R. Dodd, D.S.O., M.V.O., British Military Attaché, Teheran, youngest son of the late Colonel Charles A. Dodd, and Norah Marguerite, eldest daughter of Lieut-Colonel R. C. Wilson, R.A.M.C.

Dame Louise Maxwell, widow of General Sir John Grenfell Maxwell, who both before and during part of the War was G.O.C., Egypt, died suddenly of heart failure on October 18, at her residence, 4, Queen's Gate Place.

Lord Herschell, Lord in Waiting to the King, died on October 11 at Ardington House, Wantage, Bucks, at the age of 51. Lord Herschell, who succeeded to the title in 1899, had travelled much, especially in the less frequented parts of Persia, and formed an interesting collection of Persian arms and armour.

THE YUGOSLAV VISIT.

A party of fifty doctors and fifty-six medical students from Yugoslavia, who are making a tour in Western Europe, arrived in London on October 18. The visitors were received by the Yugoslav Society of Great Britain, which with the help of the Fellowship of Medicine had made itself responsible for their programme during their stay in England. On Saturday morning an official welcome was given to the party at the Royal School of Medicine by Sir William Hale-White. Sir James Berry also spoke, on behalf of the Yugoslav Society, and Professor Burian replied for the Yugoslav visitors. The party then visited the British Museum and certain of their number were subsequently taken to the Maudsley Hospital at Denmark Hill, where they were received by Dr. Cooke Taylor. In the afternoon the visitors were entertained to tea at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Sunday was spent by over eighty of the visitors at Oxford, where a number of colleges were visited, and lunch was given them at Magdalen College. Others visited the Zoological Gardens. Later in the afternoon a reception was held at the Yugoslav Legation by Dr. Juritch.

On Monday morning visits were paid by different groups to London County Council Institutions, to Epsom Mental Hospital and to the Royal Free Hospital, and in the afternoon to St. Thomas's Hospital. On Tuesday morning the visitors laid a wreath at the Cenotaph. They were also received at the Royal College of Surgeons, and subsequently left for Paris.

On Monday evening a reception was held at Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk, by the Yugoslav Society in honour of the visitors. The guests were received by Sir James and Lady Berry and Mrs. Carrington Wilde. A feature of the evening was the performance of Morris dancing, which was much appreciated by all present. It was followed by an impromptu *Kola* (the national Yugoslav dance), given by the visitors themselves. The visit appears to have been an unqualified success, and the party expressed their indebtedness to the Yugoslav Society, especially to Mr. Roland Bryce, Miss Marx, Miss Johnston and Dr. Subotitch, who with Sir James and Lady Berry and Mrs. Carrington Wilde had been responsible for the carrying out of a crowded programme.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The "Edinburgh Review."

The *Edinburgh Review* has died. Few tears have been shed—had it been otherwise it would not have died. For it was, apparently, because it felt that it could not compete with journals that were published more frequently, daily, weekly, and monthly, that the melancholy decision was taken, after these more than hundred years, to let it perish. At least it can be said that it had magnificent obsequies, for every paper that had pretensions to culture gave space to a few "well-chosen words" on its demise.

I do not pretend to have studied each number as it came out with the attention that it probably deserved, but it is possible to say quite honestly that in the *Edinburgh Review* one could find stuff written from Olympian heights, with an amount of formulated serenity, that was very good to read. Not many people had the time, still fewer the inclination, to read it all, but I am surprised that there was not a sufficient number to keep it going.

It has been everywhere assumed that the whole tendency of the age was against the continuance of non-specialist quarterlies. I wonder? Did not the *Century*, of America, recently change from being a monthly into a quarterly? And will it be said that they have more time for contemplation in America than we have here? For shame!

Fashions in First Names.

The social historian who has infinite time on his hands ought to explore the connexion which exists between fashions in clothes, in morals, and in Christian names, or first names, as I believe they are called in America—which seems rather more fitting for our pagan age.

Quite certainly there is a fashion in names, as the industrious research student discovered the other day who informed the world that every other baby born in Mayfair in 1929 will, on the feminine side, at any rate, bear the name of Sarah, Sophia, or Virginia. What can all this mean but a direct return to Victorianism?

How different from the young Dianas and Pamelas now at school these young lavender-reminding females will be! How different, even, from their elder sisters, Doris, Gladys, Phyllis, and Joan! Perhaps. A revived Victorianism will be a fearsome thing. As for boys, they are indifferent to names, and persist in their evil-doing or mischief-making regardless of whether some old fogey named them Peter or David or John, or even, as in the earlier day, Warwick or Rupert.

Flying and Flu.

About this time of the year the thoughts of all cautious men are turned towards 'flu, or rather towards the prevention of it. For year after year passes and this dread disease in some form or another takes its toll of our people. Most philosophical souls, perhaps, have come to the conclusion that nothing can be done to forestall the beastly germ, that it is mainly a matter of luck. But there still exists a number of comparatively simple folk who believe that vaccines are a certain shield.

Unfortunately for this belief the Royal Air Force has just published the results of an experiment conducted at Halton. There a thousand apprentices were inoculated against influenza, but the disease, when it came, attacked them just as successfully as it did their unvaccinated fellows.

The truth appears to be that we are as far off as ever from having at our disposal a sure shield against influenza, which is perhaps our most homely and at the same time one of our most distressing and weakening complaints. Inoculations admittedly have worked well in some cases, but to suppose that they are at all generally effective is too optimistic.

Waterloo Bridge.

After many false alarms that Waterloo Bridge was doomed to destruction, it has now been virtually decided to preserve it. For the proposal that now holds the field is to do away with the ugly steel structure which has carried the south-going traffic for past months, and to recondition and widen Rennie's bridge itself. In any case, the wooden supports which have been shoring up what has been called "the noblest bridge in the world," have been an eyesore, and either a new bridge had to be built or the bridge be made adequate.

It will, presumably, be a difficult business making the bridge fit for the load of modern traffic. The roadway will have to be widened to thirty-five feet, and some of the piers and arches will have to be rebuilt. To the lay mind such an operation sounds full of danger, but it is assumed by competent engineers to be quite practicable.

All the artists and architects are delighted with the new decision, which has to be confirmed by the London County Council to-day. After all, most beautiful things, whether cottages or boats, have been preserved through their being adapted to modern requirements.

Landscape and "Progress."

Readers of these paragraphs may be almost weary with the emphasis laid on the work that is now going on in England in the despoiling of the beauties of the landscape, by means of material tokens of scientific "progress." But it should not be supposed that all hostility to visible signs of scientific improvement is reasonable, and Mr. Frank Hodges, who seems to have been converted from a promising politician into a prosperous businessman, has just been explaining how selfish and indefensible is much of the opposition, shown by wealthy people living in the country, to the erection of pylons and of overhead cables.

It is quite obvious that if all cables had to be taken underground the cost of electricity would be enormously increased. And why, Mr. Hodges asks, should the poor people, living in remote districts, have to pay more for their current because of the aesthetic objection of wealthy people? The matter is one for State opinion to prevail. A balance can, and must, be obtained between the securing of the amenities of civilisation and the maintaining of the beauties of tradition. To certain kinds of landscape pylons do little damage; in others they are an unforgivable offence. Decision on their erection should rest, not with suppliers of cheap electricity, whose aesthetics are rarely well developed, nor with those retired people whose rural prospects may be endangered, but with the community, which, once awakened, may be relied on to balance usefulness with beauty.

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Book Reviews

THE DANUBIAN STATES.

"ECONOMIC NATIONALISM OF THE DANUBIAN STATES." By **Leo Pasvolsky.** (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net).

The five countries with which this book deals—Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, and Yugoslavia—have either been carved out of the pre-War Austro-Hungarian Empire or have had portions of the former Habsburg domains joined to them. Accordingly there are five economic frontiers where only three existed before, and the experience of the last decade has shown that this state of affairs, however gratifying to nationalist sentiment, has not made for the material prosperity of any one of the States. "By easy analogy with pre-War conditions, the thought naturally occurs that the sane and most hopeful road for these countries to pursue is the one which leads to some sort of economic unity among them." The author investigates the prospects of such an economic unity. He sets out the basic elements in the post-War situation in the various countries, analyses the experience of each within its present frontiers, and finally appraises the possibilities for future development. The book provides a valuable analysis of the economic situation in each country; but the author's verdict is adverse to the chances of unity. The Peace Treaties have left three of the nations contented and two discontented, frontiers cut across economically interdependent areas, and a system of restrictions against mutual economic intercourse is a prominent feature of the present situation in the Danubian countries. No country feels strong enough to break away from a system which came into existence as a result of abnormal conditions and persists after those conditions have ceased to exist. Considerations of national sovereignty constitute a factor of paramount importance; the form of any economic union presents a serious problem, and finally, the attitude of outside Powers renders unification difficult. For these and other reasons the author decides that the weight of argument is against the creation of a Danubian economic union. There, unfortunately, he leaves the matter. The crux, he considers, lies in Austria and Hungary. There is a conflict between the industrialised and the industrialising countries. Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia constitute the former; Roumania and Yugoslavia the latter. It is admitted that neither of these latter countries—any more than the others—can be an economically self-contained area, and, if there are solid objections to their co-operating for economic ends with the three industrialised countries, the natural corollary would seem to be that the two should look elsewhere for economic unity. The only alternative lies in the direction of a Balkan federation. The proposal is not popular in Roumania, which seems to have revived its resentment towards being regarded as a Balkan State. The creation of the Little Entente, by linking Roumanian destinies with those of Czechoslovakia, is held to have given Roumania a Central European orientation, and this circumstance is gratifying to the country's pride. There would seem, however, to be no specific reason why Roumania should not still regard herself as of Central Europe, while heading an economic federation of the States of South-Eastern Europe.

Since Mr. Pasvolsky's book was written, there has been a more definite movement among the States of the Little Entente to explore the ground for economic co-operation. Another development is the new economic policy adopted by the Maniu Government in Roumania in contradistinction to the policy of M. Vintila Bratianu, the only one known to our author, which stood for slow development with the country's own means as opposed to

a more rapid development with foreign capital. Whether these movements would affect the author's verdict on the possibility of economic union between the five Danubian States may be doubted.

The book is issued under the auspices of the Brookings Institution—an American organisation "Devoted to Public Service Through Research and Training in the Humanistic Sciences"—which, it has to be inferred, has enabled Mr. Pasvolsky to carry out his investigations. The economic experience of Bulgaria since the War is promised as a separate study at a future date, and it will be of interest to see whether the author finds the prospects of economic unity among the countries of South-Eastern Europe—none of which has yet become an industrialised State—brighter than those of the Danubian countries. Within the compass of this review it has not been possible to do justice to the author's analysis of present-day conditions in the different States; but it may be stated confidently that the book provides an invaluable compendium for those who want a rapid and impartial survey of the economic situation in the five countries.

HOW PHARAOH LIVED AND DIED.

"THE PRIVATE LIFE OF TUTANKHAMEN." By **G. R. Tabouis.** Translated by **M. R. Dobie.** Illustrated. (London: George Routledge and Sons Ltd. 15s. net).

Mademoiselle Tabouis has used a light framework of fiction on which to display the conditions under which an Egyptian Pharaoh lived. She has, naturally enough, chosen Pharaoh Tutankhamen as her central figure. In doing so, she has certainly made her task easier, though one consequence is that, as a work of art, the book suffers from an excess of sentimentality which it was perhaps difficult to avoid. Where so few historical facts are known, the picture has perforce to be a composite one, depending not only on the contents of the marvellous tomb, but also on the sculptures, paintings and other records relating to Tutankhamen's predecessors and successors. Further, there are many pages of interesting glimpses, which the Egyptian sands have kept for us, into the life and thought of these old days. The result is an exceedingly readable and, in its limits, scholarly book which will enable many who would be scared by the learned works available, to inform themselves easily and pleasantly of much of the soul of ancient Egypt. The illustrations, which have been carefully selected and are well produced, do much to add to the book's usefulness.

If we find fault with the way in which references to authorities are treated in the foot-notes, we must not be thought to regard this defect as a very serious one in a book of this kind, where, after all, the intention is merely to give some indication to readers, who have felt themselves interested, where they may find further particulars for study. Still, bare references like "Plutarch," "Maspero," "Petrie," are far too common and are hardly helpful. Nor do they do justice to the genuine scholarship of the authoress. We trust that she will avoid them in her next work, to which we look forward, towards the sound popularising of the knowledge of ancient Egyptian civilisation.

C. S-W.

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NOTES AND NEWS

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The Misr Bank and Pilgrim Transport.

A new phase in the activities of the Misr Bank is marked by the news that the bank has received a contract for fifteen years from the Egyptian Government for the transport of pilgrims from Suez to the Hijaz. For the operation of the necessary services the bank is to receive a loan which will be repayable by instalments. A separate company will be formed by the bank for the pilgrim traffic, the capital of which will not be less than £E500,000. Special steamers will have to be obtained for the service and it is understood that it is intended between the pilgrim seasons to use the steamers for passenger and goods traffic between Egypt and neighbouring countries. If this development is successful it will no doubt form the forerunner of other steps in the direction of the acquisition of a modest mercantile marine—a project which is so dear to Egyptian hearts.

The Industrialisation of Turkey.

Much has been heard of the intention of the Angora authorities to exploit to the utmost the industrial possibilities of Turkey, but it is only now with the decision to establish an iron and steel industry that the first really important step has been taken to this end. It is worthy of note that in this venture Turkey is relying on German assistance, and the necessary contracts have gone to a German combine. As to the prospects for the creation of this industry it must be pointed out that Turkey has at her disposal ample supplies of the necessary raw materials. Iron ore exists in many parts of Anatolia in various forms, the largest deposits being at Ayasma, south of the Gulf of Edremid, at Alaya, on the east coast of the Gulf of Adalia, in the region between the Gulf of Alexandretta and Zeitun, and in the Brussa vilayet. Other important deposits exist in the vilayet of Aidin, at Kozan Dag and Demir Dag, in the vilayet of Lazistan, in the district of Tireboli and in the Van vilayet. As is well known also, the country possesses large supplies of coal, which, while greatly inferior to the British product, is believed to be suitable for most purposes if properly screened and washed. The factors which will handicap the efforts of the Angora authorities to develop the industry are the labour problem and the question of technical direction.

Motors in the Sudan.

The figures for motor cars in the Sudan in 1928 show a striking advance on the total for the previous year, the respective figures being 2,118 and 1,472. The increase of nearly 650 cars in a year emphasises the success of the road policy which the Sudan Government is so rigorously pursuing, but an analysis of the figures for the various types of cars scarcely justifies one in congratulating our manufacturers as a whole on the result. The Sudan is a market which, as I have often pointed out, offers special scope for our traders, but the bulk of the trade, as in so many other motor markets in the Near East, goes to the foreign manufacturer. Thus the 1928 total includes 1,095 Fords and 392 Chevrolets, the leading British firm being Morris Motors, who with 164 cars occupy the third place. I hear that Morris Motors, by the way, have been achieving a good deal of success in another Near Eastern market, Persia, and I only wish more of our firms would follow their example and produce cars suitable for the conditions encountered in countries like the Sudan and Persia. Concentration on the home market is all very

well, but if our unemployment problem is ever to be solved we must obtain all the overseas trade that is possible. I may add that the figures for motor cycles in the Sudan tell a very different story, it being a case of British cycles first and our competitors well behind. In 1928 the motor cycles in the Sudan numbered 337 as against 290 in the previous year, the principal makes being Triumph 81, B.S.A. 80, Raleigh 53, and A.J.S. 34, and most of the remainder were British. It is true that there is no clearance problem in regard to motor cycles, but is there really any valid reason why our motor car manufacturers cannot achieve a similar measure of success?

Bulgarian Currency Contract.

In view of the fact that the Royal Mint has just obtained the contract for the new Roumanian currency, it is a little disappointing that the similar Bulgarian contract should have gone elsewhere. The contract is for silver coins of 20, 50, and 100 leva of a total nominal value of 580 million leva, and for 5 and 10 leva coins of an alloy of nickel and copper of a nominal value of 250 million leva. Altogether there were eleven tenders, and the contract for the silver coins has been given to the Hungarian Mint, while that for the other coins has been obtained by the firm of Arthur Krupp-Bensdorf of Wurtemberg.

Lake Copais Company.

At the meeting of the Lake Copais Company Mr. Sandford Poole described the unfavourable climatic conditions encountered in 1928, a heavy rainfall in the spring and then a spell of hot weather adversely affecting the crops. In the circumstances it can be regarded as most satisfactory that the company's profits in Greece for the year amounted to £36,131, as against £32,367. The company has steadily proceeded with the development of its property, and by the end of 1928 the net area dealt with amounted to 11,794 acres. After an extension to April last the Greek Government's purchase option has definitely lapsed, so that by the terms of the arbitration award the greater part of the property becomes the company's freehold. It is interesting to note that the company is paying increasing attention to cotton production. In 1928 the area harvested amounted to 5,504 acres, as against 4,575 acres for the previous year, and cotton was responsible last year for 32.6 per cent. of the company's revenue.

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Aden	Calcutta	Colombo	Lahore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe	Uganda
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
 The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
 The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
 Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
 The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

Head Office — **SOFIA** — Founded in 1865

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, 522,000,000 leva

97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.
 The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

THE ECONOMIC ADVANCE OF THE SUDAN.

During the past year there has been a marked improvement in the economic situation in the Sudan, and the annual report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for 1928-29 is couched in a more encouraging tone than has been possible on the last two occasions. The effects of the late food crisis were pronounced, and while the country has shown marked recuperative powers a warning note is sounded in the report that if the balance has not been redressed by this year's harvest "it will not be long before difficulties begin to reappear." It is further pointed out that there is the possibility of more formidable invasions of locusts.

These are chastening reflections, and it is well to bear them in mind while taking stock of the various encouraging features in the present situation. The result of this year's rains will show whether or not the recent change is to continue and is a real promise of easier times.

It is comforting, however, to feel that the country's resources against food crises are continually being strengthened, and, as will be seen from the record of the recent developments of transport, the Sudan has been placed in a still stronger position to contend against the calamities into which it is periodically plunged by failures of the food crops.

Attention is fittingly drawn to the somewhat spectacular character of the economic career of the Sudan in the past five years. The period has been one of remarkable progress in many directions. It has seen a large extension of cotton growing in the Gezira for one thing, and another very notable development has been the construction of almost 500 miles of new railways at an expenditure, including rolling stock, of £E2,853,000. In addition, each year has seen great extensions of the road system, opening up hitherto untouched areas of the country and bringing within the bounds of possibility further economic expansion. Whatever may be said of the motor by cynics in crowded countries, to the Sudan it has meant a key to development, and a solution to the problem of the furtherance of progress in outlying areas. Hence the wise concentration on a programme which is covering the country with what may soon be described as a network of roads. It is significant that these things have been done in a period marked, or rather marred, by two of the worst harvests on record, but for which naturally the fruits of the works of development which have been accomplished would be much more apparent. While bad harvests are bound to recur from time to time, the records suggest that the country should now enjoy a series of good crops, and if that proves to be the case there is no doubt that the country's advance will be rapid, for the spade work has been accomplished and the foundations have been truly laid on which the country can build a prosperous future.

It is well said that the Sudan has always been a land full of sharp contrasts, and it is natural that they should have been intensified by the works of development. This can be instanced from the case of the great cotton pro-

ducing region, the Gezira. In that region there is a highly developed civilisation, and the value of the cotton in the export trade is such that, while the Sudan has a number of other important exports, the value of other forms of production is dwarfed. But it is pointed out that if it were possible to isolate the Gezira in examining the economics of the country the results would be misleading, for the effects of the prosperity of the Gezira are widespread, and the success of the cotton crop may influence trade many miles away from the province. Then in the rest of the central and northerly areas it is pointed out that conditions vary greatly. In some areas the population is scanty and in some unpromising.

In some districts the people may be expected to avail themselves readily of new facilities and aids to production, and are in fact already doing so to a satisfactory extent, as for instance in the cotton growing area in the Gash Delta in Kassala Province and in other parts of the country opened out by the new railways.

Reference has been made to the importance of the motor as an instrument for the development of the country. Of the influence on the general life of the country of the introduction of this form of transport the report has much to say of interest.

Socially and politically, this new form of transport, which appeals very strongly to the native, especially in the more sophisticated areas, where he is buying cars and lorries and going into the motor transport trade himself, must already have begun to make itself felt to a considerable degree. Many thousands of natives now have opportunities to travel which they never possessed before. Towns and outlying villages are being linked up, and inhabitants of comparatively remote districts are able to see the world and sharpen their wits by contact with fresh interests and activities.

This mixing up of the people has already begun to reflect itself in increased internal trade and a desire for a higher standard of living.

Economically, it is remarked, the direct effect of motor transport has not yet been very marked. Its indirect effects have, however, been important, notably its influence in widening the range of railway and river communications. Then it has made cotton growing possible in the south, has made traffic with the Belgian Congo feasible, and is influencing trade with Abyssinia. The difficulty to be overcome in the development of motor transport as an economic factor is that few of the Sudan products can stand the cost of mechanical transport. On the solution of this problem future developments largely depend.

Imports into Egypt for September amounted to £E4,814,476, against £E4,447,162 for the same month last year; and exports, £E1,670,660, against £E2,505,475. Cotton exports amounted to £E1,310,043, against £E2,065,120.

The Cunard Steamship Company is arranging to consolidate into a single office its various interests in the City of London. The office will occupy a corner site in Leadenhall Street and plans are being prepared with a view to an early start on construction.

EGYPTIAN STATE RAILWAYS

A pleasure trip to Egypt, the Land of Eternal Sunshine, is now within the reach of nearly everybody.

Combined Steamship, Railway, Sleeping, Restaurant and Pullman Car Tickets, from Marseilles to Assuan and return, including accommodation at the Leading Hotels, are available from 1st November, 1929, to 31st January 1930, as under:—

**1st Class throughout. } A. 10 days sea-passage & 18 days stay in Egypt... L. Stg.: 72.10.
B. 10 days sea-passage & 25 days stay in Egypt... L. Stg.: 81.10.**

A Supplement of L. Stg. 5 will be charged for November departures.

SMALL SUDAN GUM ARABIC CROP.

Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, report as follows for the week ended September 30:—

Arrivals in Kordofan stations amounted during September to 31 tons in all—a wholly negligible quantity—as against 270 tons last year, a shortage of 240 tons, or 80 per cent. The 1928/1929 season might be reckoned as practically closed. It is the smallest crop recorded since 1923, during which season commenced the series of crops averaging 20,000 tons for all quantities. The total arrivals of Kordofan gum from the beginning of the season to date amounted to 10,970 tons, as compared with 16,330 tons for the corresponding period in the 1927/1928 season, a shortage of about 5,350 tons, or 33 per cent. With the shortage of inferior Hashab estimated at about 2,000 tons, the total shortage in Hashab gums as against last season would amount to date to 7,350 tons.

El Obeid prices closed at 5s. per cwt. more than on August 31. Although much higher prices than the El Obeid price were offered, it has proved impossible to find any parcel of gum free from rain damage outside the daily arrivals at the auction markets.

Orders for old crop gum continued to come, but only a small proportion of them could be accepted owing to the absence of goods. Some business in new crop gum was also done, but neither buyers overseas nor sellers here appeared very anxious to contract at so early a period before the new season starts. It is too early yet for anything to be known concerning the new crop, and any business done is purely speculative.

Talha.—Although demand was small, prices rose 6d. per cwt. during September.

MARKING OF BULGARIAN PRODUCTS.

An Ordinance has been issued by the Bulgarian Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Labour, under the authority of the Law for the Encouragement of Local Industry, making it obligatory for any undertaking benefiting under the terms of the Law to place a distinctive mark of origin on articles produced by them for local consumption. The inscription is to be applied to the goods themselves, where such articles already bear a trade mark, or on the immediate packing where marking of the articles is not practicable. The ordinary inscription will be "Bulgarsho Proizvodstvo" (Bulgarian Production) or the abbreviated form "B.P." The additional marking will not be required where there already exists, in the Bulgarian language, the name of the firm or the location of its factory. Special forms of marking are prescribed for textile goods. The Ordinance prohibits the application of these marks allocated to local products to any manufactured articles imported into Bulgaria.

The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation has declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. actual on the ordinary capital, payable November 15, less tax at 2s. in the £.

The directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., have decided to recommend that a final dividend for the year 1929 of 2½ per cent., less income tax, be made from surplus profits on January 1, 1930, making with the guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent. payable on the same date, a total payment of 4½ per cent., less income tax, for the half-year ending December 31, 1929, and together with the payment that was made on July 1, 1929, a total payment of 8 per cent. for the year, being the same as the dividend paid for the previous year.

ANCHOR LINE LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

**LARGE STEAMSHIPS, UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.**

Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*ELYSIA ...	Nov. 12	*CASTALIA ...	Dec. 10
*MASSILIA ...	Nov. 26	*BRITAINNA ...	Jan. 10

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.
‡First and Third class passengers.

**ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.**

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Electric Lighting Installation.—The Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of Diesel-engine driven electric lighting installation at Abou-Tig (Assiut Province). November 30. (D.O.T.)

Wines and Spirits.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of brandy, rum, sherry, and Malaga wine required during the year ending April 30, 1931. December 7. (D.O.T.)

Pharmaceutical Sundries.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of various pharmaceutical sundries required during the year 1930-31. December 7. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Battery Charging Motor Generators, Transformer, and Oil Switch. The Indian Stores Department, Simla, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of the above electrical machinery for the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Wireless Section, Simla. November 12. (D.O.T.)

Two Generating Sets, etc.—The Indian Stores Department, New Delhi, invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of two 20 k.w. oil engine driven D.C. generators, water softening plant, and overhead travelling crane. November 18. (D.O.T.)

Wet Concrete Mixers.—The Indian Stores Department, Engineering Branch, New Delhi, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of wet concrete mixers. November 7. (D.O.T.)

Dusters.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of dusters. November 12. (D.O.T.)

ROMANIA.

Tin in Blocks and Rods, etc.—The British Consul at Timisoara reports that a local firm wish to get into touch with United Kingdom suppliers of English Standard, Lamb and Flag, and Banca tin in blocks and rods, and also of tinplates. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Postal Boxes.—The Post and Telegraph Department of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes intends to order a certain number of postal boxes for the Central Post Office in Belgrade. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Glasgow, October 30; Manchester, November 4; Birkenhead, November 5). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Blockbank Line.—S.s. Circassia for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 31); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 7).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Cheshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 30).

British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 2); s.s. Domala for Bombay (London, November 2).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Algiers, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Corfu, Bari, Gruz, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also Palermo, Messina, Catania, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, October 26; Swansea, October 26); s.s. Bantia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if inducement (Glasgow, November 14; Liverpool and Swansea, November 16).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Avigmore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 8) (this steamer will be the last sailing of the season to the ports of Galatz and Braila, and sailing November 9); s.s. Quernmore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Viceroy of India for Bombay (London, November 8); s.s. Behar for Calcutta (London, November 8).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, October 26); s.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 9).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Andalusian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, October 31); s.s. Lesbian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piraeus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 2; Swansea, November 2); A steamer for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, November 7); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, November 9; Swansea, November 14); s.s. Roumelian for Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piraeus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, November 23; Swansea*, November 23). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piraeus or other convenient port.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, October 22.

The pressure of liquidation has exerted a strong influence on prices on the Stock Exchange during the past week and apart from gilt edged stocks a long list of declines has to be recorded. The Consol market has maintained a fairly firm appearance thanks to the strength of sterling in terms of the dollar, and partly owing to a transfer from speculative stocks to high-class securities. Fluctuations in Wall Street and forced liquidation produced an all-round decline in the industrial section, oil shares became less firm and the mining markets were reactionary. A feature of the foreign market was the weakness of Brazilian bonds. Australian stocks were adversely affected by the results of the elections in the Commonwealth. Altogether the Stock Exchange has passed an unhappy week. The uncertain movements of New York have been an important factor and while a strong reaction in that centre would probably be to London's ultimate advantage, its immediate effects would be to add to the existing unsettlement.

Industrial Profits.

From the *Economist's* compilation of industrial profits as made public during each quarter of the year by a number of representative companies, it would appear that during the third quarter of this year a set-back was visible compared with the steady advance over the last seven years, except for the period of the coal dispute. The set-back as revealed by the total profits of the 257 companies investigated, on closer examination is found to be due mainly to adverse conditions of companies trading abroad, especially in the groups of rubber and tea, but in the home industries advance is on the whole to be recorded with the important exception of textiles, and in the textile group the decline is mainly attributable to one firm, British Celanese. Iron, coal and steel and shipping,

it is noteworthy, show improvements this year. The net profits published of the 257 companies amounted to £23,327,750, which was distributed in the proportion of 61.6 per cent. to ordinary dividends, 17.8 per cent. preference dividends and 20.6 per cent. was "left in the business," i.e., placed to reserve. Compared with the third quarter of last year slightly more of the profits were paid out in dividends leaving a smaller proportion for allocation to reserves. The amount "left in the business" this quarter as usual, varied considerably from industry to industry; iron, coal and steel placed over 32 per cent. of profits to reserve, shipping as much as 45 per cent., but breweries, for example, only 17.2 per cent.

Paint Prosperity.

While many principal industries have been experiencing hard times, supplementary trades have managed to prosper and of these the paint business is a conspicuous example. The recently published report of Goodlass, Wall and Co., paint, colour and varnish manufacturers, show a profit of £72,967 for the 14 months ending August 31 last as against £52,585 for the 12 months ended June 30, 1928. A final dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares makes the dividend 22½ per cent. for the period as against 17½ per cent. for the previous year. Reserves received £5,299 (against £10,000 last year) and are thus brought up to £170,000. The company's business has been extended to new areas with results satisfactory to the directors, and an arrangement has been made with Valentine and Co., of New York, for the sale and manufacture of that company's brand of goods in the British Isles and certain colonies. Another successful firm in the same line of business is Pinchin, Johnson and Co., who last year paid a 30 per cent. dividend on their old ordinary share capital and have for the current period paid 10 per cent. on the enlarged ordinary capital which amounts to £1,374,956. This company, which in its last report showed reserves and balance amounting to £1,264,648, has been progressing steadily and expanding its activities abroad. In view of the capital bonus increase the yield on the ordinary shares cannot be accurately stated, but the preference shares which are very well covered yield £5 15s. per cent.

Argentine Loans.

In his speech at the annual general meeting of the Anglo-South American Bank, the Chairman, Mr. R. J. Hose, gave his usual interesting review of conditions in the Latin-American states. Of these Argentina is the most important to British investors, her securities being very popular on the Stock Exchanges here. During 1928 conditions in that country were good, but in the present year a reduced output of wheat and linseed is anticipated owing to the prolonged drought. Nevertheless, said Mr. Hose, generally speaking the Argentine economic situation continues on a very sound basis, although the immediate future naturally depends upon the eventual out-turn of the forthcoming crops. On a longer view, the outlook for the Republic is decidedly favourable. Until this year production of all staple commodities had shown such a steady and such a substantial advance that it could not be solely attributed to favourable climatic conditions. The present President, Dr. Irigoyen, too, who assumed office in October 1928, has given evidence of a policy favourable to the intensive development of the agricultural industry of Argentina, as well as towards improvements and extensions in the railway systems. The 5 per cent. Gold Loan of the Republic yields £5 5s. per cent. the 5 per cent. Port of Buenos Aires Bonds, £5 11s. per cent., and the Province of Buenos Aires 5 per cent. Consolidated Gold Loan yields £6 7s. per cent.

It is estimated that the 1929 crop of locust beans in Cyprus will amount to about 25,000 tons. To this should be added about 1,000 tons of the 1928 crop still unshipped.

INDIAN AFRICAN SERVICE

Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

RANGOON, CALCUTTA, and COLOMBO
TO BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
PORT ELIZABETH, MOSSEL BAY, and CAPE TOWN.Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
Wireless Telegraphy.

ORIENTAL AFRICAN SERVICE

Passenger and Freight Service from

HONG KONG, BANGKOK, SINGAPORE & MAURITIUS
TO SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
Wireless Telegraphy.Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C. 3

THE MOTOR SHOW.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The temptation in reviewing an exhibition of this character is always to be over-indulgent in superlatives, but on this occasion I have no anxiety lest undue exuberance should bring down upon my head the barbs of criticism, for I think there is a very general measure of agreement that the Motor Show of 1929, from whatever angle it is viewed, marks a very distinct advance on any of its predecessors. In saying this, one says a good deal, for there has never been a Motor Show which has not been a delight to the eye and a temptation to the purse. This time the charm and the desire are alike intensified by the attractions of the latest models which the manufacturers of this and other countries have contrived for our captivation.

All told there are, I believe, about 350 cars in the Show, and between them they cover all manner of prices—the difference between the cheapest and the most expensive car is about £3,000—and meet every requirement that the motorist, actual or potential, can put forward. One matter in which there is little change from last year is the question of price, and I should think it doubtful whether prices are now likely to go much lower. Manufacturers have contented themselves this time with introducing improvements in various directions, with the result that the 1930 car represents much better value than its similarly priced rival of a year ago. A feature of the Show of special interest is the marked increase in the number of six-cylinder models shown by British firms. Other developments of note are the fitting of unsplinterable glass, automatic gear change, and the adoption of chromium plating. Improvements in the body of cars have kept pace with other developments. The stream-line appears to be no longer fashionable, except on American cars, but most of the cars approach very closely to it, and while it is purely a matter of taste, a certain unevenness of outline gives a far from displeasing effect. The luggage arrangements are now much improved, and the attachment at the back now proves a graceful addition to the body. At one stand, that of a foreign firm, I noticed an additional luggage receptacle on the hood, the effect of which was anything but satisfactory, and the innovation is not one which I think is likely to be followed. An interesting development in some cars was the absence of a dashboard, the advantage or otherwise of which must remain to be seen. Personally, I thought it detracted from the appearance of the cars, but in this as in other things it is no doubt a case of *alii alia sentiunt*. I have left to the last the principal departure from previous practice of this year's Show, that being the experiment of Trojan Ltd, in placing the engine at the back of the car where it simply appears in the place of the luggage receptacle. The advantage of this development is that the engine drives direct on to the back axle, and the long propeller shaft, the universal joint, and reduction gearbox are all eliminated. It is claimed that steering is much easier with the engine at the back, and driving is vibrationless. It will be interesting to see if this departure is followed by other manufacturers in the course of the next year.

As usual the stand of Morris Motors Ltd., is a special attraction. This firm's exhibits include an 8 h.p. four-cylinder Minor fabric saloon in blue, a 8 h.p. four-cylinder

Minor coach built saloon in brown with folding head, an 11.9 h.p. four-cylinder Cowley coupe in blue with a folding head, a six-cylinder Oxford saloon in blue with a sliding roof, and a fabric saloon. Of these cars the Oxford six-cylinder particularly merits attention. The chassis of this type is also exhibited, and shows the wonderful mechanical construction. The features include an automatic radiation system and a device for dealing with fumes from the engine, hydraulic brakes on all four wheels, easily adjusted hand brake operating on the rear wheels, a self-cleaning oil cleaner, and hydraulic shock absorbers. All the Morris cars, it may be added, have unsplinterable glass, shock absorbers at front and back, and four wheel brakes. Another stand of special interest is that of the Austin Motor Company, whose exhibits include their well-known ranges of 7 h.p. to 20 h.p. cars. A 7 h.p. chassis is shown, also a 7 h.p. saloon and a 7 h.p. tourer. The 7 h.p. and 12 h.p. cars have four cylinders, but the other models have six cylinders. The cars are all fitted with four-wheel brakes, unsplinterable glass and shock absorbers to the front and rear. At the stand of Singer and Co., there is a very attractive two-seater sports model in green. Features of this car are three forward speeds and central change, four-wheel brakes, and shock absorbers. In an exhibition so comprehensive as this and so packed with attractive cars, it is no easy task to single out stands for special mention, and those I have referred to must serve as examples of what is to be seen at this year's Show. Of the stands not devoted to cars mention must be made of that of the British Petroleum Co., showing a model of a refining plant, and that of the Dunlop Rubber Company. As a matter of fact, most of the stands were, in a way, Dunlop stands, for car after car bore the word Dunlop on its tyres.

ROUMANIA'S NEW OILFIELD.

The recent discovery of oil on the Boldesti field, which has hitherto been known only as a gas producer, has given a great impetus to the Roumanian petroleum industry (says the *Petroleum Times*). The Shell Company's (Astra Romana's) well No. 7, after penetrating the gas levels, reached a 50 ft. oil sand in the neighbourhood of 4,850 ft., and according to the latest advice is producing 140 tons, or about 1,000 barrels, of light oil per day through a 12 mm. bean, to which diameter the well is pinched down. The Boldesti anticline is one of the largest in Roumania and the lands situated upon it are principally owned by the Shell, Phoenix, and the Standard Oil Companies. It will be recollected that at a depth of about 4,600 ft. large quantities of gas were discovered—the wells producing as much as 4,000,000 cubic feet per day through a 7 mm. bean and under the colossal pressure of 2,400 lb. per sq. in. It is now also practically certain that further oil-sands will be found below the 4,850 ft. level, since the Meotie oil-producing series have only been penetrated to the extent of less than half their usual thickness. The Boldesti discovery, following as it does upon the proving of the Ceptura anticline where a similar structure exists, has created much confidence amongst operators, as the many similar structures held by the larger oil companies can now be confidently tackled and great development may be expected in the near future.

DUNLOP RUBBER PLANTATIONS EXTENSION.

Two million young rubber trees are now being planted in the Dunlop plantations, Malaya, section by section as the heavy tropical jungle is cleared and its soil prepared over an area of sixteen square miles. In ten years' time it is expected that the new trees will yield an annual crop of 5,000 tons of rubber. At present 8,500 tons of rubber a year is being tapped from four million trees. Every other day a very thin strip of bark is cut from each tree and the fluid rubber drips into the cup below. As each cup receives, on the average, only half an ounce of dry rubber daily, between six and seven hundred million cupfuls of it have to be collected in the course of twelve months. One-third of the native workers are Chinamen, but the bulk of them are Tamil specially recruited from the South of India. Temples for their worship are built by the Dunlop organisation, which also provides houses and hospitals for them, schools for their children, and rice at cost price. Golf courses have been laid down for the European staff, whose Rugby team is making a bid for the championship of Malaya. Early next year the dense jungle is to be tackled over a further sixteen miles of the Dunlop territory, which is more than 125 miles in extent.

MICA AND ALL ELECTRICAL INSULATING MATERIALS

Contractors to the British, American, French and Italian Admiralty and War Office.

ATTWATER & SONS, PRESTON, England

Company Meetings.

LAKE COPAIS COMPANY.

Steady Progress with Development.

Debenture Arrangement Approved.

The ordinary general meeting of the Lake Copais Company, Ltd., was held on October 21 at Winchester House, E.C.

Mr. W. Sandford Poole (the chairman), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The autumn of 1927 was a favourable one and permitted good progress being made with early crop cultivation, but during the first quarter of the year 1928, which was one of the wettest on record in the annals of the company, exceptionally heavy rains were experienced. The actual rainfall registered was in those three months over 21 in., compared with less than 8 in. in the corresponding period of 1927 and an average of about 12 in. This interfered with cultivation operations. Some 1,750 acres of early crops were ruined by flooding, which occurred following a breach in the bank of the Marsh Canal, caused probably by weakness at one spot owing to the burrowing of an otter.

The rains were in May succeeded by a spell of hot weather, which led to the premature ripening of the early crop cereals generally, and caused damage to the young plants of maize and cotton, large areas of which had to be resown. The summer was a comparatively cool one, the wet season providing an ample supply of irrigation water, and the autumn was favourable for the harvesting of the cotton and maize.

Steady progress continues to be made with the development of the property, the areas from which crops were harvested being the largest since the year 1918 and over 12 per cent. more than in the year 1927. Of the area cultivated in 1928, 3,571 acres were broken in and prepared by our development department, the whole being sown by tenants.

At the end of the year 1928 the net area dealt with by the company since 1924, when the programme was initiated, amounted to 11,794 acres. The total cost of the programme up to the end of the year 1928 was approximately £13,061, all of which has been met out of revenue, and works out at about 22s. per acre.

A comparison of areas harvested in 1923 and 1928 is interesting and instructive. In 1923 the area harvested was 34,491 acres—showing an increase of nearly 40 per cent. The caterpillar tractors, which we purchased for use in ploughing derelict areas, have proved to be a great success, and we purchased two more up-to-date machines towards the end of 1928, which are yielding even better results.

The area of cotton harvested was about 20 per cent. larger than that of the previous year, 4,405 acres compared with 4,575 acres, whilst the company's total collections of this crop increased by about 26 per cent. The water supply for irrigation purposes was plentiful, the crop was remarkably free from disease, and the price obtained was in advance of that obtained in the previous year.

Of our revenue in 1927 cotton yielded 24.2 per cent., whilst in 1928 cotton yielded 32.6 per cent. On an estate which can supply irrigation water, cotton is perhaps one of the best paying crops, and we are doing all we can to foster the growing of this crop by the cultivators.

The net profit in Greece for the year ended December 31, 1928, is £36,131, which compares with £32,367 in the previous year. For the first time since the distribution made in the year 1921, payment of interest (less income tax) at the rate of 5 per cent. on the "A" debenture stock issued is being made in cash and will absorb £13,897.

It is also possible to increase the rate of interest recommended for distribution on the "B" debenture stock from 4½ per cent. to 5 per cent., and, in accordance with the terms of the scheme approved to-day at class meetings of the "A" and "B" debenture stockholders, this distribution, less income tax, will be made in the form of fully-paid scrip certificates of "A" debenture stock taken at the price of 80.

At the general meeting last year I informed the proprietors that the Greek Government had requested the company to extend until December 31, 1928, the time for exercising their purchase option under the arbitration award, in order that they might further consider the matter and come to a decision. By the wish of the Greek Government, negotiations through the medium of the Greek Minister in London ensued.

After much correspondence and many interviews, the time limit was reached without any result being achieved, and the State's request for a further and definitely final extension of the option until the end of April, 1929, was acceded to by the board.

However, this extension also lapsed, no definite offer to purchase the estate for cash or marketable securities having been received by the board. The greater part of the estate, therefore, has now, by virtue of the terms of the arbitration award, become the company's freehold.

As regards the current year, owing to the severe drought experienced this spring the early crop harvest has proved to be disappointing, but, on the other hand, the areas sown in late crops, principally maize and cotton, have been very considerably increased. It is hoped that the yields from the late crops will in some measure compensate for the deficiency in the early crops, but recent reports from the estate indicate unseasonable weather for the gathering in of these late crops.

There is only one other matter I need refer to: it is the resolution to increase the borrowing powers of the board as set out in the notice

of meeting. There is no present intention of exercising these powers beyond the increase of £50,000 "A" debenture stock which the "A" and "B" debenture stockholders have just authorised, but we think it well that the directors should have in hand a moderate margin of borrowing powers.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted; the formal business was duly transacted, and a resolution was passed extending the borrowing powers of the directors.

At separate meetings of the "A" and "B" debenture stockholders resolutions were passed sanctioning the arrangements referred to by the chairman at the ordinary general meeting.

H.E.H. THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAYS.

Another Satisfactory Year.

The seventy-sixth general meeting of H.E.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company, Ltd., was held on October 22 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. The Chairman (Lieutenant-Colonel George Huddleston, C.I.E., V.D.) presided.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—You may remember that last year ill-health prevented my meeting you. This year I rise with mixed feelings. First of all, it is a great pleasure to see so many of you here to-day. Secondly, the report is of such a highly satisfactory character that it speaks for itself and my task in placing it before you is comparatively simple. But there is another side to the picture. There is a possibility, I need not put it higher than a possibility, that we may not meet again on the same footing as we have done annually for so many years past. I will revert to this later on.

I have told you, and I feel sure you will agree, that the report before you is of a very satisfactory nature. The working results of our broad gauge system are particularly so; the net results in sterling having risen in round figures from £479,500 to £520,000, or by nearly 8½ per cent. On the metre gauge as well the comparison shows an increase. There has also been a striking advance in the earnings of Government lines worked by us, both broad and metre gauge. The broad gauge Kazipet Balharshah Railway was opened throughout for all classes of traffic in November, 1928. Between then and March 31 last, that is to say in five months, its earnings were more than double what they were for the previous 7 months before the line was completed, and there was no through booking. The earnings of the Secunderabad-Dronachellum Railway have also improved greatly since a connexion with the railways in Southern India was made in September, 1928.

In my view the Kazipet-Balharshah Railway has only begun to touch the potentiality of the big earnings I venture to predict for it. I referred briefly to its prospects in my address last year. I believe, also, that in the metre gauge Secunderabad-Dronachellum Railway, His Exalted Highness's Government have a system carrying great hopes of development. All that is needed is a liberal rates policy and a sound anticipation of necessary facilities to deal with prospective traffics.

I am sure you do not wish me to take up your time in analysing the traffic of our own lines. I will, therefore, only say a few words about it. On the broad gauge both coaching and merchandise earnings improved. Naturally, there were fluctuations in various items; for example, a decrease occurred in suburban passengers, but this was more than made up by a growth in ordinary passenger traffic. It was not, however, the coaching, but the merchandise and minerals that account for the greater part of the broad gauge increase, and a portion of this was derived from an entirely new passing and interchange traffic with the Government lines already referred to. Similarly on the Hyderabad Godavery Valley Line both merchandise and coaching earnings were slightly better than in the preceding

COMPANY NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, will be held at the Offices of the Company, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1, on Friday, the 1st November, 1929, at 11.30 a.m., for the purpose of receiving the Directors' Report and Statements of Accounts for the Year ended 31st March, 1929, and for the transaction of the ordinary general business of the Company.

The Transfer Books will be closed from Tuesday, the 17th, to Tuesday, the 31st day of December, 1929, both days inclusive, for the preparation of the half-yearly Warrants.

Transfers will not be received at the Office while the Books remain closed.

The Warrants, payable on and after the 1st January, 1930, will be forwarded to the Proprietors on the 31st December, 1929.

By order,

A. MUIRHEAD,
Managing Director.

Company's Offices:—

91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1.
16th October, 1929.

excellent year, but details of fluctuations do not call for comment.

I will now pass on to the question of the possible purchase by His Exalted Highness's Government of the company's lines. You know that His Exalted Highness's Government have the right under the contract to give notice of its termination on January 1, 1933, and to end it on January 1, 1934. The Board were prepared to see the Government take this step when the time came, and for this reason never felt confident that we had more than a short life before us.

Last summer we heard from our agent in India, Mr. Lloyd Jones, that His Exalted Highness's Government were considering the possibility of making us an offer to take over the railways from a still earlier date than that provided for under the contract. We invited Mr. Lloyd Jones to come home to discuss the subject with us. The Board discussed the matter with Mr. Lloyd Jones and told him that if a sufficiently liberal offer was made to them by the Government of His Exalted Highness the Board would not hesitate to put it before the stockholders. You will readily understand the desire of the Government to secure under their own management such a prosperous undertaking and that it may be well worth their while to offer a price which may induce you to part with it at once instead of waiting until 1934. On the other hand, His Exalted Highness's Government will, on their side, no doubt appreciate, what I believe to be the fact, that you, the stockholders, are very well satisfied with the position as it stands and are not desirous to change it before you must, unless indeed it is made unquestionably worth your while to do so.

Soon after his return to India Mr. Lloyd Jones was able to advise the Board that His Exalted Highness the Nizam had sanctioned a proposal being prepared by his Government with a view to an offer being made to us. It then seemed only right that the proprietors should be apprised of the position, and, as a result, the Board's notice, dated September 20, was advertised in the public Press and copies were issued to the stockholders. Since then, your Board's knowledge of what will happen has not been added to. No offer has yet been made to them, and I may say that we have reason to believe that if it is made it is not likely to reach us much before the end of the year.

You may rest assured that if, and when, such a proposal does come, provided that it is of a nature the Board think it well to recommend you to accept, you will be invited to attend a meeting, when the position will be placed before you again and you will be consulted as to your wishes before any definite step is taken.

A cable has just reached us from our agent regarding the prospects for the current year. There had been some anxiety regarding the rainfall, which was short, but he tells us that recently there has been very satisfactory rain, which had benefited the crops greatly and they are expected to be exceptionally good. The agent anticipates that the net earnings will be somewhat better than for the year I have just commented upon.

The motion was carried unanimously.

EASTERN AND OVERSEAS PRODUCTS.

Amalgamation with Eastern Oil Industries.

The first ordinary general meeting of Eastern and Overseas Products, Ltd., was held on October 22 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, K.G. (the Chairman), in the course of his speech, said:—It is a source of satisfaction to me that in this our first year we have been able to make considerable progress. This is particularly gratifying as, owing to our close connexion with Germany, we had to face during a large part of the period under review economic conditions in that country which were difficult.

Our company was formed for the purpose of acquiring and holding one-half of the issued capital of the Aktiengesellschaft für Osthandel of Berlin and of acting as the connecting link between the Osthandel and this country, where the Osthandel expected to develop its trading business. The main part of our capital, to be exact £337,500 out of £400,000, was invested in the shares of the German company, leaving a relatively unimportant balance available for direct business. The Aktiengesellschaft für Osthandel, mainly owing to the constant assistance of the Deutsche Bank, which even before its recent amalgamation with another important German bank, viz., the Direktion der Disconto Gesellschaft, was one of the most powerful banks on the

Continent, has developed a large and extensive business as general merchants in raw materials and foodstuffs in Germany and in the countries of Eastern Europe (excepting Russia) and the Balkans. The Osthandel enjoyed, therefore, from its start the fruits of the special experience which German trade and banking had acquired in these countries for many years before the War, and could rely on the remarkable organisation which had been built up since under altered conditions. Under these favourable auspices the Osthandel was able to extend its business and increase its turnover. For the last few years it has paid a dividend of 15 per cent.

Our company, being during its first year mainly a holding company, was dependent for its profits on the results of the trading of the Osthandel, and was chiefly interested in assisting it by means of our company's English connexions and in assuming a certain control of a general character over the Osthandel's policy. As regards profits, our company had, in addition to the dividends on its holding, to look to revenue arising from various commercial services which we were able to render to the Osthandel as regards arranging of credits, insurance, and by way of executing its various orders and joining in various contracts, which resulted at the end of the year in a handsome return.

Conditions in Germany.

Our first year experienced very difficult conditions in Germany, which naturally affected the Osthandel. Shortage of capital remains still a source of considerable difficulty in Germany, but we look with every hope and confidence to a steady general improvement. Apart from the German business, we have started certain direct trading operations in this country in various commodities, particularly in those in respect of which we could, through our German connexions, get into touch with suitable openings. We look forward to being able to develop extensive direct trading mainly on a commission basis.

At the extraordinary general meeting which was held in May I dealt fully with the question of the increase of the company's capital. Since the date of the balance-sheet, viz., June 30, this important transaction, which raised the paid-up capital of the company to £1,010,000, has been completed, the company using the proceeds of the newly issued shares, viz., £610,000, roughly as to one-half for the purpose of acquiring the balance of the shares in the Osthandel and the other half for the purpose of increasing its cash resources. Our company is thus now the only shareholder of the Osthandel and disposes of important cash resources which enables it for the present to effect considerable saving in interest and bank charges. It was also able to replace a part of its bank credits by its own money, while its increased cash resources will enable it to get increased bank credits when it wants them later on.

The company has not lost its close connexion with the powerful German group which was instrumental in creating the Osthandel. The group agreed to exchange its holding of Osthandel shares for shares in our company, and the Deutsche Bank, one of whose directors is a member of our board, has assured the company of its continued support. We are busily engaged now jointly with our German friends in reviewing the business of the Osthandel. The simplification of control should result in very considerable saving on account of general expenses. Whereas the Osthandel up to now has worked mainly through subsidiary companies in which other parties had certain interests, it intends in future to assume sole control and either to have the subsidiary companies merged in it or work them as separate departments only. We hope that in one of the European offices, where we had to work through three different organisations, the "rationalisation" should yield the very considerable saving of at least £10,000 a year. In this connexion we have found it desirable to ask Mr. Max Rosenberg, who was the senior general manager of the Osthandel, to take up his residence in London as a managing director in order to have his knowledge of the business and organising experience close at hand.

Conversion of Deferred Shares.

Passing now to other matters, I intimated to you in May that we should shortly make certain proposals with regard to the £10,000 deferred shares which we are advised in responsible quarters are more a handicap than anything else for the development of this company. The existence of these deferred shares creates an obstacle to a true and exact appreciation on the Stock Exchange and elsewhere of the value of the ordinary shares of the company, and it appears to be in the interests of all shareholders to bring this uncertainty to an end and to put the capital of the company on a uniform basis. This may be achieved by converting the deferred shares into ordinary shares, which the Board are now asking the

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shareholders to approve. In submitting a ratio of exchange at four ordinary for one deferred I desire to state that we arrived at this ratio after full and careful consideration of all aspects of the case and after obtaining the best financial advice. This conversion requires the issuing of 30,000 ordinary shares out of the 90,000 shares which are still unissued to the holders of the 10,000 deferred shares, who will, of course, retain those shares after they have been converted into ordinary shares. The 30,000 ordinary shares, which will constitute the consideration for the surrender of the deferred rights, will be paid up in full out of the company's reserves.

Before turning to the accounts there remains only one important point to deal with, namely, the amalgamation with the Eastern Oil Industries, Ltd. We already control about 55 per cent. of the issued capital of the Eastern Oil Industries, Ltd., a company registered with a fully paid up capital of £500,000. Eastern Oil Industries, Ltd., is engaged in the manufacture and sale of vegetable oils in the Near East and Roumania. It has recently concluded an important agreement with the Margarine Union group, disposing of some of its assets in Europe for a considerable compensation, to which we were a party, limiting the sphere of its operations and establishing a friendly collaboration with this powerful concern within this sphere. The reasons for the amalgamation with the Eastern Oil Industries are dealt with in a joint statement of the two Boards, which has been communicated to the shareholders, and they commend themselves to your Board, who are of the opinion, that if the amalgamation is carried through on the lines which have been carefully considered, the position of our company will be substantially strengthened. The purchase of the outstanding shares in the Eastern Oil Industries, Ltd., will require the issue of 345,000 ordinary shares in our company, so that after the conclusion of this transaction and taking into consideration the proposed conversion of the deferred shares, the total paid-up capital of our company will amount to £1,385,000. It is proposed that upon the amalgamation becoming effective your Board will be reconstituted and that a number of the directors will resign, but no retiring director will receive from the company any compensation for loss of office.

Profits.

Turning to the figures of profit, which amount to £53,086, I have already indicated that it consists of dividends on our holding in the Oshandel amounting to £22,500 and of various commissions, etc. Thus the net result, after charging directors' fees and legal and professional charges, amounts to about 12 per cent. on the capital. We have already paid an interim dividend of 3 per cent., and we propose now to pay a final dividend of 5 per cent., making a total dividend of 8 per cent. for the period covered by the accounts, and to utilise the available balance of £17,329 in writing off our preliminary expenses, which stand in our balance-sheet at £8,807, leaving £8,521 to be carried forward. I am sure you will consider these are satisfactory figures for the first year of a company in our position.

Reference has been made in the directors' report to our regret that Sir Edwin Dodd has, acting under medical advice, been compelled to resign his seat on the Board. I would like to emphasise here the great loss your company has sustained by his retirement, since from his exceptional knowledge and experience he was a tower of strength to the Board and from his genial personality a most pleasant associate.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted without question or comment.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the company, followed by separate meetings of the holders of the ordinary and deferred shares, the proposals for the conversion of the deferred shares into ordinary shares were unanimously approved.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, directors, and staff closed the meeting.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

EASTERN OIL INDUSTRIES.

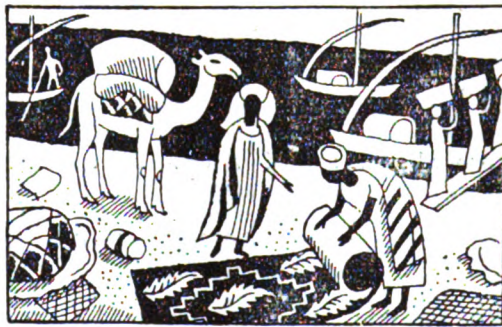
The report of the Eastern Oil Industries, Ltd., states that so far as the original company (Palestine Oil Industry Shemen, Ltd.) is concerned, the accounts cover the period from January 1, 1928, to June 30, 1929. Early in 1928 the re-equipment of the factory at Haifa was set on foot; and later in 1928 the undertaking at Smyrna was acquired and the reorganisation was started. In order that the accounts might be presented to the shareholders as soon as possible after the close of the company's accounting period, viz., June 30 last, the accounts of the branches and subsidiary companies abroad were closed some months prior to that date, and the accounts therefore only include the trading results for a portion of the period. The work of organising and equipping the company's undertakings is now completed, and the prospects of the company, especially in Turkey, where the new tariffs came into operation on October 1, 1929, are in the view of the Board satisfactory; but having regard to the limited period during which the company's undertakings as reorganised have been in operation, the Board have not found themselves in a position to recommend the payment of a dividend.

In June, 1929, after considerable negotiations, arrangements were concluded with the Margarine Union Group involving the sale to the Union of the company's undertakings and interest in Hungary, Austria, and Poland, and providing an agreed and friendly basis for conducting the operations of the two companies in the Near East. Subject to certain trading restrictions, most of the countries in Europe and the Near East, which constitute the region of the

principal activities of the company are retained by the company as its sphere of operations; and in two of the countries of Eastern Europe a basis of joint working has been agreed upon. In consideration of this agreement the company was credited with the gross amount of £511,224. This was subject to certain deductions for charges, commissions, compensations to subsidiary companies and adjustments contemplated under the contract, amounting to £78,229, leaving a net cash balance receivable by the company of £432,995. This amount, pending further developments of the undertaking, has been employed in repayments of the company's loans from its bankers in respect of working capital. In addition to the arrangements with the Margarine Union, the company has acquired the whole of the share capital of 1,000,000 lire in a company known as the S.I.L.C.O. in Italy, which trades in a high quality olive oil, chiefly from North and South America. Negotiations have been in progress and have now been provisionally concluded for the amalgamation of this company with the Eastern and Overseas Products, Ltd.

PALESTINE EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK.

The success of the Palestine Exhibition which was held in the Queen's Hall, London, last May, under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund and the Economic Board for Palestine, has stimulated a movement in New York for the holding of a similar Exhibition in that City. It is proposed to organise the Exhibition on a large scale, one of the most important halls being contemplated as the venue. The programme already outlined indicates that the Exhibition will be the most important function of its kind and enormous interest is expected to be shown in it. It is proposed that the Exhibition should provide a picture of all aspects of the Jewish Renaissance in Palestine, both cultural and economic. The arrangements in Palestine are in the hands of the Jewish National Fund Headquarters.



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to the Secretary

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Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

Tar for Road Work.

For some time past the chemical research laboratories attached to our big coal distillation plants and coal-tar derivative works have been paying special attention to the production of various qualities of tar, realising as they did, that tar would shortly be increasingly used for road work and that in such event engineers would be asking for special grades to meet special conditions of service. At the same time, the engineer has been busy seeking for new ways of using tar products and other materials in order to keep his roads abreast of the ever-increasing demands made upon them by commercial and other motor vehicles. That is to say that we are at present experiencing development not only in tars, but in the methods in which they are utilised.

Road work has been the great outlet of late for tars which would otherwise have been treated in a different manner and used for other purposes. Secondary and lower-class roads have been tar sprayed, and as a result the public have been able to obtain far better roads and at far lower costs than they would otherwise have had. Durable and dustless roads and street surfaces are now being provided in places which could not even boast of waterbound macadam roads a few years ago. Recently there has been a rather strong propaganda on the part of the British tar producers, and although that may not have received the full and unqualified support of the suppliers of bitumen, there is no doubt that the tar people are advancing arguments which appear strong, if not actually unanswerable, from both the efficiency and the economy standpoints.

Penetration Methods.

Something has been said in these pages before regarding what is known technically as the penetration method of using tar in road work. The chief drawback to the method so far has been its cost, but the introduction of new and improved machinery for dealing with the tar and for handling the aggregates and finishing off the surfaces have changed matters considerably. Now it is possible to get improved stone spreaders for laying the aggregate, better types of graders and maintainers for spreading the stone, as well as mechanical spreaders for the choke stone and the cover stone, all of which had to be done by hand before. Further, sweeps are now attached to the rollers, so that both the choke and the cover stone can be evenly distributed. The high labour cost, which was so high with this type of road work and which militated so greatly against its adoption, has consequently disappeared.

But although there has been some change in methods of working, so far as the introduction of machinery is concerned, other changes have been confined to the sizes of stone and the quality of the tar used. At one time the usual size of stone specified for the penetration course was from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches for all materials. Now, whilst those sizes have been retained for hard rock, the size for soft rock has been raised, the minimum being now 2 in., and the maximum 3 or in some cases $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. This has meant a

considerable reduction in costs both of stone and of putting it in place. In order to fill more thoroughly the surface voids, the average size of choke stone has been reduced from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. The amount of tar used in the first seal coat has been increased from half a gallon per square yard to $\frac{3}{4}$ gal. per square yard, in order that the seal coat may have greater adhering qualities and so be able to stand up better against the sucking action of the modern motor tyre.

Another thing is that after the research work that has been carried out we are now in a position to say exactly how much tar per square yard will give the best results under certain working conditions. It is no longer a matter of chance, but of intent, as to how much tar should be used on roads with stone of certain sizes, and machinery makers have risen to the occasion by providing machinery with valves that can be set to give any required amount, neither less nor more. Improved heating apparatus enables the engineer nowadays to keep his tar at exactly the right temperature, a point that, a few years ago, was largely a matter of luck.

Puddled Macadam.

As an alternative to the penetration method the cold or puddled macadam method has been introduced. This method is being adopted rather largely for use in streets where the traffic is comparatively light. A road of this kind is built up exactly like a waterbound macadam road up to the point where the water is applied. The procedure then differs as a cold, refined tar which will flow and penetrate easily is then used in place of the water, this first coat of tar being applied at the rate of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. per square yard and covered quickly with a light coat of pea gravel or stone chippings. A few hours later the road is rolled, and within the next twenty-four hours an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. of the tar per square yard is applied and immediately blinded with coarse gravel or hard stone chips. The roller is then run over the surface again and within a very few hours the road is ready for traffic. If the road needs repairing at any time, there is no difficulty in doing the work, and all that has to be done with this type of road is to give it a fresh and extremely thin coat of tar and blind it with fine stone chips. If any pot holes have developed they should be well picked out and filled with a macadam of stone of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. size, treated with hot boiled tar and well tamped down into place.

Sewage Matters.

One of the essentials about sewage, not only from a health point of view but in order that it may be dealt with properly, is that it should be removed from the place of origin without delay to the place where it may be disposed of. Sewage which has only travelled a short distance through the conduits or has been made to travel a longer distance at a fairly high speed still contain free oxygen and can be treated more easily than can stale sewage which has lost its oxygen and become dead. Keeping the sewage fresh is an important factor, and in Germany particular attention is paid to rapid delivery. Nearly all the sewage there is collected and transported in open concrete or brick sewers, troughs or ditches, to the disposal plant, in order that it may be oxidised to some extent during the journey. Some of these open and, as we should consider, objectionable ditches are several miles in length and it frequently happens that the sewage arrives at the plant in a condition which renders only little further treatment necessary. In the opinion of engineers best able to judge, the ease with which such sewage can be dealt with more than balances any objectionable features, but that is not a view in which the general public is likely to share.

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British Consular Reports

V—EGYPT.

(Continued from page 443.)

New Works During 1928.

The ambitious programme of development in irrigation and drainage by means of a chain of up-to-date pumping and electric generating stations throughout the Delta, and of separate stations in Upper Egypt, which had been planned some year ago but owing to the War and for other reasons had not been executed earlier, was seriously taken in hand some few years ago, with the result that during the past two years, following some earlier conversion operations, contracts for the erection of important stations at Mex, Abu el Menaga, Seru, Atf, Esna and Belcas were placed at a total cost of £551,197.

It is to be regretted that of all these large mechanical orders only that for the supply and erection of a station of three turbo-alternator generating sets with auxiliary diesel engine and generator was secured by a British firm. It is possible that the general success of Continental manufacturers has been due to a certain extent to the preference shown by the Mechanical Department of the Ministry of Public Works for the open air-injection design of diesel engine, which particular combination appears to be mostly produced in central Europe. During 1928 deliveries of the following diesel engine plant of foreign manufacture were made to the order of the Public Works Ministry: Four 1,300 b.h.p., four 540 b.h.p., two 400 b.h.p. The Main Drainage Department placed important orders during the year for sewer reticulation, duplicate main collector, pumping engines, duplicate rising main and machinery, air compressor plant, piping, etc., for which budget estimates were provided to the amount of £E406,500.

The large pumping station at Amria (the contract for the machinery for which had been secured by a British firm in 1926) was officially opened by His Majesty the King of Egypt early in 1929. Although United Kingdom manufacturers secured an important order for a 46 in. diameter cast iron rising main in the Damanhour area, the contract for the installation of the piping required for Amria was taken by a French firm at a lower quotation.

Apart from the cost of preparation of designs and estimates connected with the construction of the new Kasref-Aini Hospital (Faculty of Medicine), which has been designed by a British firm of architects, no estimate was included for this project in the 1928-29 budget, but initial expenditure is carried over to the 1929-30 budget.

A beginning was made in the execution of the Ministry of Education's programme of new schools, but owing to congestion resulting from the many departmental demands upon the State Building Department, a great part of these works had to be carried over to the 1929-30 budget with consequent delay in execution.

Among more important orders placed by the Egyptian State railways, telegraphs and telephones administration with foreign firms during the year under review were the following: 20 side tank engines: Italian firm at a cost of £E91,580; 320 open low sided wagons: Franco-Belgian group £52,160; Mansourah bridge: Belgian firm £E5,343; steel sleepers: Belgian firm £28,439. The most important orders secured by British firms were for the roofing required for the new locomotive workshops, 13 steam rail coaches, underground cable—Cairo to Alexandria, and automatic exchanges at Cairo and Mansourah.

Electrification Schemes.

Egypt has not remained oblivious to the great advances made of recent years in the use of electric power, and it seems not unlikely that in the near future various schemes for electrification, which are at present somewhat nebulous, may take more concrete form. During the early

part of the current year tenders were invited for the electrification of the Helouan railway, but were eventually refused on the ground that it had been decided to postpone that undertaking in view of certain more comprehensive schemes that had in the meantime been put forward. Similarly the proposals of a Franco-Belgian company, which had been formed with the object of erecting a large power station at Shubra for the supply of power to various existing undertakings, were not accepted.

Other and more ambitious schemes in which interest has, it is understood, been shown by various British and other groups envisaged a more or less general electrification of the whole country, either from thermo-electric or hydro-electric stations or a combination of both. In connexion with the suggestion that the required power should be generated hydraulically, it is of interest to note that in their report on the question of heightening the Aswan Dam the international experts advise that the fabric of the dam should not be pierced for the purpose of harnessing the water. It is, however, in some quarters believed that the desired result could be obtained without piercing the dam, as it is also contended that the difficulties attendant on the transmission of power from such a far distant source to the centres of consumption could also be overcome. Another scheme, which, however, by many is considered to be uneconomic if not impracticable, is connected with a proposal to conduct water from the Mediterranean and flood the desert area at Quattara, which lies several metres below the sea level. This scheme would need extensive tunnelling operations, and although of manifest interest is unlikely to be undertaken at an early date.

(To be continued.)

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 16:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—The prevailing tendency in most commodity markets during the past week has been towards lower levels, and this, combined with the fact that Sakel values have been generally admitted to stand at too wide a premium over other cottons, has led to sentiment in our contract strongly veering to the "bear" side during recent sessions. Encouraged by the persistent decline, speculative selling has been in evidence daily; it is rather too early to state with any assurance that prices have been unduly depressed, but one or two points have latterly developed to lead one to incline to that opinion. In the first place, support of near positions by spot houses has latterly been a strong feature, and Novembers, from being over 40 points discount with January, have closed in to the neighbourhood of 10 to 15 points. Further to this, trade support has expanded and will probably continue to be of a more whole-hearted character with Alexandria below the 30 dollars level and our own contract running under 15d. Reports from Egypt indicate that heavy hedge selling has been in progress throughout the week, and we are informed that opinions there on the future course of the market are very mixed. Supplies are considered to be ample, but fears are expressed that present low levels will lead to the position being manipulated, or possibly to Government interference. During the later trading to-day, a much improved undertone has been in evidence, and under the influence of trade calling, prices have reacted sharply, the closing rates showing declines of 15 points for near and 32 to 48 points for more distant positions.

Upper Contract.—Only a moderate amount of business has transpired in this market during the past week, operations being mainly confined to trade calling on the one hand, and merchant's sales against imports on the other. Outside speculation continues to be negligible, and, whilst straddle differences with American appear attractive, very few are willing to embark on this operation on account of the heavy discounts now ruling. Statistically, the position of the Upper varieties appears sound, and once the early weight of the crop movement has passed into trade channels we look for values to develop a gradually hardening tendency.

Egyptian Spot.

The demand for the native Egyptian growths has not been so good this week. The market has had a more two-sided appearance and buyers have probably been rather puzzled as to what course to

pursue. Apart from this, the medium qualities of both Sakel and Upper (in which the bulk of the business for some time past has been taking place) have now been so thoroughly combed out that there is little left to reward the seeker. The Upper situation, of course, should obtain speedy relief from the new crop, but there are still several weeks to pass through before the bread-and-butter qualities of Sakellaridis can arrive in any appreciable quantity. It must be many years since this market has been swept as bare of these qualities as it is to-day. Spinners have recently been experimenting with various "fancy" growths by way of substitutes, but we doubt if any of them have given entire satisfaction. In spite of all vicissitudes Sakel still maintains its position as the Egyptian cotton *par excellence*. In another section of the spot market, that is Sudan Sakellaridis, the week has been marked by considerable activity and some important lines have been placed.

Sakel has been in moderate request only, but practically all grades have come in for a share of attention. Prices are somewhat easier.

Uppers have been rather quieter than of late, and buyers are disposed to await new crop shipments. The customary range of "pass to 25 on" has been the most popular inquiry. Prices have become slightly irregular for old crop lots and holders are anxious to clear stocks. New crop prices appear attractive, but spinners are not eager, as a whole, to buy beyond immediate requirements.

Pilion has been in very moderate demand and chiefly for the "Best."

Nahda has again attracted attention owing to the scarcity of Sakel, but sales have been strictly limited.

White, Maarad, etc., have been rather neglected.

Sudan Sakel.—A very large business has taken place, and all qualities have participated.

Tokar Sakel.—This cotton still remains the Cinderella of the market, but with Sudan Sakel disappearing at its present rate there is a possibility that it may soon share in the improved offtake.

C.i.f. Business.—On the whole, contracts on these terms have been disappointing, but we believe that conditions up-country are showing a steady improvement. Forwardings last week were returned as 7,391 bales Egyptians and 2,453 bales Sudans. Estimated spot sales for the week, 1,700 bales Egyptians and 11,150 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel show a fall of 25 to 30 points; Uppers are 18 to 25 and Pilion 25 points lower on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 15.65d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.97d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 11.85d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 10, state:—Since our last report the futures market has been very active, but the tone has been rather weak. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 30.60 dollars, 1.16 dollars down; January, 31.19 dollars, 1.09 dollars down; March, 31.75 dollars, 1.11 dollars down; May, 32.23 dollars, 1.11 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 20.05 dollars, 0.45 dollars down; December, 20.53 dollars, 0.35 dollars down; February, 21.00 dollars, 0.35 dollars down; April, 21.43 dollars, 0.34 dollars down; June, 21.83 dollars, 0.32 dollars down.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Oct. 21		Prices on Oct. 21		INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Oct. 1.	
Government Stocks.				Railways.		Government Loans.		Rs.	
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	...	80½	...	Assam-Bengal	...	3½% Government Paper	...	68 11/16	...
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890	...	87½	...	Bengal Doonars	...				
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	...	82½	...	Bengal Nagpur	...				
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94	...	76½	...	Egypt Delta Light Rly.	...				
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907	...	28½	...	Nizams Gtd.	...				
Do. 7 p.c.	...	81	...	Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid)	...				
Greek 5 p.c., 1881	...	66	...	Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb.	...				
Do. 5 p.c., 1884	...	66	...	Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb.	...				
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	...	49½	...	Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds.	...				
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	...	66	...	Southern Punjab	...				
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	...	66	...	South Indian	...				
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902	...	56	...						
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	...	56	...	Rubber.	...				
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	...	71½	...	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord.	...				
Do. 7 p.c. 1924	...	100	...	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	...				
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	...	85½	...	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	...				
Palestine 5 p.c.	...	100½	...	Hewagum Rubber Co.	...				
Persia 5 p.c., 1911	...	83½	...	Keptigalla Rubber Estates	...				
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext.	...	70½	...	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	...				
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	...	45½	...						
Do. 7 p.c.	...	73	...	Shipping.	...				
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	...	105½	...	Anchor 5½ p.c. Pref.	...				
India 3½ p.c.	...	64½	...	Cunard	...				
Do. 3 p.c.	...	55 9/16	...	Furness Withy	...				
Do. 5½ p.c.	...	99½	...	Khedivial Mail Ord.	...				
Do. 4½ p.c.	...	83 3/16	...	P. and O. Deferred	...				
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	...	20	...						
				Tea.	...				
Banks.	...	...	...	Assam Co.	...				
Agri. Bank of Egypt	...	7½	...	Bengal United Tea Ord.	...				
Bank of British West Africa	...	4 1/16	...	Bramapootra	...				
Bank of Roumania	...	80	...	British Indian Tea Ord.	...				
Barclays Dom. Col. Pt.	...	28 3/4	...	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord.	...				
Chartered Bank of India	...	19 3/16	...	Carolina	...				
Eastern	...	64	...	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	...				
Hambros	...	9 31/32	...	Consolidated Estates	...				
Ionian Bank	...	61 1/16	...	Darjeeling Co.	...				
Imperial Bank of Persia	...	10½	...	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	...				
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	...	15½	...	Doonars Tea Ord.	...				
Lloyds	...	61	...	Dooloogran Tea	...				
Mercantile Bank of India A	...	30½	...	Doom Dooma	...				
Do. B	...	33	...	East Assam	...				
National Bank of Egypt	...	31½	...	Empire of Ind.	...				
National Bank of India	...	48½	...	Halem Tea	...				
Ottoman Bank	...	11½	...	Imperial Ind.	...				
P. and O. Bank Corporation	...	8½	...	Jhazie Tea Association	...				
Westminster	...	75 3/4	...	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	...				
				Jorehaut	...				
Land.	...	...	...	Lanka Plantations Ord.	...				
Kassala Cotton	...	8 5/8	...	Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	...				
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates	...	5 9/16	...	New Dimbula	...				
Sudan Plantations	...	315 1/16	...	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	...				
				Nedeeem	...				
Mines.	...	...	...	Ouvah	...				
Salaghat Gold Mining	...	5½	...	Pabbjojan	...				
Burma Corp.	...	18½	...	Standard	...				
Champion Reef Gold	...	9 5/8	...	Scottish Assam	...				
Mysoor	...	12 3/4	...	Scottish Tea and Lands	...				
Nandydroog	...	17½	...	Upper Assam	...				
Oreogum Gold Mining Ord.	...	8½	...						
				Insurance.	...				
Oil.	...	...	...	General Accident Fire and Life (25, 21½ paid)	...				
Anglo-Egyptian B	...	27 1/16	...	London & Lancs (25, 21 paid)	...				
Anglo-Persian Ord.	...	41 1/32	...	Royal Exchange (21)...	...				
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf.	...	25 3/4	...	Sun Fire 210 (22 paid)	...				
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf.	...	28 3/4	...						
Do. 5 p.c. Debs.	...	97½	...	Miscellaneous.	...				
Brit. Burmah	...	7 5/8	...	Alexandria Water Co.	...				
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	...	49 3/32	...	Associated Cotton Ginners	...				
Do. 8½ Cum Pref	...	26 9/16	...	Dunlop Rubber	...				
Hamilton's Oil Concessions	...	-3	...	Egyptian Hotels	...				
Phoenix Oil and Transport (f.p.)	...	11½	...	Do. Markets Ord.	...				
Do. (1/-)	...	7 1/4	...	Do. Salt and Soda	...				
Shel Transport	...	10 5/8	...	Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref.	...				
Stena Romana	...	10 5/8	...	Oriental Telephone	...				
				Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord.	...				
				Waring & Gillow	...				

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	473	INDIAN NOTES ...	474	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLES—		Notes and News ...	489
The Conflict in Palestine ...	475	Sir Valentine Chirol ...	484	The Week's Finance ...	491
SPECIAL LETTERS—		Archæology in Palestine ...	482	British Consular Reports—	
Egypt ...	476	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	487	V.—Egypt ...	493
Roumania ...	477	CORRESPONDENCE ...	483	Motors and Motoring ...	495
Bulgaria ...	478	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	486	Company Meetings—	
Yugoslavia ...	479			1. Eastern Oil Industries ...	497
Calcutta ...	480			2. Assam Railways & Trading ...	498
				Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	499
				The Roumanian Market ...	499

Notes of the Week.

The New Regime in Afghanistan.

So far the success that King Nadir Shah deserves has not failed him. Bacha-i-Saqao, having been taken prisoner, is no longer a potential menace to the new King's security. To such an extent are things being done decently and in order that the late Amir has himself handed over the seals of Government, before withdrawing into the rigorous confinement in which he is being kept. Unless the reports of terrorism in Kabul are authentic, the temporary Amir would seem to have played a not altogether ignoble part during his brief stay in the lime-light. He championed the general hostility towards King Amanullah's over-hasty reforms, and has been the agent of Afghanistan's change in rulers—a change which, it is to be hoped, will prove to the country's advantage. No decision as to his ultimate fate is yet reported. King Nadir Shah promises to be not only an enlightened Sovereign, but also a discreet one. He proposes to lead his people along the path of progress in order to make Afghanistan a civilised State, but he will try to carry his people along with him in a gradual movement of reform, instead of leaving them a bewildered and disgruntled crowd behind him. His first act is to summon the leaders of the tribes to Kabul, and a special *jirgah* at Jalalabad will deal with the question of eastern provinces. The items on the King's programme will all have been included in King Amanullah's long list of reforms, but Nadir Shah will begin at the right end, promoting the material progress of the country, without encroaching on religious and sumptuary matters. Roads and railways are to be rebuilt and schools reopened. All reforms call for expenditure, and King Nadir Shah starts under the grave handicap of an empty exchequer. Afghanistan is likely, therefore, to appear as yet another claimant for a foreign loan, but it is to be feared that the security that she can offer at present will not carry much conviction with it in the world's money markets.

Brigandage in Bulgaria.

The Bulgaro-Yugoslav skies have an unhappy knack of clearing, after long days of depression and obscurity, only

to become suddenly clouded over again through some unexpected incident. The reappearance of the notorious bandit, Dotcho Ouzounoff, is recorded in our Bulgarian Letter this week. Since that was written, however, this brigand and his band have murdered the President, one of the Puisne Judges, and the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Sevliyevo. This extraordinary murder appears to have converted the Bulgarians' fear that the brigands found their inspiration in Yugoslav sources into a conviction. The opinion is expressed, indeed, that Dotcho Ouzounoff's band is but an agent for those Yugoslav militarists who wish to see Bulgaria so humbled as to fall a prey to a greater Yugoslavia. The charge made by Bulgarians is, of course, no new one; but, however lacking it may be in evidence which would convince outside observers, it is undeniably a symptom of the unhappy psychological relation between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Western opinion may ask whether it is also Yugoslavia's fault that the Bulgarian authorities are unable to lay hands on the brigands. There are, indeed, many points in this affair which have yet to be cleared up. An investigation is urgent, for the outrages come as a very ominous commentary upon the agreements recently arrived at between the two neighbouring Slav countries on the question of the border between them.

Archæology in Palestine.

The situation which was revealed on October 25, at the General Meeting of the British School of Archæology in Jerusalem—it is reported elsewhere in this issue—is one which it is difficult indeed for any man in this country with pretensions to culture to face with equanimity. That this School should cease to exist would be most lamentable from every point of view, for, as Lord Plumer hinted at this meeting, civilising institutions such as this School have an influence quite apart from their actual discoveries. If it so happened that the School in Palestine had to close down for lack of funds, it might be regarded by malevolent people as the beginning of the end of British influence in the Holy Land. There is a sad urgency for stating afresh the obligations which Great Britain has

INDIAN NOTES.

in the Holy Land, and we speak not of political obligations to this or to that people but of obligations to her highest self. The connexion between Great Britain and the birth-place of Christianity is too obvious to be stressed, and in any case a conscious religious impulse is not essential to bind the Englishman to the Holy Land. The Mandatory Power cannot, however, escape from her religious heritage, and it is precisely in such an instance as this of the School of Archæology, in which there are no political or racial complications, that the Mandatory Power, or rather, the people of Great Britain, should rise to a sense of the part which it is called to play in the world and of its destiny. It will be a most miserable comment upon the modern Briton's sense of the fitness of things if sufficient money is not found for the continuation of the work of the School of Archæology in Jerusalem, and we must persuade ourselves that means will yet be found to avoid the making of such a comment.

A School in Iraq.

That there exists a belief that money can be obtained for archæology is, happily, made very evident by the preparations which are now well in hand for making that dream of Gertrude Bell—a British School of Archæology in Iraq—a reality. There are, moreover, sound reasons for such an optimism. In the first place, the record of British archæologists in Iraq is far superior to that of any nation. One thinks of the work of men like Layard, Rawlinson, and Smith: the very notion of founding a School to carry on their pioneer work and to perpetuate the good name of Great Britain in archæology in Iraq excites the imagination. Secondly, the fact that the idea was adumbrated and a basis of its realisation laid by so attractive a personality as Gertrude Bell must in itself impel many Britons to support the establishment of a British School. And thirdly, the recent and unforgettable memories which some of the worthiest Englishmen, and as an equal consequence of the War, many English families, have of Mesopotamia must be a lively basis on which to build hopes of a British School. That such a School should of itself conduct excavations is not a prime necessity, for it could do absolutely invaluable work in training archæologists. It is notorious at the present time that a shortage exists of British archæologists competent to discover the still priceless things to be found in the Middle East. This state of affairs can continue only to the detriment of British prestige. Fortunately, the scheme is at hand whereby such a reproach may be removed. We advise all our readers who can to be present at the public meeting of the British School of Archæology, which is to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, at 3.0 p.m., on November 8.

The Simon Commission and The Local Governments.

The leading features of the reports of the various Provincial Committees of the Simon Commission have been lately outlined in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA. These documents may be regarded as expressions of the views entertained by the more or less moderate class of Indian members of the Provincial Legislatures. They are not representative of the Extreme Party, by whom the Commission has been, of course, ignored. Nor do they stand for official opinion, as the Provincial Governments have themselves submitted separate memoranda to the Commission. Violent abuse of the Executive is yearly becoming more and more popular in India; and anything that is said by the Provincial Government, or by the Central Government, is practically certain to be condemned out of hand and without consideration. It may be safely anticipated, therefore, that very little that is good, and a great deal that is bad, will be said by the politicians and their followers about the memoranda in question. Nevertheless it is impossible to read such of these papers as we have seen without being greatly impressed by them. They are obviously the work of experts in administration. They are written with skill and ability, and are informed by first-hand knowledge of the prevailing conditions. While too voluminous to be reproduced in full in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, we hope to be able to include fairly full summaries of the more important of the documents within the next few weeks. The Bengal Government's memorandum appears to us to be one of the ablest and most interesting, and we shall accordingly begin the series with it in next week's issue.

Bombay's Trade in 1928-29.

Those who have begun to regard Bombay as almost "a lost cause," will find considerable ground for satisfaction in the annual Port Trust returns. The revenue has slowly increased till it has now reached the highest figure recorded; and, if it has only been possible to keep the expenditure within this limit by the strictest economy, this has been achieved, and a small balance of seven lakhs on the year's working was obtained. The increased revenue of recent years has been due to the necessity for increasing the port charges; but these are admittedly dangerously high, and reductions have been made which will in the present year amount to 25 lakhs per annum. In spite of the prolonged riots in Bombay there has been some improvement in trade, and it is a pleasing reversion to old time conditions to find a larger import of piece-goods, and a very welcome recovery in the staple export of Bombay, raw cotton, in which exports increased by 50 per cent. The wisdom of past administrators in providing additional land for trade and residential purposes at Colaba, the Ballard Pier, and Mazagon is being fully justified, and these estates should form a most stable component of the Board's Revenue in coming years. Finally, the Port Trust Railway has at last become a paying proposition, partly due to reduction in expense, and still more to the tardy grant of a more equitable share in the receipts from the traffic brought to the Port by the outside Railways. There are, of course, many flies in the ointment. Financial equilibrium has been obtained at by the total avoidance of capital expenditure. However wise this may have been while trade remained stagnant, no public body can stand still for too long without danger of petrification. The severe competition of other ports continues, and this can only be met permanently by the provision of better facilities, without excessive charges; admittedly a difficult combination. There is also the question of Municipal taxation: the members of the Bombay Corporation are not over-ready to remember that the prosperity of Bombay is bound up with the successful management of its Port. Above all, there is the uncertainty of the future efficiency of administration, not only in Bombay City, but in higher places also.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1929.

THE CONFLICT IN PALESTINE.

The arrival in Palestine last week of the Commission of Inquiry turned anew the attention of the world to the problem of Palestine. We hope that we shall not be accused of prejudice in calling it a problem, for although certain partisans, on both the Arab and the Jewish side, profess to regard the difficult situation as one quite easy to rectify if only certain steps be taken in a particular direction, no impartial observer, whether favouring the Arab or the Jewish thesis, would deny that a solution, howsoever reached, would be an extremely delicate task for the Mandatory Power to accomplish at all quickly. It is generally agreed by non-partisan opinion that whatever be the outcome of the recent disturbances, the manifestation of open conflict, in Palestine, should be the result of mature reflexion and of sober execution. Panic measures in any direction whatsoever would be deprecated by the best world opinion. One thing alone is certain, despite the opinion to the contrary apparently entertained by a section of the British Press, and that is that Great Britain will continue to execute her Mandate for Palestine to the best of her ability. Secure in this conviction, outside observers are speculating variously upon the precise form in which the Mandatory Power will endeavour to soothe the intense acerbities that have latterly been only too visible. They may rest assured, however, that it is not on their nostrums, but solely on the findings of the Commission of Inquiry, that the British Government will act. They may be perfectly confident in their own minds that they know where the balance of right and wrong lies, but, if they are wise, they will realise that British public opinion, which, after all, is the main arbiter in this affair, will hold back its voice on a matter still *sub judice*. That fact, of course, does not inhibit their very natural attempts to influence public opinion before the Commission of Inquiry has completed its work: the two fundamentally opposed views of Zionists and of Arabs on the recent conflict in Palestine are, indeed, so interesting, that they deserve summarising, if only as a means of eventually discovering the degree of truth which the Commission may have found in them.

To take the attitude of the ordinary Zionist first. He stoutly denies that the conflict is one between Arab and Jew. In his opinion the chief blame lies at the door of the Palestine Administration, which, he says, has notoriously failed in its duty towards the Jews. Whether in large or small things, the interests of the people to whom a "National Home" in Palestine was promised have been the last to be considered. The bogey of "Pan-Islamism" has been allowed unduly to frighten the British officials, and in many instances, he continues, there has been a positive pro-Arab bias in administration. Charges of incompetence, unsuitability, weakness, even of hostility to the Zionist cause are commonly laid at the head of various members of the Administration. Descending to the particular, the Zionist accuses the Administration of deifying the *status quo*, though, of course, the permission given to the Muslims to breach the southern end of the Wailing Wall is regarded as a gross and absolutely unwarrantable violation of that *status quo* in the interests of the Muslims. The Police, again, he complains, are quite hopelessly committed to acting in Arab interests. And one of the significant demonstrations in the early stages of these disturbances, the Zionist

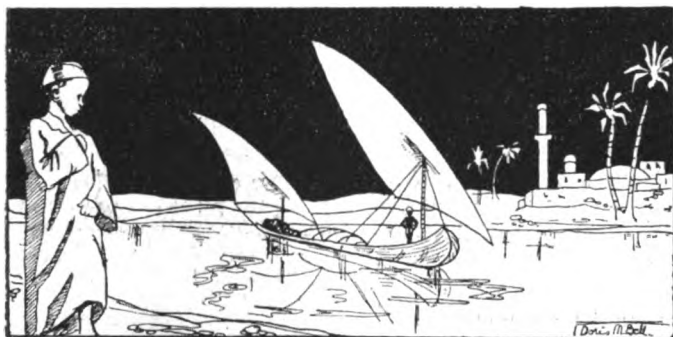
demonstration at the Wailing Wall on August 15, is regarded by sober Zionists, if not as a deep-laid plot on the part of the Administration to provoke a strong, but (as, they allege, was hoped) controllable Muslim protest, at least as a piece of criminal weakness and folly. The ordinary Zionist, in short, appears to have scant regard for the present Administration in Palestine, and views its continuance in office with something little short of dismay. As for the Arabs, he marvels how it is that the British Government cannot see through their game, which is, in his judgment, to rid themselves entirely of the Mandatory Power, to gain complete independence, and, as a natural implication, to end all prospects of a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine. When he says "Arabs," moreover, he means the effendi class, for he is convinced that it is only a matter of time before relations between the fellaheen and the new colonists are perfectly friendly.

That is one side of the picture, which may be painted in high or in low colours according to the point of view of the particular Zionist. Of the Arab case a similar qualification has to be made; but whether it be done in glaring oils or in soft water-colour, the basis of the opposition is the same. The Arab seizes upon the Balfour Declaration as the whole source of the trouble. There is, he says, not the slightest animosity to Jews as such, and points, say, to Sanaa, Baghdad, Aleppo, as places where Jews have lived unmolested side by side with Arabs for hundreds of years. Even in Palestine, he goes on, Arabs and Jewish colonists lived in perfect amity before the War: it is only the claims of the Jews, founded in the Balfour Declaration of 1917, and the unjust privileges which have been granted to them under that Declaration, which have aroused the antagonism of the Arab Muslims and Christians. As for the Administration's pointing out of the clause in the Mandate to the effect that the interests of the native inhabitants of Palestine should not suffer through the implementing of the Balfour Declaration, that is, he rejoins, so much nonsense, for there is an inherent and fundamental contradiction between the purpose of the Mandate, in so far as it concerns the Arabs, and the promise to establish a "National Home" for an immigrant people. Even were the Administration willing to protect the interests of the Arabs—and there is, in their opinion, abundant evidence to the contrary—it could not unceasingly do so, seeing that it is also committed to a policy excluding the possibility of such protection. He concludes by asserting that no solution, therefore, can win the assent of the Arab population which does not repeal the Balfour Declaration and allow to that population the political rights which, in its opinion, were promised to it by Great Britain during the War, and which, indeed, are implicit, he repeats, in the Mandate itself.

In this very brief form we have given what we believe to be some of the salient points in the rival Arab and Jewish theses. Those theses will not, of course, be heard by the Commission of Inquiry either *in toto* or in anything like the form in which we have presented them, both for reasons of policy and because questions of major policy are expressly excluded from the Commission's terms of reference. They will, however, be the background of thought of the rival witnesses before the Commission, and it might be well if every student of the Palestinian situation were to ponder them, to see whether there is any real possibility of reconciliation between them. For that is the real problem of Palestine: reconciliation between the Arabs and the Zionists. The cynic might say that a policy which is disapproved by both Arab and Jew—and, incidentally, the Arabs seem to fear that the Zionists' counsel and the Palestine Administration's counsel may overbalance their own counsel in the Commission's eyes, whereas the Zionists are apt to imagine that the combination of Administration with Arab may wreck the chances of their interpretation of the recent disturbances bearing fruit—is in all probability a quite sound policy. But cynics, even in Eastern matters, are not always right.

'The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, October 19.

The Mediterranean Fleet.

The visit of the Mediterranean Fleet to Alexandria this year has been remarkable for two reasons—the visit which King Fuad paid to H.M.S. *Revenge*, as far as can be ascertained only the second time he has boarded a British man-of-war in Egyptian waters since his accession, and the presence of the High Commissioner as Chairman—an entirely unprecedented event—at the usual dinner given by the British community to the officers of the Fleet at San Stefano Casino. The King's visit to the *Revenge* in the present peculiar circumstances may be regarded, to quote Sir Percy Loraine's reference in his happily framed speech of welcome to Rear-Admiral Kelly, as "a further proof of the friendly sentiment which His Majesty entertains towards the British Government and people and . . . as of the happiest augury for the future relations of the two nations which His Majesty's Government are so desirous of placing on a firm and lasting basis of mutual friendship, understanding and co-operation."

Two Statements.

The two outstanding events in the political situation this week have been the statements sent by Nahas Pasha to the *Daily Express* on the subject of the attitude of the Wafd towards the Treaty proposals and towards relations with Great Britain, and the interview granted by the High Commissioner to the *Egyptian Gazette* on the subject of British policy towards Egypt. What Sir Percy Loraine said has already been said in various forms at various times. But it was just as well that the true aims of British policy should be again stated, and that Egyptians should be reminded of the grave responsibility that rests on them at the present moment in the matter of the future of their country. The High Commissioner's statement leaves no doubt on either point, and has been very well received by the Press of all political shades.

The statement made by Nahas Pasha has not materially altered the situation. He has, it is true, put officially on record the friendly intentions of the Wafd towards the Treaty proposals and its keen desire for a settlement with Great Britain. But beyond an expression of pious wishes, the leader of the Wafd has said nothing which precisely

describes the views of his party on the question of the Treaty itself. Nahas Pasha has various peculiar reasons for not wishing to make public what he and his colleagues think of, and intend to do towards, the Treaty proposals until the Wafd is safely in the saddle again and has made sure of its majority within the walls of the Chamber. And, looking at the matter from the Wafd standpoint, he is perfectly right in his refusal to reveal what the attitude of the Wafd is going to be. But so long as he maintains silence, Nahas Pasha must not complain if the reputation of "bad boys," which its past exploits in the realm of administration and higher politics gave the Wafd, colours the view held by large numbers of people with regard to the fate of the Treaty, and, in fact, the fate of Egypt, if either or both be left to the tender mercies of a Wafd in the mental condition which characterised its former tenures of office.

The Elections.

There has been some delay in getting the elections decree out, owing to the slackness in certain districts in drawing up the lists of electors and selecting the polling centres which must be done before the decree is issued. But there is every hope that before the end of the month it will be possible to fix the date for elections, and already many candidates have gone down to their constituencies to organise for the coming electoral campaign.

The Mixed Tribunals.

The decree has been published appointing Mr. Hugh Holmes, Judge in the Cairo Mixed Court of First Instance as Procureur General of the Mixed Court of Appeal in succession to Baron Firmin Van Den Bosch, who retired from that position on the 15th instant. Thus for the first time in the whole of its history the Mixed Tribunals have now an English Procureur General.

At the same time it is stated that Mr. Hansson, President of the Mixed Court of Appeal, has been offered a seat on The Hague International Court, but that he has not yet taken a decision in the matter. Should he accept this offer, the question of a successor will add one more to the many problems which are at present preoccupying the Ministry of Justice.

Normally the Vice-President succeeds, or rather is elected by his colleagues to succeed, the President. But it is doubtful whether the present Vice-President, who is an Englishman, will accept the post—and that is where the complication will arise. Incidentally, it may be as well to point out that it is really a misnomer to talk of Judges Hansson and Cator as President and Vice-President of the Mixed Court of Appeal. They are actually Vice-President and deputy Vice-President acting as President and Vice-President in the absence of anyone filling the presidency, which is an honorary post reserved to an Egyptian, and has not been held by one for many years.

Communications.

Communications in the provinces are gradually undergoing improvement as a result of the schemes for creating new roads and widening existing ones which the Government has been executing. But, while this will considerably improve conditions for motor traffic, something really must be done to minimise the risk of accidents to which the motorist is exposed. This week a friend motoring from Alexandria to Cairo passed at three different points a motor car submerged in the canal, and from inquiry he ascertained that seven passengers had met their deaths from these accidents. Partly accidents are

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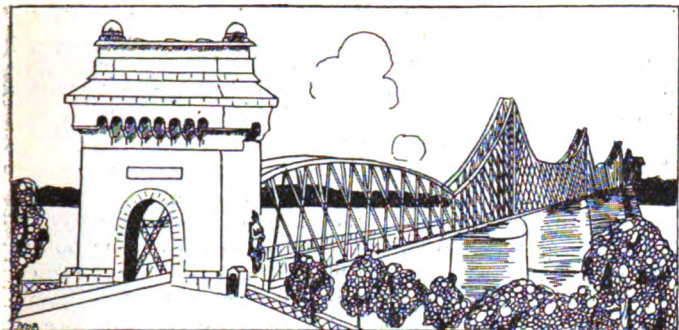
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due to the overwatering which causes cars to skid at sharp corners and run into the canal. But they are also due in greater part to the conditions under which motors are allowed to ply in the provinces. It would be interesting to know how many fatal motor accidents occur in a year on the provincial roads; the total would probably surprise the authorities. While the latter are to be commended for improving the conditions in so far as the roads themselves are concerned, they are certainly to blame for not exercising more effective control over the chauffeurs to whom they grant permits, and in regard to the overloading with passengers, which is notorious, and together with bad driving is responsible for most of the accidents that are now of daily occurrence.



ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 24.

A Political Panic.

A few days after the appointment of the new Regent, M. Saratzeanu, Bucharest was thrown into a state of semi-panic by large headlines in the Opposition Press, which issued special editions during the course of two days,

stating that the Queen had fallen out with the Prime Minister, M. Maniu, and that, in her indignation at not having been appointed to the Regency, had made certain statements of so strongly antagonistic a nature that M. Maniu was about to resign and the whole position of the Government was most precarious. At first the attitude of the public was rather incredulous, but as further special editions appeared and more details were given, a feeling of alarm began to take hold of the people. Fortunately, however, the Queen sent a formal denial of the statements made; M. Maniu gave no sign of wishing to resign; and the work of the Government went on as before. The whole thing proved to be a storm in a teacup, or rather a ruse of the Opposition Press to sell some special editions and, incidentally to harry the Government.

Alleged Dissensions.

In connexion with this scare the Liberal Press published alarming statements of disunion between the leaders of the two parties forming the present Government, viz., the Nationalists and the Peasants Party. Most fortunately, these too, appear to have been unfounded, as no confirmatory evidence has yet come to light. That would, indeed, have been the greatest possible misfortune, for any such disunion would speedily prove fatal to the Government, which would thus be playing into the hands of its adversaries. If, on the other hand, it is able to carry on in harmony, there is every chance of its being able to do great service to the country.

It is to be regretted that no efficacious libel law exists in this country, and the "Liberty of the Press" is interpreted with such freedom that the most unfounded and mendacious reports, even affecting the Royal family and public men of mark, may be published without fear of untoward consequences. This accounts for the extraordinarily vulgar and scurrilous language used in many of the newspapers.

PALESTINE RAILWAYS

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EGYPT AND PALESTINE AND VICE VERSA

To Palestine (Daily)

Alexandria	dep. 1500
Cairo	dep. 1800
Port Said	dep. 1815
(Change at Kantara West)	
Kantara East	dep. 2345

To Egypt (Daily)

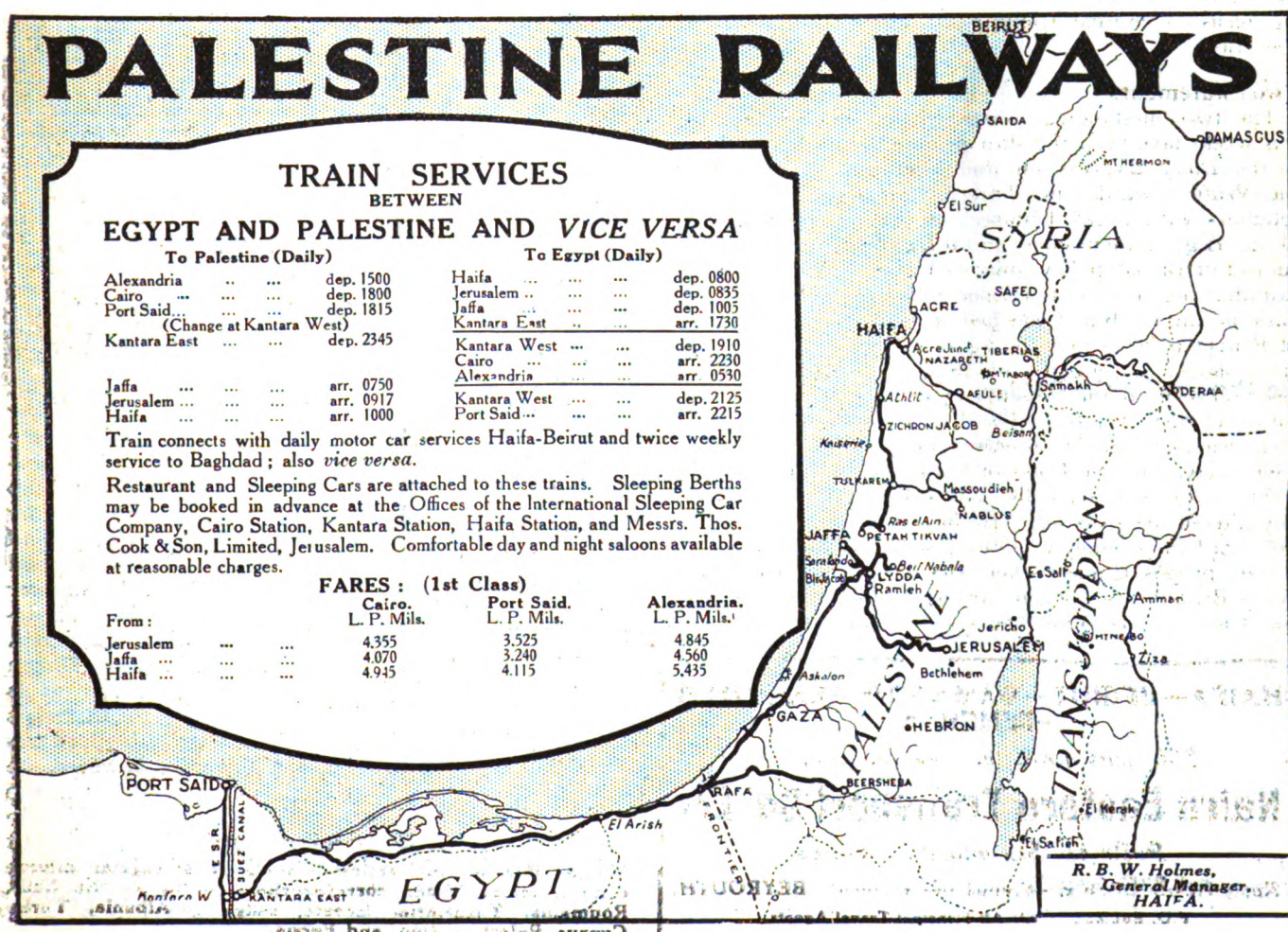
Haifa	dep. 0800
Jerusalem	dep. 0835
Jaffa	dep. 1005
Kantara East	arr. 1730
Kantara West	dep. 1910
Cairo	arr. 2230
Alexandria	arr. 0530
Kantara West	dep. 2125
Port Said	arr. 2215

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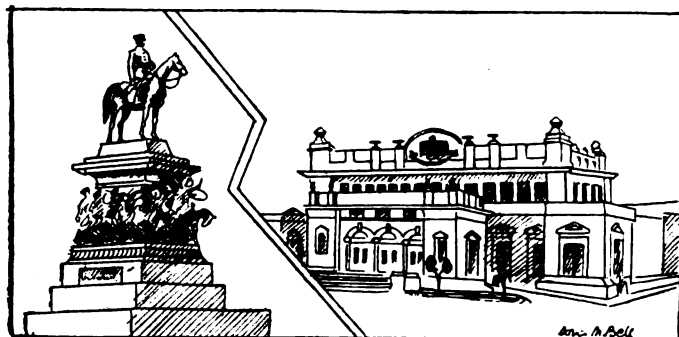
From:	Cairo. L. P. Mils.	Port Said. L. P. Mils.	Alexandria. L. P. Mils.
Jerusalem	4.355	3.525	4.845
Jaffa	4.070	3.240	4.560
Haifa	4.945	4.115	5.435



R. B. W. Holmes,
General Manager,
HAIFA.

M. Madgearu's Foreign Tour.

M. Madgearu has now been back in Bucharest for several days, but no statement of his has yet been published in regard to the significance of his visit to London. Great satisfaction is felt in Government circles at the excellent reception given to him, and the friendly attitude adopted by the British Government. One section of the Press states that he has laid the foundations of a new commercial treaty between Great Britain and Roumania, but his partisans deny that he had any such official mission, and that his only purpose was to get into personal touch with the authorities in England, and to see for himself how present conditions in that country compared with those in his own. It is believed, nevertheless, that a new Commercial Treaty between the two countries is under consideration, and will shortly be drafted, more especially as the clause under which most European countries enjoy the benefit of the minimum tariff, limits this privilege to a certain number of months.



BULGARIA.

Sofia, October 14.

Political Brigandage.

The band of Agrarian-Communists who recently came from Yugoslavia under the command of the famous brigand Dotcho Ouzounoff, who attempted a few days ago to blow up the express train going from Sofia to Varna in the region of Cherven-Breg, having escaped the pursuit of the soldiers, appeared the day before yesterday in the mountainous district of Teteven, fifty kilometres from Sofia, and robbed a postal carriage as well as a group of passengers in a private automobile, taking from them all their money and provisions.

Robberies of this nature are in the programme of the Agrarian-Communists, who seek by this means to provide comfortably for themselves and to help their comrades on their return into Yugoslavia. Public opinion is very uneasy at the powerlessness shown by the police and the gendarmerie to capture the bandits and to put an end to their depredations.

The Communist Conspiracy.

As is known, the Bulgarian Communists, whose party was officially dissolved in virtue of a law at the end of 1924, have never ceased since that time trying to re-constitute themselves under the patronage of the Bolshevik International. All efforts in this direction, however, have been foiled by the vigilance of the Bulgarian Police. The most recent plan was discovered in September, and led to the arrest of fifty Communists and the seizure of a certain number of bombs and revolvers and of a small printing machine. This was a great *coup* for the police, who were able to lay hands on the new chief, Anghel Karadimoff, freshly arrived from Moscow. But two days ago this Karadimoff, transferred provisionally to Plovdiv (Philippopolis) to appear before the *Juge d'instruction* in connexion with an old Bolshevik affair in this town, succeeded in escaping and in covering up all traces of his flight.

Bulgaria and Italy.

The problem of reparations has not troubled the excellent relations existing between Italy and Bulgaria. At the

Hague the Italian delegate lent powerful support to the claims of the neighbours of Bulgaria—notably Greece—and thanks to this support the Balkan creditors succeeded in persuading the Conference to impose a definite settlement of reparations which would be possible only by an increase of the Bulgarian instalments. An official journal in Rome interpreted the help lent to M. Venizelos at The Hague in connexion with the discontent felt by the Italian Government at certain manifestations of Bulgaria's foreign policy, and notably the personal attitude of M. Bourroff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and it was thought that Italy had allied herself to Greece to the detriment of Bulgaria and that she would continue to support Greece at Paris against the legitimate efforts of the Bulgarian delegation towards a lightening of her burden in consideration of the bad economic state of the country. Naturally, considerable alarm was felt over such a prospect.

Happily, however, it was soon made known that a misunderstanding had arisen. Signor Mussolini stated to a Bulgarian journalist a few days ago that he had never envisaged a change of policy towards Bulgaria and that what Italy had done for the Bulgarian people up to the present she would continue to do in the future—"the sympathies and the full support of Italy remaining invariably faithful to the Bulgarian people." This statement, which dissipated all fears and caused fresh hopes on the deliberations at Paris, where Italy is the most interested of Bulgarian creditors, was followed by the authorisation, given by the head of the Fascist Government to the chaplain Don Galone, to institute in Italy, for the profit of Bulgaria, a "day of bread," the product of which, estimated at about 50,000,000 levas, would be used in the construction, near the "Pro Oriente" Institute at Sofia, of a large sanatorium for the treatment of Bulgarian consumptives.

This gesture and the words of the Duce have had a deep impression on the whole of Bulgaria.

Conference of Orthodox Churches.

The Orthodox Churches have decided to assemble at Easter, at Mount Athos, in a conference for the purpose of examining the present condition of the Orthodox world and of taking certain decisions to prepare for the convocation, at an early date, of a General Orthodox Council, but an obstacle exists in the peculiar position of the Bulgarian Church, which, as is well known, has been declared schismatic by the Œcumenical Patriarchate since the creation of the Bulgarian Exarchate at Constantinople in 1871. As a consequence of this there are, and can be, no relations between the two Churches. In an attempt to remove this obstacle, the Roumanian Church recently sent one of its prelates, Mgr. Tite Targovisteano, to discuss the matter with the Holy Synod at Sofia. Mgr. Tite explained the matter very frankly to the heads of the Bulgarian Church, and made known to them the decision of the Patriarch to end the schism, on the condition that the Bulgarian Church craved for forgiveness. The Holy Synod explained to Mgr. Tite that it could not formulate a request for pardon, the schism, which the Greeks themselves now regarded as purely a disciplinary measure, no longer existing in Bulgarian eyes, but that, prompted by the most conciliatory sentiments, it would willingly send delegates to the projected conference if the proposed measure were dropped. Mgr. Tite took back this answer to Bucharest, whence he was sent to Constantinople bearing a personal letter from the Roumanian Patriarch, Mgr. Myron Cristea, to the Patriarch Basil. Mgr. Myron offered to issue the invitations for the Conference, so as to avoid the "protocolary" difficulty between the Churches of Constantinople and Sofia. The Patriarch Basil rejected this suggestion. Soon afterwards, however, he died. His successor, Photius, has decided to hasten the meeting of the Conference, which will be assembled in the name of the Œcumenical Patriarchate, without finding a solution of the difficulty inherent in the existence of the schism—this fact leaving the question of Bulgarian participation uncertain. It is not impossible that the rais-

ing of the schism, as much desired by Photius as by his predecessor, may be pronounced by the Conference, under pressure of the delegates of other Churches, without an insistence on the demand for pardon, and that the Bulgarian Church will thereupon be invited to attend the Conference. Be that as it may, the Primate of Roumania has informed the Patriarchate, as a consequence of certain serious information published in the Bulgarian Press, that if he delayed in issuing the invitations, he himself would take the initiative and summon a conference at an early date, and not being embarrassed by the formal scruples of the Church of Constantinople, he would in these circumstances address an invitation to the Bulgarian Church as to all other Orthodox Churches.

It may be said, then, that the raising of the Bulgarian schism will be realised before long.



Belgrade, October 24.

Yugoslavia and Italy.

What was the reason behind the series of attacks so suddenly launched against Yugoslavia by Italy? The hasty decision to bring Gortan and his four Croatian companions from the prison in which they had lain untried for seven months charged with attempting to intimidate voters during the Fascist elections and with having killed one of their compatriots who was going to vote, the faint pretence at a trial with the prisoners' guilt taken for granted before ever it began, the savage sentences, one youth to be "shot in the back," and four to be imprisoned for thirty years, the open threats against Yugoslavia made in the court by the President, the Public Prosecutor and the council for the defence, and the inspired campaigns against Yugoslavia in the Fascist Press—all these point in the Yugoslavs' eyes to a deliberate attempt by Italy to upset relations with Yugoslavia.

It may be that this was merely a subterfuge to distract the attention of the Italian people from home affairs, but, if so, there is no apparent reason for the choice of this particular moment. It is possible that the Italians hoped, by stirring up demonstrations in Yugoslavia and then insisting on their severe suppression, to stir up trouble between the Yugoslav Government and the Croats and Slovenes and so disturb the process of unification now proceeding in Yugoslavia. Perhaps the most probable explanation is that the Italians fear that Yugoslavia may secure a loan on the London or American market and have heard the report that Rothschild, when received by King Alexander at Bled this summer, said that this would depend on the improvement of relations between Italy and Yugoslavia and between the Serbs and Croats. Yugoslavs are recalling that the declaration of the Tirana Pact (with the consequent rupture of Italo-Yugoslav relations) was made just in time to prevent Yugoslavia from securing a loan in London some year and a half ago.

The circumstances of the trial, the verdict, foreshadowed days before the trial began by the President of the Court-Martial himself, based on the evidence of paid informers and Fascist officials, the references made by the President to "Balkan bandits" and the appeal of the Council for the Defence (appointed by the Court) for mercy on the ground that Istria, which had always been Italian [*sic*], was now secure and the Fascist régime strong enough indeed "to widen our frontiers and give air to suffocated Fiume and Zadar"—these and the Press attacks and appeals for the liberation of "our Dalmatia"

were bound to lead to ill feeling in Yugoslavia. But the Yugoslav Government took strong measures to keep all expressions of feeling within the most reasonable of bounds. Demonstrations were confined to meetings in the Universities which passed resolutions calling on the Pope, the League of Nations, the women of Italy, and the Governments of the Great Powers to intervene to save the lives of these "innocent victims of inflamed nationalism," and the Press was severely muzzled to prevent it from stirring up the people. Nevertheless the Italian Government took advantage of a tussle between sailors from Italian and Yugoslav merchant vessels to make strong verbal protests to the Yugoslav Government against the demonstrations against the verdict and its immediate execution and the tone of the Yugoslav Press—thus adding, according to Yugoslav opinion, insult to injury.

Rumours.

As is natural in any country where the Press is restrained from writing freely on political matters, rumours abound in Belgrade at present. And amid a mass of exaggerations and fabrications there may be certain measures of truth to be found. Thus it would appear very probable that the Government intends in the near future to introduce an act making it illegal to use the Serbian script (*cirilica*) in all official documents. This would lead to the gradual introduction of Latin script, *latinica*, throughout the whole country, a reform which would be a great step towards the real union and consolidation of the Serb, Croat and Slovene peoples. While there is considerable fear in some quarters lest the Government should be tempted to try the compulsory use of *latinica* even for private purposes, newspapers, commercial correspondence, and so forth, and make the change too suddenly, as in Turkey, there would be little opposition to its gradual introduction. There are few people likely to have much dealing with the Government who do not know the Latin alphabet, whereas the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of the ex-Austro-Hungarian provinces do not read *cirilica*. Government administration would be far easier and more efficient if documents from all parts of the country were written in the same letters, and great advantages would accrue also if the same unification were introduced in the commercial world.

The Alleged "Reign of Terror."

Great astonishment is expressed by all British residents and visitors here at the statement made in a certain section of the British Press to the effect that Yugoslavia is suffering a "reign of terror." This is far from a true picture of conditions in this country. The great mass of the people are calm, neither enthusiastically for the present régime nor violently against it. The economic life of the country is proceeding normally and the constant interruptions formerly due to bitter party strife are ended. A number of Communists who tried to start a violent reaction by terrorists methods have been arrested from time to time. Some of these resisted arrest and in the ensuing struggle, or while trying to escape, as was reported at the time in the Yugoslav and foreign Press, were shot down and in several cases killed by the police. Three policemen were killed by Communists they tried to arrest during the same period. A number of arrested Communists, about whose membership of the secret terrorist organisation there can be no doubt, since in many cases obituary notices appeared in the Soviet Press acting under instructions from their organisation in Moscow, committed suicide by jumping from the windows of prison offices in order to escape the inevitable confessions of the secrets of their organisation and accomplices, under "third degree" examination. To suggest that these men were pushed out of the window by the police is absurd, since they were far more valuable alive than dead, and had the police wanted to get rid of them there are a hundred quieter and more effective ways by which their aim could have been achieved.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 10.

The Pronouncement.

The persistent report that a "momentous pronouncement on India," is to be expected has continued to occupy space in our newspapers, but now with the variation that the pronouncement is not to be made by the British Prime Minister in the House of Commons, but by the Viceroy of India. As Lord Irwin is leaving England to-day on his return journey to India, we should not have long to wait for the statement, unless there is some reason for delaying it. There may be a reason—Mr. Ramsay MacDonald may not yet have said his "yea." One suspects your Prime Minister of more than the statesman's usual desire to make history. He would always be wanting to make it—now that Mr. Snowden has made so much at The Hague, he may be wanting to make history with the passion with which a beautiful girl, who has seen another beautiful girl shine at a ball, would now want it to be her turn. Mr. MacDonald is a Scotsman; there is always something of unease in the Scots soul. It is obvious that at this moment history is easier to make in America than in Asia. That is against us.

A Matter of Urgency.

If Mr. MacDonald could put his personal feelings on one side, he would be one of the first to see that the people of India is far more important to the British Commonwealth of Nations than any problem of disarmament. Mr. Hoover and he are "roadmakers on the road to peace," he has said. What kind of peace, a lasting peace or a temporary? One suspects that at the best it will only be temporary. Europe is now poor and saddled with debt; Europe is as the devil is, "when the devil is sick"; but does any one believe that, when Europe has grown rich again, and is no longer sick, arming will not begin again? None believes that but the sentimentalist. So the most that Mr. MacDonald can secure is disarmament for a time, and what that will save the British taxpayers. That no doubt would help him more at the next General Election in Great Britain than any laurels to be won by settling the Indian constitutional question wisely; but there can be no question which in the long run will matter most to the Commonwealth, or even, if you come to that, which will mean most in the end in mere £ s. d. Mr. MacDonald, if he wants his name to go down to history, must leave disarmament alone until he has settled this huge Indian problem.

The Indian National Congress.

In the cablegrams regarding the pronouncement, and the Round Table Conference that would follow it, there have usually been some such words as these: "The British Government are anxious to make such a statement at an early date in order to induce the Congress to defer its decision on the issue of independence." So much stress has been laid on that, that one has very naturally asked oneself the question, how important would the decision of the Congress be? That is to ask, in other words, what following the Congress has in the country. I have quoted documents showing that the Congress hold over the Muslim community is steadily weakening. There have been two items in this week's news that bear on what remains of the point.

The South Indian Liberal Federation.

One of these two is the speech of the President of the eleventh session of the South Indian Liberal Federation. In the course of it he said: "Our party is wedded to work the reforms while the Swarajya party is out to wreck them. Ours is the only recognised party in this Presidency which stands for orderly progress and constitutional reform. It can then claim to be a fully representative political organisation, in which all those who

are for working the reforms and for orderly progress can find a place. The political goal of the Federation and the Congress being the same, the Federation may well occupy the position of the Congress in Southern India."

The Sikhs.

The heading of a column in one of this week's newspapers was: "Sikhs to Boycott Congress?" I quote this from a statement that appeared below: "I cannot see with what justification the Congress can accuse the Government of turning a deaf ear to public opinion when the Congress itself has proved so callous in the matter of the Sikhs' demands. The only course left to us is to boycott the Congress lest the strong feelings among Sikhs should cause further trouble in the Congress meeting. It is not difficult for our community to be reconciled to the Government because our estrangement on the Gurdwara agitation is over. Our military and agricultural importance will convince anybody of our reasonable demands. The Hindus are not prepared to forgo anything and the Muslims are unwilling to give up their majority."

Separate Electorates.

One or two interesting points were made in the same speech to the South Indian Liberal Federation on the question of separate electorates. First I should state that the Federation is a non-Brahmin body; Brahmins are excluded from it by rule. The non-Brahmins, in 1919, through their spokesmen before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, pressed for separate electorates for non-Brahmins. They did not ask for them for all time, they explained, but for so long as the communities claiming them originally held them to be necessary; until, that is, those who in 1919 were opposed to separate electorates had convinced those who then claimed them that they need not insist on them any further. One can hardly say that those who were opposed to separate electorates in 1919 have made any very serious attempt to convince the others that they are not necessary.

Miscellaneous.

Of much more than Indian interest is the report of Sir Geoffrey Salmond, published in a "Gazette of India Extraordinary," on the lessons of the Kabul evacuation last Cold Weather, whereby Kabul was saved from a "horrible tragedy." India was able successfully to draw on the Imperial air resources in Iraq, and Iraq in turn drew upon those of the Middle-East Command. Another interesting document published this week is the Government of India's report on education in India during the five years 1922-27. In it is claimed that "the foundation of further advance under new conditions in the years to come has been laid." How new the conditions will be remains to be seen. Many of the old, bad conditions will remain. The progress of education in India is far less a question of finance than the authors of the report appear to see. The agitation against the Child Marriage Act, to conclude with a word about it, continues, and may be gaining ground. One believes that it will be worn down in the end.

THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA.

The King has approved the appointment of General Sir Philip Walhouse Chetwode, Bt., G.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C.-General, to be Commander-in-Chief in India in succession to Field-Marshal Sir William Riddell Birdwood, Bt., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., LL.D.

With His Majesty's approval, the Secretary of State for India has invited Field-Marshal Sir W. Birdwood, who will complete five years' tenure of the appointment on August 5, 1930, to serve for a further period of three months from that date.

The selection follows the usual, though not invariable, custom of choosing in turn for this important position an officer of the British Service and of the Indian Army

respectively. As Sir Philip Chetwode has been Chief of the General Staff in India for the past twelve months, an appointment in which he will presumably remain until he succeeds Sir William Birdwood next summer, the new Commander-in-Chief will bring to his responsible office an unusual degree of experience of current Indian politics and administrative problems.

During the course of a long and distinguished career Sir Philip has been brought in contact with Indian troops on many occasions. After commanding a cavalry brigade and then a cavalry division in France, he proceeded to Egypt to command the Desert Mounted Corps, in which capacity he took part in the last great advance in Palestine and Syria. After the Armistice he served in turn as Military Secretary at the War Office and Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff. In 1922 he was appointed Adjutant-General to the Forces, from which post he was transferred in the following year to be General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Aldershot Command.

THE DILEMMA IN INDIA.*

There have been many books published within the last few years with the laudable, though perhaps illusory, object of bringing the facts of the Indian problem to the attention of the British electorate: but not one of these has been more worthy of study than the volume published recently under the above heading. The facts and conclusions are based on the knowledge and experience of one of the most successful and upright of Indian administrators: they are set out with obvious sincerity: the correctness of the facts can hardly be disputed, and the logic of the conclusions, if not equally indisputable, will be accepted by many of those qualified to judge.

A possible weakness is some failure to estimate fully the extent of the national feeling, however crude and imperfect, that has existed for many years in India. It is surely incorrect to say that: "It is we, the people of England, who began calling the inhabitants of the sub-continent Indians." The designation, irrespective of differences of caste and race, is surely as old as Megasthenes and the Roman Empire: India, or nearly the whole of it, has been united under one rule, at several periods of history, before the British Raj, though the union was in every case short lived. The local feeling for Hindustan, which was near akin to a national or patriotic sentiment, has within our own time extended to the whole of India. The fact that the extension has been due to the bond of British administration and the English law does not affect the existence and the reality of the sentiment, though it may at any time yield to more powerful centrifugal influences. Sir Reginald Craddock makes an interesting comparison between the countries of Europe and individual Indian Provinces. The size and incompatibility of the component units would seem to make union almost as difficult in one case as the other. But if the United States of Europe is not an impossible, if a remote, ideal, surely the united Government of India, with the traditions of British rule, and the *lingua franca* of the English tongue, is an attainable object. Sir Reginald points out the terrible example of China, and reminds us that even the Northern States of America, with a common language and religion, and a homogeneous population, were only kept united by one of the most desperate wars in history, and by an effort of which India may not unfairly be regarded as incapable. He might equally have quoted the example of the States of South America, in which the hopes of union after the Liberation from Spain were quickly shattered by incessant and fratricidal warfare. The same dangers obviously exist in India, with the added risk of foreign invasion. The only safeguard against such dangers is clearly the *nexus* with the British Empire, which the politicians of India profess to be ready and anxious to discard.

*"The Dilemma in India." By Sir Reginald Craddock. (Constable 1929) 10s. 6d.

Sir Reginald is on sure ground when he examines the unfortunate circumstances of Mr. Montagu's visit to India, and deals destructively with the so-called Nehru constitution. Many will share his regret that the period of the Morley-Minto Reforms was not prolonged. But Sir Reginald perhaps hardly emphasises sufficiently for the general reader that the previous system of administration, however well suited to the conditions of the country, was essentially transitory, and that development was inevitable. The utterances of statesmen from Munro onwards, the promises that could not unfairly be read into the Queen's Charter of 1858, and finally the unbridled freedom of the Press all combined towards this result. However unfair and inaccurate vernacular papers may be nowadays, they can hardly be worse in the way of misrepresentation and venomous personal attacks, than the Press of forty years ago. To these causes, and to the idealistic haste of Mr. Montagu, were added the world movements, and the noble sentiments of Mr. Woodrow Wilson, to which Sir Reginald gives due weight.

It must not be thought that Sir Reginald is merely destructive in his criticism. Of his proposals, it may be said that they would have provided an excellent development of the Morley-Minto Reforms: but they could hardly be regarded as forming a successive stage or advance such as was promised by Mr. Montagu in 1917. The situation, as described, and very correctly described, by Sir Reginald thus becomes an impasse rather than a dilemma. Fully as we must agree with his dictum that it is not fair to the people of India to let them learn through suffering from the mistakes of others, some risks must inevitably be taken, so long as the principle of the necessity of an Indo-British Dominion is not surrendered. Sir Reginald's book should certainly be studied by every one interested in this vital question.

THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA.

Mr. H. Wickham Steed presided at a meeting of the East India Association at the Caxton Hall on October 21, when a paper was read by Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe, formerly Editor of the *Calcutta Statesman*, on "India and America."

No English visitor to the United States, Mr. Ratcliffe said, could fail to note the evidence of widespread interest in India and her problems, and the interest was certain to increase. To no small extent the views of the American public upon Indian political questions had been influenced by the active work in the United States of Indian writers and speakers, most of them being identified with the more extreme position. Their influence had been, during the past two years, counteracted to some extent by the widespread sale of Miss Katherine Mayo's highly controversial book, "Mother India." While looked upon with suspicion by the anti-Imperialist section of American opinion, this book had had a strong influence among American women and the church-going population generally. They had welcomed it as providing evidence that could be used to prove the superiority of Western over Oriental civilisation. It was to be expected—since every Imperial system was criticised severely by other countries—that during the approaching discussions and practical difficulties following the Simon Report much of the comment in America would be adverse to the British Government. But it was not unreasonable to hope that there was to-day a large recognition among educated Americans of the immense difficulties of the British position.

A discussion on the paper was initiated by Sir Albion Banerji, who emphasised that the American Press and people were often misled, in the absence of reliable information, in their opinion of India and also through Indians themselves lacking a sense of responsibility. Mr. L. F. Rushbrooke Williams, Dr. Seva Ram, Mr. Yusuf Ali, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Mr. G. T. Garrett, Sir Louis Dana and Dr. Paranjpye also spoke.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY IN PALESTINE.

Discoveries at Jerash and Athlit.

A very serious and lamentable state of affairs was disclosed at the annual meeting, which took place on October 25 in the Room of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, W., of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. For the Report and Statement of Accounts made it quite clear that unless a large sum could be raised with the next few months, the School, in its present shape, must cease to exist at the close of the session now beginning. In 1927, it will be remembered, the Treasury Grant of £500 per annum was discontinued, and since that date the School has had to draw heavily on its deposit account. That deposit is now nearly exhausted, and at the beginning of 1930 the School's general account will show a balance of little more than £200. For special purposes, such as the excavations at Jerash, Shukbah, and Athlit, there is a sufficient balance in hand—contributions having been ear-marked for these campaigns, but for the maintenance of the School's modest premises and working library in Jerusalem and work at the London end and the Director's salary there is insufficient money. It will, therefore, probably be necessary, according to the "Report," to submit in the next few months proposals either for the reorganisation of the School, or for closing it altogether and disposing of its library, excavation outfit, and other effects, after the next excavation season.

The Archbishop's Appeal.

Such a fate would be most deplorable, and it was good that so eminent an authority as the Archbishop of Canterbury was in the Chair at this annual meeting to appeal for support to enable the splendid work of the School to be carried on. His Grace said that, so far as he might claim to represent the public opinion and the religious life of the country, he wished to testify in the strongest possible way to his sense of the importance of the work of the School being maintained. The three main springs of civilisation, certainly in the West and the Near East, were Athens, Rome, and Jerusalem. There were great Schools of Archaeology in Athens and Rome, and it was essential that there should be a thoroughly established School in Jerusalem. But when he read in the draft report which had been submitted that the School was only secure until next summer, then, like a great figure in the history of Jerusalem, he confessed that he sat down in astonishment. He could scarcely have believed that the School of Archaeology in Jerusalem was in any kind of danger. It was unthinkable that the learned and even the ordinary educated public in this country would allow such a calamity to take place. They all recognised the big responsibility which the people of this country had in regard to Palestine and Jerusalem. We had a Mandate for the care of that country, small in extent, but unequalled in the richness of its associations with history, and included in the Mandate was special care for the antiquities of the country. It would be extraordinary if the Mandatory Power were to proclaim to the learned world that it was so inadequately aware of its trust in regard to those antiquities that it was unable to maintain the School of Archaeology. For ten people who owed a great debt of gratitude to the culture of Athens and the political genius of Rome, there were hundreds who owed a debt of gratitude to the deeper spiritual memories of Jerusalem and Palestine, and, therefore, the support given to the School in Jerusalem should be greater and more widespread than that given to other Schools.

The Churches of Gerasa, 1928, 1929.

In illustration of the worthiness of this appeal, and of the excellent work accomplished by the School, Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Director of the School, gave an address, which was illustrated with photographs both from the air and from the ground, on the excavations at Gerasa (Jerash) in 1928 and 1929. We are privileged to publish a portion of the Director's lecture herewith:—

"The University of Yale and the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem agreed two years ago to send a joint expedition to Gerasa to explore the churches and other remains of the early Christian period there. The ruins of six churches were known to exist there: in the last two seasons the joint expedition has discovered the ruins of eight others, and ten churches in all have been excavated down to the floor. The classic expeditions of M. de Vogüé in the last century and of Mr. H. C. Butler in the present century, to which we owe most of our knowledge of Christian antiquities in Syria, were precluded from making excavations: consequently it was certain that our knowledge was very incomplete, and the sympathetic attitude of the Trans-Jordan Government, by facilitating our researches in every way, has enabled us to supplement their work to a material degree.

"Gerasa lies on the east side of the fertile highlands which separate the Jordan valley from the Arabian desert. As the crow flies, it is only about 23 miles east of the Jordan and about 53 north-east of Jerusalem, but these figures are deceptive, for the country is seamed with deep watercourses, and to go from Gerasa to Amman or Jerusalem one has to follow a most circuitous route.

"Gerasa itself was built on both sides of a tributary of the Jabbok: the banks rise steeply from the river and the hilly ground on each side was so broken that it was only after much artificial terracing that it was possible to secure level platforms for the larger buildings. Here the rock had to be cut back, there embankments had to be constructed against it, and long flights of steps were necessary to lead from one level to another. The peculiar charm of the site is largely due to this.

"Before we began work the ruins of Gerasa appeared to belong almost wholly to the Classical period. The sites of six churches, as

we have said, could be identified with some difficulty, but their remains was insignificant beside the remains of the two great Pagan temples, the theatres and the baths, the Propylæa, the Nymphæum, and the colonnaded street. These Classical buildings still dominate the site, and yet a closer investigation has shown that apart from those buildings we have just enumerated there is practically nothing visible on the surface which does not come from constructions of the centuries after Constantine.

"Why have the churches fallen while the walls of the temples are still standing? This question can be answered only when we have learned how completely the two buildings differed in plan and structure from the very beginning.

"The ritual of the church was developed from the ritual of the synagogue, and churches, like synagogues, were designed primarily as meeting-places for a congregation assembled to observe the ritual of their religion. The architect's first consideration, therefore, was for the interior disposition of the building, its suitability for the purpose in view: its external monumental appearance was at this time a matter of secondary importance. In temples, on the other hand, the public was most interested in what went on outside, in the temple court, and the monumental appearance of the central building was never forgotten. The exterior lines of an early Christian basilica were in consequence as different as can be well imagined from those of a Pagan temple. Let us look at one of our Gerasene basilicas as it must be reconstructed, first from north to south and then from east to west. In the centre of the north-south line is a flat gabled roof over the nave which is carried on walls pierced by rows of clerestory windows and resting on arcades on piers or columns. On either side are the sloping roofs of the aisles, starting below the clerestory windows: beyond these again north and south respectively, there are chapels or lateral narthexes. The same stepped effect is produced at the east end by the projection of the apse with its semi-dome and at the west end by the sloping roof of the east alley of the atrium. In place of the simple lines of the uni-cellular temple we see a group of stepped masses balanced against each other and each representing an area which played a definite and distinct part in the ritual of the day. The new structure has evidently been planned from the inside outwards, not primarily to produce a particular external effect but to provide for the needs of a ritual: the façade and the west towers which are found in North Syria and which counted for so much later in Europe have not yet come into being, and the external beauty of these churches did not lie in any carved decoration; of this there is hardly a trace apart from a few shell-headed niches taken, like columns and caps, from earlier buildings; it lay solely in the grouping and coherency of the different masses we have described. Upon the interior, on the other hand, these builders lavished all the wealth of decoration at their command. Little of this has survived, but our excavations enable us to trace the internal disposition in detail: the floor of the nave and aisles where the congregation stood was paved with brilliantly coloured mosaic patterns which are still of absorbing interest, mutilated as they mostly are; a low stone screen separated the congregation from the sanctuary; from the south side of this screen an ambo or pulpit projected into the nave for the reading of the scriptures; on the north side was a table for the preparation of the elements; round the wall of the apse were tiers of seats for the priests and deacons with a raised seat in the middle for the bishop; in front of them was the altar with a reliquary built under it. This seems to have been the invariable arrangement in Gerasa, though all these features could not be traced in every church we excavated.

"Such were the buildings, and it is not difficult now to understand why so much less of them is left above ground than is left of the temples. The walls of the apses carried a semi-dome of masonry; they were, therefore, solidly built and have largely survived. The other walls carried only timber roofs; with one exception they were of poor construction, the fact that they were concealed by plaster or revetting having no doubt encouraged jerry-building. They were further weakened by the numerous windows with which they were pierced; many of them were erected very rapidly, as we can tell from the dates of their construction, and they formed part of a complicated system of balanced masses. It is small wonder that so much more remains of the older and more rudimentary structures."

Mr. Crowfoot described in detail some of the results of excavation at Jerash—the large church east of the Fountain Court (excavated in 1928), and a splendid flight of steps connecting this with the main street of Jerash were cleared; also a complex of three churches, built early in the reign of Justin, west of the Church of Saint Theodore; a fourth church to the south-west; a fifth behind the Temple of Artemis, built (as was discovered) over a synagogue; and a sixth on the extreme west of the site, built in the seventh century. Excavation ended about the middle of June, and the Director returned to England in July to prepare the results for publication.

Prehistory at Athlit.

Miss D. A. E. Garrod, of Cambridge, then described the remarkable discoveries of pre-history in Palestine at Athlit, south of Haifa. The "Caves of the Valley" (*Mugharat-al-Wad*) lay, she said, three miles south-east of Athlit, at the western foot of Mt. Carmel. Soundings made by the Palestine Department of Antiquities in the autumn of 1928 resulted in the discovery of a large number of flint implements and an interesting prehistoric carving representing a young deer or bovine animal. The British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem had undertaken the complete excavation of the Cave in collaboration with the American School of Prehistoric Research, and the first season's work has yielded important results. Five prehistoric levels had been found, the most ancient of them being Mousterian. Above this lay a series of hearths, nearly two metres in thickness, containing four distinct industries of Upper Palaeolithic type, followed by a Mesolithic layer in which microlithic imple-

ments were associated with bone points, bone beads, pierced teeth, and a small carving in stone representing a human head. The discoveries made in the *Mugharat-al-Wad* helped to fill a large gap in the prehistoric chronology of Palestine. Miss Garrod concluded by saying that this work at Athlit was so important that long-held theories were being challenged by the discoveries being made there, and that, therefore, the work at Shukbah would have to be postponed until Athlit, where work would be resumed next year, had been more thoroughly investigated.

Testimony to the School.

After these two lectures, which in themselves were a quite remarkable testimony to the value of the work being accomplished by the British School, Sir Frederic Kenyon, in proposing a vote of thanks, associated himself with what had been said by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He spoke very highly of the work which was being done by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. He could testify from his own official knowledge that there were not enough trained archaeologists for field work, whereas the opportunities for work had greatly increased; particularly since Great Britain was given mandates for Palestine, Trans-Jordan, and Iraq. It was necessary, therefore, to have schools of archaeology, and no better situation could be found than Palestine in which to train students for that work.

Lord Plumer also supported the appeal on behalf of the School, stating that he had had personal experience of the energy, zeal, and devotion with which its work was carried on. Whether the School received additional financial help or not, however, he hoped that it would not be deterred from carrying on.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE ARABS AND PALESTINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—A clear view of the disturbances in Palestine and of the situation which produced them has been made difficult for Western peoples by the systematic diffusion of Zionist propaganda. This propaganda tends to discredit the majority of the Palestinian population and to obscure their real and permanent aims. The Arabs of Palestine do not possess the instruments for influencing Western opinion which are so abundantly supplied to the Zionists by wealthy and powerful representatives abroad. Under these conditions the point of view of the Arabs is either not presented at all, or is presented in a form which depends upon the mood, intelligence and whims of foreign correspondents sent here by the Western Press during the crisis. We trust that space will be found in the impartial columns of your Paper for the following direct statement of the Muslim attitude towards the recent troubles and towards the general situation which produced them:—

1. It is not the fact that the feeling of the Islamic population of Palestine is anti-Semitic in character; anti-Semitism, a European invention, is difficult for Muslims to understand, the hatred of Jews as Jews has never flourished among Muslim as among Christian peoples. The most cursory examination of either Muslim or Hebrew history will show this to be true. The great periods of development of Hebrew culture were those which took place under benevolent and friendly Muslim rulers in Spain, Africa, and Palestine. For years before the War, peaceful Jewish colonists came to Palestine, settled here, and lived in amity with their Arab neighbours. General Muslim feeling did not become unfriendly even to Zionism until Zionism itself, by the persistent practice of an aggressive policy, came to menace rights which all Muslims must hold very dear.

2. It is not the fact that the feeling of the Arabs of Palestine is anti-British in character. Those who know what the Arabs in general, and the Arabs of this country in particular, did and suffered for the Allied cause in the World War, can scarcely entertain such a suggestion. There must be thousands of Englishmen who remember the welcome given by the Arab population of this country to the British troops which occupied it. The recent disturbances, in so far as the Muslims' share in them was concerned, were a spontaneous and uncontrollable protest, not against the Government, not against the presence of Jews in Palestine, not against the Jewish race, but against unnatural and unjust Zionist aggression.

3. It is not the fact that the recent disturbances were "instigated by the Muslim authorities," as has been so assiduously stated by various Zionist and Jewish leaders; neither is it true that "the Arab effendis" stirred up trouble "for political purposes." The Muslim authorities, as the Palestine Government well knows, did everything possible to calm the feelings of the people and to prevent violence. We profoundly regret the human lives which have been lost on both sides in these troubles, and we declare that so far from instigating disorder, we endeavoured to prevent it beforehand, and to cause its cessation once it had begun.

Let me now summarise briefly the dangerous situation which has grown up around the place known among Muslims as *Al Buraq*, among Jews as "The Western Wall" (*Quotel Moravi*), and among European Christians as "The Wailing Wall."

Al Buraq is a small part of the Western wall of *Haram As-Sharif*, the holy Islamic area erroneously known among foreigners as the Mosque of Omar. Not only the whole area but also *Al Buraq* itself is of special sanctity and is mentioned in the Holy Quran. The area

surrounding *Al Buraq* on the outside is, and has been for five hundred years, an inviolable Muslim Waqf. The *Haram As-Sharif* has been Muslim property for thirteen and a half centuries, but in the remote past it was the site of three successive Jewish Temples. The structures of the holy area, including the walls, are Muslim, but it is believed that three of the lower courses of masonry in the western wall are remnants of the last, the Herodian Temple. For this reason, centuries ago Jews developed the practice of going there to lament over the destruction of the Temple. Their lamentations, it should be noted, are for the destruction of the Temple of Solomon, of which no remnant remains at the Wailing Wall or anywhere else.

Muslims have never objected to the practice of visiting the wall of the holy area. These walls may be visited by anybody, Jewish, Christian, or unbelievers. The Jewish practice of visiting *Al Buraq* grew up under Muslim tolerance and continued over such a long period of time that it became a prescriptive right. But the prescriptive right to visit the wall is a far different thing from the right of ownership, or even of free usage, which has been implied in Jewish pretensions there in recent years. These pretensions involved the introduction of chairs, fixed benches, tables, lamps, mats, the Ark of the Covenant and the Scrolls of the Law and a screen, so as in fact to create an actual open synagogue in a place of special sanctity to the whole Islamic world. Moreover, the unofficial comment of the Jewish Press and public in Palestine tended to make of *Al Buraq* a symbol of vast significance, standing for the Temple itself.

The steady progress of this development culminated on the Jewish Day of Atonement, 1928, and His Majesty's Government, perceiving the dangers of the situation, issued the White Paper of November, 1928, defining the *status quo*, assured Muslim possession of the area, and reiterated the Jewish prescriptive right to visit it. The Muslims have never asked more than this. Since the White Paper was published every responsible Muslim body has repeatedly urged the Palestine Government to put it into effect; yet for nine months, while feeling on both sides mounted, nothing was done.

At this stage the Zionist Organisation itself took charge of the Jewish side of the controversy and transformed the issue into a political one. The Zionist Congress at Zurich this summer dealt with the question of the *Buraq* in a temper of unprecedented zeal. It was urged that "the *status quo* was not enough for the Jews," and a delegation was dispatched by aeroplane to London to present the Jewish case against the White Paper to the new Imperial Government. Every speech made at Zurich, every action taken there, was reported in the Hebrew Press here with rising excitement. The agitation thus created among the Jews was watched with corresponding alarm by the Arab Press and public. The climax of this Jewish agitation was reached on August 14, the day commemorating the Destruction of the Temple, when the Jews gathered from all Palestine to make a demonstration which startled Jerusalem. On that night they marched around the walls of the city; on the next day they made a nationalist demonstration at the Wailing Wall itself, with speeches and banners. That demonstration was not a religious one. Of its nature I can speak as a witness, since my own house stands at one end of the Wailing Wall and these manifestations took place under my windows. The Government's *communiqué* of August 17 recognises the facts of the case. In view of the Sacred Muslim character not only of the wall, but also of the area which surrounds it, every friend of peace viewed this Zionist insult with consternation.

Yet in spite of this, as I have stated, the Supreme Muslim Council and the responsible Muslim authorities, as well as the Arab leaders, both Muslim and Christian, used their influence on behalf of patience and peace. Indeed, throughout the disturbances, the majority of Muslims remained patient and peaceful. But in the state of feeling to which the Jews and Muslims had been brought by these fundamental conflicts of political and religious interests, spontaneous disorders ensued first in one city and then in another, as the news travelled. I deplore every drop of blood shed in this Holy Land, the cradle of religions, which should be the home of peace and happiness. The Arabs of this country feel no hatred towards any race or religion, and if they must vigorously condemn Zionist activities, it is only because the Zionist policy here has made intolerable aggression against the political and religious rights of the existing population.

The ultimate goal of Zionist policy, as the Zionists themselves disclose it to us, cannot be achieved without detriment to those rights.

The Arabs of Palestine believe that permanent peace and good understanding between all communities here can be secured only by a régime of justice for all, regardless of race or religion. To secure this justice there should be

(a) A democratic parliamentary Government, shared by Muslims, Christians and Jews according to their numerical proportions.

(b) A change in the present unjust and unnatural policy which exploits, in the interest of a Zionist minority of perhaps a hundred and twenty thousand persons, the overwhelming majority of the people of this country.

We await in full confidence the arrival of the Commission of Inquiry. Its investigations cannot but support what has here been stated. This statement, from which I have rigidly excluded anything which might be construed as controversial or open to question, is addressed to fair-minded people, of whatever race or religion. It is a definite statement, and I shall enter into no controversy upon it.—I am, etc.,

HAJJ AMIN HUSSEINI,
Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, President of the Supreme Muslim Council.
Rabia 17 A.H., 1348 (September 21, 1929).
Jerusalem.

[In the interests of obtaining a final settlement of the Palestine problem, we publish this presumably authoritative statement of the Arab case. Certain features in it, however, such as the omission of any reference to the breach made in the southern end of the Wailing Wall, are bound to be challenged.—Ed.]

THE LATE SIR VALENTINE CHIROL.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the sudden death, on October 22, of Sir Valentine Chirol. On the previous evening he had been to a concert at the Queen's Hall, and appeared to be in his ordinary health; but during the night he roused his valet, stating that he did not feel well. The valet went out to fetch a doctor, but when the latter arrived Sir Valentine Chirol had already passed away. For some years he had not been in good health. He had spent the winter of 1928-29 quietly in India, and on his way home suffered from a bad attack of pneumonia during a short stay in Egypt. He seemed, however, to have made a complete recovery when he reached England, but it was obvious that advancing years were leaving their mark upon him. His main trouble was failing eyesight, but he had been able during the summer to complete another book of reminiscences, which is due to be published next month.

To all associated with THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA the death of Sir Valentine Chirol comes as a great personal loss. For fifteen of the eighteen years of the Paper's existence he had been a director of the Company, and, apart from his occasional contributions, those responsible for the conduct of the Paper could always count on the advantage of his wide knowledge and advice.

With the death of Valentine Chirol passes one of the last of the Old Guard of journalists—historians of contemporary history, whose names are generally unknown to the man-in-the-street of their time, but who command the attention and respect of Governments and are sometimes instrumental in shaping policies that they are called upon to interpret to the reading public. The secret of their position is to be sought in their character and in the accuracy of their knowledge. A keen student of public affairs, Chirol prepared himself for the position that he was subsequently to occupy by study and careful observation. He was well read, had a retentive memory, and brought to bear on all his work a well-balanced mind, a catholic sympathy and an intellectual honesty that despised verbal quibblings or any deviation from the truth. Essentially a man of letters, he was a lucid and polished writer. Few autobiographies can compare with his "Fifty Years in a Changing World" for sheer artistry of treatment and smoothness of style. His life, as he has recorded himself, was cast in a period of immense and immensely rapid changes all over the world; and it was at once his good fortune to be brought into personal contact with a good deal of history in the making and to be able to make full use of his opportunities.

In private life Valentine Chirol—or V. C., as he was to all those who knew him well—was a man of many and warm friendships, an excellent companion, a true and generous friend. Though a bachelor, he was always responsive to the amenities of family life, and it meant much to him that, thanks to his own loyal nature, these amenities remained with him to the day of his death.

Born on May 23, 1852, Ignatius Valentine Chirol was the younger son of the Rev. Alexander Chirol, the descendant of a Huguenot family that had taken refuge in England during the wars of the French Revolution. Both his father and mother were received into the Roman Catholic Church, but, whereas the Rev. Alexander Chirol returned after a short time to the Church of England, Mrs. Chirol remained a Roman Catholic. Valentine Chirol was brought up in the latter faith, and out of devotion to his mother made no open renunciation of it during her lifetime. He regarded himself, however, as a Protestant, and expressed the wish that his funeral service should be according to the rites of the Church of England.

Having been educated mainly in France and Germany—he took his degree at the University of Paris—Valentine Chirol had a thorough knowledge of French and German, and with both Frenchmen and Germans could pass for a national of the country, as far as his speech was concerned. In 1872 he entered the Foreign Office,

but to remain only four years in Government service. During that brief period he was sent to the Balkans, and there began his association with the East which was to remain his major interest for the rest of his life. On resigning from the Diplomatic Service Chirol set himself to acquire first-hand knowledge of the countries of the Near and Middle East, and for the next sixteen years was to be found in various capacities in that part of the world. His first visit to Egypt coincided with the closing years of the Khedive Ismail's reign. In 1879 he went to Syria, and a year later passed on to Asia Minor and Constantinople. During the Egyptian campaign he acted as correspondent of the *Standard*; he went to India in 1883, and in 1884 travelled across Persia from Bushire to the Caspian Sea, the immediate object of his visit being to present a machine-gun to the Shah on behalf of Nordenfolt. In 1885 the *Standard* engaged Chirol as its war correspondent in the Sudan, and in the following year sent him to Bulgaria.

It was his long association with *The Times*, which began in 1892 and lasted beyond its formal termination by his retirement from active journalism in 1912, that provided Chirol with full scope for his energy and abilities. As *Times* Correspondent in Berlin, he enjoyed exceptional advantages for the purpose of his work by reason of the respect in which he was held by the German Foreign Secretary, Baron Marshall von Bieberstein, and of his personal friendship with Herr von Holstein, permanent head of the Foreign Office, and with successive British Ambassadors of that time. Chirol believed in the necessity for, and the possibility of, good relations between Germany and Great Britain, and for the earlier part of his stay in Berlin his work was comparatively plain sailing. It was, however, a transition period in German history; Bismarck had been deposed, but the Emperor William was only gradually allowing his headstrong propensities to exercise their baneful influence on German policy. The trouble came to a head with the dispatch of the Emperor's famous telegram to President Kruger. Chirol's blunt exposure of German designs was not at all to the liking of the German Government, which officially closed its doors to him. *The Times* accepted the position, and Chirol was recalled to the London office, where he acted first as deputy to Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, and in 1899 succeeded him as Foreign Editor. The twelve years during which Chirol held this post established his reputation both at home and abroad as one of the foremost interpreters of world politics and as a factor behind the scenes in the trend of international affairs. The grant of a Knighthood when he left *The Times* in 1912 was a recognition of the public service that he had rendered. His interest in the East and his desire to keep his finger on the pulse of world developments led him to undertake visits to India and the Far East during this period. He published "The Middle Eastern Question" in 1903 and "Indian Unrest" in 1910. Five years later this latter book was the basis of the libel action brought against him by Tilak, the Indian leader, whom he had called "the father of Indian unrest." The Great War had already broken out, and Chirol, who in the summer of 1914 had undertaken for the British Government the forlorn mission of trying to undo mischief already done by British diplomacy in the Balkans, with a view to uniting the Balkan States on the Allied side, found himself obliged to interrupt his War work in England in order to collect evidence in support of the statements that he had made in "Indian Unrest." The libel action was tried at the beginning of 1919: the trial lasted seventeen days and resulted in a verdict for Chirol. By this time he had become one of the foremost authorities on Indian affairs. He had previously served, 1912-1916, on the Royal Commission on Indian Public Services, and in 1921 he published his "India, Old and New." A further volume entitled "India" came from his pen in 1926, as one of the series of "The Modern World: A Survey of Historical Forces." He was no less an authority on Egypt, as his book on "The Egyptian Problem" (1920) bore witness.

The affairs of both countries he approached with characteristic sympathy and breadth of vision, but fearless in his denunciation of mistakes, by whomsoever committed.

Of recent years his failing health caused him to follow the course of home and foreign affairs, as it were, from a distance, and he sought consolation for any slackening of his grip on the trend of current events in the writing of his reminiscences of more active days. Each winter took him abroad, still indulging his love for painting, which had enabled him to accumulate a pictorial record of his world-wide travels.

The funeral took place at Golders Green Crematorium on October 25. The service was conducted by the Rev. Herbert Trundle. Among those present were:—Mr. G. E. Buckle, Colonel Armstrong, Mrs. Moberly Bell, Mr. Moberly Bell, Mr. Pumphrey, Miss Cynthia Bell, Miss Thornton, Miss Eldridge, Major Eldridge, Mrs. Tansley, Mrs. Jago, Vice-Admiral Sir Herbert and Lady Richmond, Miss Dorothy Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Napier, Miss Hill, Mr. Chapman, Mr. John Walter, Mr. Geoffrey Dawson, Mr. Philip Graves, Lady Dawkins, Lady Spring-Rice, Sir Benjamin Robertson, Admiral Sir William Goodenough, Professor Coupland, Mr. A. L. Kennedy, Mr. J. B. Capper, Mr. B. L. Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. Wemyss Carbery, Sir Hugh Murray, Dr. Murison, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Tristram Ellis, and the household staff from 34, Carlyle Square.

The following were among those who sent floral tributes:—Miss Dorothy Ward, Mrs. Bruce Richmond, Colonel Armstrong, Mrs. Moberly Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Eldridge, Mrs. D. Bush, Miss L. H. M. Hill, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Lady Spring-Rice and Miss Betty Spring-Rice, Sir Hugh and Lady Bell, the Central Asian Society, Major and Miss Eldridge, Lady Margaret School (Parsons Green), the staff of Lady Margaret School, Lady Margaret School Parents' Association, the Earl and Countess of Cromer and Lady Rosemary Baring, Mrs. Nelson and family, Mrs. A. Murray Smith, Mr. Launcelot Oliphant, Lord and Lady Tyrell and Miss Ann Tyrell, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Napier and Major Claud Napier, Miss Enid and Miss Cynthia Bell, Sir Stanley and Lady Reed, Mrs. A. Hinton, the domestic staff of 17, Carlyle Square, Mrs. and Mrs. Brookman and Miss Brookman, Mr. W. L. Chapman, Major the Hon. J. J. and Lady Violet Astor, Mr. John Walter, Mr. W. Lints Smith, the proprietors and staff of *The Times*, Lady Hill, Mrs. Prescott, Mr. and Mrs. Marillier and Gerald, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dixon, Jeremy and Nicholas, the Rev. T. A. A. Chisol, Mr. Flanagan, Admiral Sir Herbert and Lady Richmond and Valentine, and Mrs. Buckle.

A Memorial Service was held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on October 28. The Rev. H. L. Johnston officiated. The Bishop of Worcester was unavoidably prevented from taking part in the service.

Among those present were:—The French Ambassador, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Lord Islington, Lord Meston, Major the Hon. J. J. Astor, the Marquess of Crewe, Mrs. Moberly Bell, the Misses Moberly Bell, Mr. W. Lints Smith, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Buckle, Mr. B. L. Richmond, Mr. G. Murray Brumwell, Mr. R. M. Barrington Ward, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pirie Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Montague Bell, Mrs. Dumbrell, Sir Murray Hammick, Sir Stanley Reed, Sir Robert Carlyle, Sir Walter Lawrence, Sir Charles Bayley, Major-General Sir Desmond O'Callaghan, Sir Harcourt Butler, Mr. F. H. Brown (representing the East India Association), Lady Bell, Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart Patterson (Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India), Sir Chauncey Cartwright, Sir Francis Aglen, Major Richard Rigg, Colonel E. Armstrong, General Sir Edmund and Lady Barrow, Mrs. Hubert Walter, Lady MacDonnell, the Hon. Anne MacDonnell, Admiral Sir William Goodenough and Lady Goodenough, Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Tristram Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Capper, Sir Malcolm Seton, Lady Phipps, the Hon. Mrs. Wilson Fox, Lady Joan Fletcher, the Hon. Mrs. John Collier, Miss Collier, Miss Moberly Bell (representing the Lady Margaret School), Sir Michael O'Dwyer (representing the Central Asian Society), Sir Elliot Colvin, Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Sir Herbert Baker, Lady Harding, Sir Reginald Tower, Sir Arthur Willert, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Amery, the Hon. Lady Lytton, Sir Almeric FitzRoy, Sir Edward Boyle, Mr. S. T. Sheppard (Editor of *The Times of India*), Mr. C. W. Brodribb, the Hon. Mrs. Edgar Henley, Sir Ian Malcolm, Sir John and Lady Miller, Sir William MaxMuller, Mr. L. Oliphant (representing the Foreign Office), Mr. and Mrs. A. Murray Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Wemyss Carbery, Mrs. Elkington, Mrs. Prescott, Miss Spring-Rice, Mr. H. D. Barnham, Miss D. M. Stuart, Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. Smiles, Mr. Kenneth Williams (Editor of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*), Mr. G. Fitzmaurice, Mrs. Benson, Mr. Walter S. Scott, Mrs. E. Carr, Mrs. John Daniell, Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. W. S. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes Buller, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dixon, Miss Richmond, Lila Lady Abinger, Mrs. H. C. Marillier, Miss Caesar, Mr. A. S. McDowall, Mrs. W. B. Gladstone, Dr. Clemow, Mr. C. L. Graves, Mr. W. C. Chapman, Colonel A. Leslie, Sir Henry Sharp, Mrs. Eagle, Miss Dawkins, Mr. Lionel Hitchens, Mr. H. B. Cobb, Miss Dorothy Ward, Brigadier-General Buzzard and Mrs. Buzzard, Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Miss Hannen, Miss Muriel Mackenzie (League of Nations Union, Chelsea Branch), Miss Huxley, Mrs. Carson Roberts, Mr. George Saunders, Mrs. Saunders, Miss Mills, Miss F. A. Cottrell, Mrs. Sharp, Mr. R. J. Hawker (Lady Margaret School Parents' Association), Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Braham, Mr. Wynnard Hooper, Mr. Percival L. Witherby, the Rev. R. Hartley, Mr. W. S. Millard, Mr. Philip C. Sarell, and Mr. Geoffrey Drage.

The Earl and Countess of Cromer, Lady Colvin, and Mr. Wickham Steed were unavoidably prevented from being present.

CYPRUS.

Dr. A. Zemenides, a Professor of Education from Cyprus and the founder of the London Cyprus Brotherhood, lectured on his native country at the Wood Green Public Library on October 17. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides of the Island.

After an introduction dealing with the history of the Colony, the lecturer gave a description of the Island and of its inhabitants. He made special mention of the archaeological importance of Cyprus and of the recent excavations. The second part of his lecture was devoted to the produce and industries of his country. He said that the economic future of the Island of Cyprus depended on the development of its industries; on the establishment of irrigation works, with increase of the lands under cultivation, and last, but not least, on re-afforestation.

In conclusion, he paid a tribute to the work which had been done for the Island by the present Governor, Sir Ronald Storrs, whom he described as the best Administrator that the Colony had ever had.

IRAQIS AND PALESTINE.

We have received the following telegram, dated October 28, from Muzahim Beg al Pachachi, for the "Iraq Committee":—

"Iraqis protest against British Administration's partiality in Palestine, repeating their profound indignation over Balfour Declaration and its iniquitous designs, which are alarming and wounding Islam and Arab lands."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Hassan Tahsin Bey, Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in Cairo, who has been transferred to Budapest, left Egypt on October 11 for Angora, prior to taking up his new post.

Shaikh Talib Markah has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of £P50 on a charge of instigating the attacks on Hebron during the recent disturbances in Palestine.

A sum of 405,240 francs (about £3,000) is to be provided by the French Government for the assistance and repatriation of French subjects evacuated from Afghanistan.

Air Vice-Marshal F. R. Scarlett, C.B., D.S.O., who has taken over command of the R.A.F., Middle East, from Air Vice-Marshal Webb-Bowen, arrived at Port Said on October 23, accompanied by Mrs. Scarlett.

Air Vice-Marshal Webb-Bowen, who left Egypt on October 27 to take up his new appointment of member of the Air Council in London, was entertained by the Staff officers of R.A.F. Middle East at the Turf Club, Cairo, on October 18.

The Imperial Airway liner *City of Rome* was wrecked in the Gulf of Genoa on October 26, and seven lives were lost. The air liner was carrying mail which left Karachi on October 20, and was one which is used on the Mediterranean section of the India-London air mail.

The Greek Government is considering the formulation of a protest to the League of Nations against obstacles which the Turkish authorities are alleged to have been placing during the past few weeks in the way of Greek shipping passing through the Dardanelles to the Black Sea. The action of the Turkish authorities is said to be in contravention of the provisions of the Dardanelles agreement.

For the first time since the War extensive manoeuvres by Roumanian armed forces have been held for the past week and will terminate to-morrow (November 1). All arms of the services have been taking part in a battle between Red and Blue armies. As the plan of action was secret, foreign military attachés were not invited to be present at the manoeuvres.

Three Bulgarian judges, Dr. Kuratcheff, President of the High Court, M. Valieff, a public prosecutor, and Justice Todoroff, who were travelling by motor-car along the highway near the Bulgarian town of Suchindol on October 23, were shot dead by bandits, who recognised them in the course of a systematic hold up of motor-cars, all the passengers of which were robbed.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Conservatives and the Empire Crusade.

To one not in the inner counsels of the Conservative Party the expressions of discontent to which some of its younger members are giving vent seem more serious than possibly they are. There is, however, a quite general feeling that apathy exists in a dangerous degree in the party, and that unless some new ideas are formulated, the chances of a return to power of the Conservatives are very remote.

That is as it may be, but it is interesting to note that great attempts are being made by Lord Beaverbrook's "Empire Crusaders"—a non-party body—to secure the malcontents of the Conservative Party. Each convert is hailed with applause that echoes windily down the corridors of the Beaverbrook Press, and it is not unnatural, though it may be unjustifiable, to presume that were Mr. Baldwin willing to lay down the reins of leadership of the Conservative Party, Lord Beaverbrook, or one of his nominees, would, were he "asked," take them up.

What hold this Empire Crusade is getting on the country at large it is extremely difficult to gauge, for the only recorder of its progress is the Beaverbrook Press, which certainly knows how to welcome the one that comes in and to ignore the ninety and nine that are left without. Of course, it has made its opponents, who seem, however, to belong mainly to the doctrinaire Free Trade camp, and who, therefore, must have been discounted in advance by Lord Beaverbrook when he launched his campaign. At the moment, a fair summary of the situation seems to be that people are a little more impressed by the difficulties of the scheme than by its most desirable possibilities. Whether unparalleled publicity can alter this attitude remains to be seen. We shall know soon: because, if the idea is not "going," it will quickly be dropped by papers whose main aim is increased circulation.

An Election Petition.

It is rare nowadays that a man elected to Parliament is unseated owing to some irregularity, for the bribery and corruption which were so jolly a feature in the good old days now take on much less direct and entertaining forms.

This reflexion is prompted by, but it really has nothing to do with, an election petition at Plymouth, where it was alleged by certain members of the Tory Party, whose candidate had been defeated, that unfair influence had been exerted in favour of the winning candidate, Mr.

Moses, a Labour member, by a wealthy local man, a Mr. Ballard. As a matter of fact, Mr. Moses was most triumphantly acquitted, and he accepted his victory in Court in the most sporting way, realising that what his political opponents were really after was, not his own downfall, but the curbing of this Mr. Ballard's queer activities.

It is now all ancient history, and, since it appears to have left no bitterness, will very soon be forgotten. Yet not quite. For *The Times*, galvanising its elephantine body into preparation for a resounding joke, took one of those flying leaps into flippancy which it permits itself once a century, and published on October 26 a leader called "Ordeal by Ballard." Excellent. After this delicious relapse we may presumably expect to be informed really seriously how this old world wags on (from the Government's point of view).

Skirting a Subject.

To the mere man, whom experience of the world has taught many things, there is a touch of unreality about the present furious controversy of whether or not women shall abandon the short skirt and return to the long affair worn by their graceful mothers. Far behind the passionate protest that the short skirt is now an immortal feature of emancipated women, there lies the greater, more enduring, and quite contradictory fact: that women, who are such subjects of fashion as they never were of man, will quite certainly bow the knee, or, rather, cover it, if the dictates of smartness decree it.

The topic, however, is a terribly serious one—far too serious for a man to rush into it with an opinion. The least that can be said for it is that it has helped to fill the columns of the more jejune papers until to-day, when Parliament reassembles.

"Les Neiges d'Antan."

Who said that the clock could not be put back? For it is just announced that, after a break of ten weary and mostly unprofitable years, Drury Lane is to have at Christmastide—Pantomime!

We thought we had lost it for ever—pantomime—that it had been sacrificed on the altar of progress, sophistication, or whatever this process is called that destroys all good things, whether they be chocolates after eight, drinks at any old hour, cheap tobacco, hansom cabs, and the rest of it. What modern children will make of it all (it is, by the way, "The Sleeping Beauty" that is being revived) one cannot tell—for they are often so much more modern than children; but surely the children who are always young, despite their rheumatism and their income tax, will chortle with joy at Drury Lane. I think, too, that some at least of the youngsters whom they take as an excuse will have eyes a-sparkling and hearts aflame with imagination.

Yet though the snows of yesteryear may return, most of the stars have faded. Where are they now—Marie Lloyd, Dan Leno, Harry Fragson, Arthur Conquest? And will there arise other such stars, or has jazz perverted them all?

London and Colour.

It is heartening to see that London can show such love for the old. Another instance of right feeling is in the announcement that the London General Omnibus Company have capitulated to public sentiment and have decided to maintain their big red buses on our drab streets, instead of making the upper half of the bus a cream colour—which was their original decision.

The Londoner likes his colour, even though it be laid on with a trowel. Whatever he may think of the "Reds" in general, he is apparently resolved at all costs to keep his big red bus. They are his known friends, and he always feels a little awkward, and is glad to get to the end of his journey, when travelling in one of those chocolate or blue or inferior red buses whose aim (so blatant and natural and justifiable) is to make money quickly.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

October 31, 1929 (New Style).

October 18, 1929 (Old Style).

Jumada I. 27, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Tishri 27, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. and Mrs. Dosabhoj Chinoy left London on October 23 on their return to Hyderabad.

Sir Sankaran Nair, Chairman of the Indian Central Committee, left London on October 22 for India.

The Earl of Morley arrived last week at Saltram, Plympton, Devon, on his return from a visit to Egypt.

Lord and Lady Lloyd have left London for a short stay on the Continent.

Sir Maurice and Lady de Bunsen are expected to return to England from Syria about the end of November.

Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson left London on October 25 for Vienna, and expected to be abroad for about a month.

The Bishop of Jerusalem left Marseilles on October 25 in the Narkunda on his return to Jerusalem.

Sir Philip and Lady Buckland left England on October 25 on their return to Calcutta.

Mr. R. Gordon Canning left London on October 24 for Cairo and Jerusalem, and will be away for about two months.

The Earl and Countess of Inchcape, accompanied by Lady Margaret Shaw, left London on October 24 for Freiburg.

Sir Arthur and Lady Hirtzel, who are at present in Italy, are expected to return to 47, Palace Court, Bayswater, on November 10.

Lord Goschen, Acting Governor-General of India, and Lady Goschen left Bombay on October 26 in the Ranpura, and are due to arrive in London on November 9.

The Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, who was received by the Secretary of State for India on October 23, left London the following day to embark in the s.s. Narkunda for Bombay.

The Prince of Wales received at St. James's Palace on October 22, on behalf of the King, Mr. Nevile Henderson (upon his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Belgrade).

On the completion of his undergraduate course at Christ Church, Oxford, the Maharaja Yashwant Rao Halkar of Indore left England last week for India to undergo a course of six months' administrative training.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby has been appointed Honorary Colonel of the Australian Light Horse. Viscount and Viscountess Allenby will leave London for India in December.

The King has appointed Mohamed Pasha Mahmoud, the late Egyptian Prime Minister, to be an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.

Mr. Robert Stonehouse Broomfield has been appointed a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in the vacancy created by the retirement of Sir Charles Fawcett.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Francis and Lady Humphrys arrived at Sandringham on October 23 and left the following day. Sir Francis was received in Audience by the King and kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's High Commissioner for Iraq.

The Turkish Ambassador and Mme. Ferid Bey received members of the Turkish Colony in London at the Turkish Embassy, 69, Portland Place, on October 29, on the occasion of the anniversary of the proclamation of the Turkish Republic.

After delivering 120 addresses during his ninth world tour, and visiting Egypt, Palestine, Iraq, India, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, Mr. J. J. Cirgo, Chairman of the British Commonwealth Union of Y.M.C.A.s, arrived at Southampton on October 28 in the *Homer*.

Sir George Schuster, Finance Member of the Government of India, will arrive in London about November 9 to confer on some financial question with Mr. W. T. Layton, Financial Assessor to the Simon Commission. Lady Schuster, who is now in England, will return to India with him. They will be in Delhi when the Viceroy and Lady Irwin return from their winter tour and, on December 23, take up residence for the first time at the Viceroy's House—the name now officially chosen.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

The next two meetings of the Central Asian Society are on November 8 and November 19 respectively, at the Royal Society's Hall, Burlington House, W., at 5 p.m. At the first Sir Aurel Stein will lecture on "Alexander's Campaigns on the North-West Frontier of India," and at the second, Mr. C. F. Strickland will lecture on "Some Contrasts in the Indian and Malayan Countryside." Both lectures will be illustrated.

THE MISSION FROM CYPRUS.

The Cyprus deputation, which arrived in England last month, and which consists of the Right Rev. the Bishop of Kitium, Mr. St. Stavrinakis, and Mr. Zenon Rossides, was received on October 25 by Lord Passfield, Secretary of State for the Colonies, at the Colonial Office. The interview lasted for about an hour. The deputation asked for the satisfaction of the aspirations of the Greek people of Cyprus by allowing the islanders to be united with their "mother country," Greece. The opportunity was taken to draw the attention of the Government to the alleged anomalous and unsatisfactory general state of affairs in the island. Lord Passfield stated that he would bring the matter before the Cabinet at an early opportunity and would subsequently give a reply.

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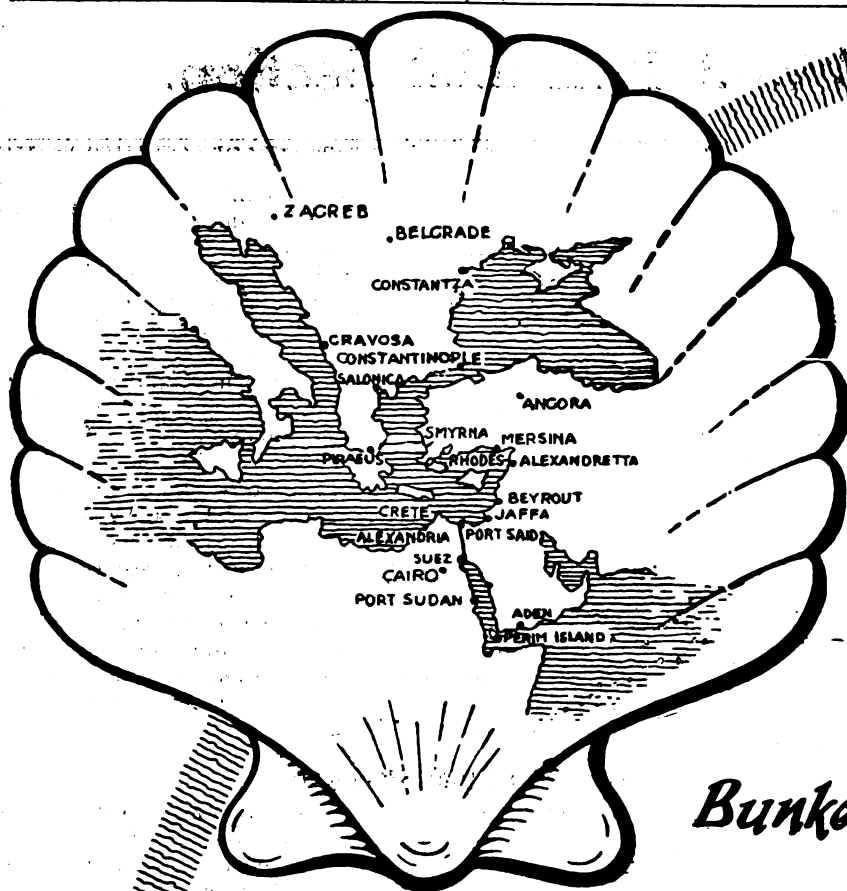
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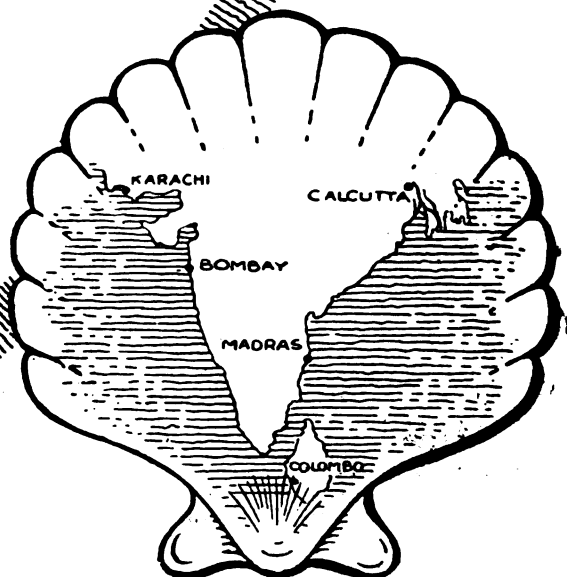
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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

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Tuesday Morning.

Conditions in Turkey.

The continued weakness of the Turkish exchange will not have escaped notice. I have pointed out on previous occasions that various factors have been responsible for this, among them the unfavourable crop position and the large imports which have been made in recent months with a view to anticipating the operation of the new tariff. The latter factor has, of course, ceased to operate for some months, and it is the general position, and, in particular, the adverse crop reports—in which connexion I might specially mention the dried fruit situation—which are now exerting the chief influence. In recent months, however, the effect of the increased imports has been very pronounced, as can be shown by a few statistics. For the first eight months of this year the imports totalled roughly 335,700 tons as compared with 248,300 tons for the corresponding period of 1928. It appears that textiles, in particular, were largely imported, and it is believed that the requirements of the market have been anticipated for at least two years ahead. As the purchasing power of Turkey at the present time is very restricted, it is likely to be a matter of extreme difficulty to dispose of these stocks within a reasonable time.

Constantinople Loan Interest Payments.

The satisfactory announcement was forthcoming last week that the Banca Commerciale Italiana had been instructed by the City of Constantinople authorities to pay in London and Constantinople, on and after October 31, coupons on the Five per Cent. Municipal Loan. The coupons affected are coupon No. 38 (the encashment of which carries with it the holder's assent to the agreement of April 30, 1929) at the rate of 7s. per 10s. coupon, face value, and coupons in arrear, No. 9, to 22 and Nos. 28 to 37, inclusive, at the rate of 2s. per 10s. coupon, but in each case only after coupon No. 38 of the corresponding bond has been presented and paid. Holders of coupon No. 38 will be required to sign a form confirming their assent to the agreement of April 30, 1929, a copy of which may be seen at the offices of Messrs. Godfrey Warr and Co., 85, Gracechurch Street, E.C. The terms of the settlement reached after about 8½ years of effort were submitted for approval to a meeting of the bondholders on May 14. The essential features of the agreement were that all monies received by the bank, and held in suspense in respect of arrear coupons, should be released for equal distribution in full discharge of the coupons representing those arrears. Secondly, the bondholders were to be reinstated from June 1 in the security of which they had been deprived. Thirdly, the Municipality undertook to pay an annuity, rising gradually from £37,400 per annum to £60,000, at which last figure it was to be maintained from 1945, until the final extinction of the loan. Fourthly, the rate of interest on the bonds was reduced from 5 per cent. to 3½ per cent. Fifthly, the residue of each annuity, after payment of interest, was to be applied to amortisation. As in other cases the terms involved concessions on the part of the bondholders, but in view of the existing conditions this was inevitable.

Eastern Oil Industries.

At the meeting of Eastern Oil Industries (a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns) the Chair-

man, Sir Montague Barlow, gave an account of the work of reorganisation and development during the year. The business and factory at Smyrna is the most important of the company's undertakings, and the machinery of the factory has been adapted to deal with the higher oil-bearing seeds. A feature of the year was the steady development of the Haifa undertaking, the turnover for the first four months of this year being approximately 20 per cent above the average turnover in 1928. In moving the resolution approving the amalgamation of the company with the Eastern and Overseas Products, Ltd., the Chairman referred to the advantages of greater economy and the prevention of unnecessary waste which would result from the fusion. The Products Company has been in a position to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. in respect of their first accounting period, while the Chairman further pointed out that the company, besides having under their control a large and expert organisation throughout Central Europe and the Near East, has developed an important business as general merchants and has strong financial support.

Sudan Plantations Syndicate.

As was expected a very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Sudan Plantations Syndicate for the year ended June 30 last. The season's crop in the Gezira totalled 108,287 bales as against 77,665 bales for the previous season, the area under cotton being 731,351 feddans as compared with 105,587 feddans. On the Zeidab estate on a slightly smaller area of 5,026 feddans the yield was 3,855 bales as against 3,330 bales. The stock of cotton unsold at the end of the year was shown in the balance sheet at valuation which subsequent sales have indicated to be conservative. At last year's meeting the Chairman, Mr. MacIntyre, indicated that it was expected to have 155,000 feddans under cotton in the current season, so that next year's report should show a further substantial increase in the production of Sakellarides. The most interesting feature of the report is the statement that as a result of recent negotiations considerable additional areas which are to be brought under irrigation to the north of the existing area will be entrusted to the company's management. Further details of this development will be forthcoming at the general meeting.

COMMENTATOR.

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Total Assets	- - -	£6,028,832

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Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
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The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day. The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon. Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches. The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

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The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, October 29.

The heavy slump in Wall Street, which came in successive waves and culminated in almost panic conditions in that centre on Thursday, has naturally had repercussions on the London Stock Exchange, but prices on the whole have held their ground successfully. Gilt-edged stocks have experienced a firm demand and shown consistent strength, partly owing to the improvement in sterling-dollar exchange, and home rails were less inactive. Industrials, after a discouraging start, developed a more satisfactory tone, and apart from those shares with a large American interest, in which there were wide fluctuations, have been steadier than for some time past. No further statement has yet been forthcoming as to the Hatry settlement, and there is a disposition in some quarters to regard the Wall Street slump as a factor likely to enhance the difficulties of the position. Until these matters are settled considerable uncertainty is bound to beset the markets, but in view of the manner in which prices as a whole have resisted the effects of the somewhat dramatic events in Wall Street, which indicates a not unhealthy state of affairs over here, it may well be that a gradual improvement may develop here under the stimulus of a diversion of investment funds from New York to London.

New Motor Car Developments.

The announcement that the Prudential Assurance Company is to lend £1,000,000 to Rootes, Ltd., the well-known car distributors, to be used for the encouragement of the sales of British cars in Empire and other overseas markets, is of great interest to shareholders in British motor car concerns. It is generally agreed that a great increase in exports is needed to place the industry in a healthy position. In the past British exporters have been handicapped by cash and financial resources—which have prevented intensive sales propaganda and efficient after-sales service—and the concentration on low-powered cars. The former will no longer hinder Rootes, at any rate, while it may be presumed that the Prudential would not have made this move if they were not convinced that our manufacturers have now produced cars which could compete abroad. It remains to be seen, however, how far the optimistic forecasts of the sponsors of this scheme are borne out; but it should, at least, be a considerable help. It is to be hoped, also, that further progress may be made towards rationalisation in this industry, for, as we have explained before, it is intense competition which has, in the past, prevented most motor car manufacturers benefiting from the rapid advance in demand. Moreover, helpful as will be improved marketing to exports, British cars can hardly be expected to compete seriously with American until, through amalgamations, production is on a scale comparable with that of the great American producers.

Motor Accessory Profits.

A feature of the Motor Show this year has been the increased attention given to accessories. The desire of motor car users to have their cars as well-equipped as possible is naturally pleasing to the shareholders of motor accessory making concerns, who have also benefited from the rapid growth in the number of cars in use much more than have motor car shareholders themselves, owing to the comparative lack of competition in the accessory making business. One of the most successful firms is Joseph Lucas, Ltd., who reported this week a record net profit of £247,799 for the year ended August 7, 1929. This compares with £220,661 for the previous accounting period of 40 weeks and £226,092 for 1926-27. The ordinary dividend of 25 per cent. is to be maintained for the third consecutive year, and the reserve is to be brought up to £475,000 (the ordinary capital being £1,019,300) by the allocation of £58,185 (against £50,000). Prospects for the ordinary shares are complicated by the

recent issue of £200,000 new shares for the acquisition of a competing business. It may be presumed, however, that this will contribute to profits, and, assuming the present dividend is maintained, the ordinary shares give the satisfactory return of about £6 10s. per cent.

Kreuger and Toll's New Capital.

The directors of Kreuger and Toll, the great Swedish investment trust associated with the Swedish Match Company, have announced that the capital of the company is to be increased by 110,000 new "B" shares of 100 kroner each, and 37,916,660 kroner in new participating debentures, both to be offered to existing shareholders. The purpose of the offer is the financing of the recently-acquired bunker and wood pulp interests in Northern Sweden. Kreuger and Toll is the largest stockholder in the Swedish Match Company, whose operations extend over 35 countries, and has interests in a large number of real estate, banking, and finance companies in many countries, in addition to the Grangesberg Company, the largest iron ore producer in Europe. The company also holds very large sums in European Government bonds, acquired in the financing of extensions of the interests of the Swedish Match concern. Its balance-sheet shows a strong position, total net assets, after allowing for the proposed increase in capital, amounting to over £49 million. Earnings have recently advanced rapidly, and it is stated that the current accounts indicate a further increase this year. Dividends have been at the rate of 25 per cent. for the past ten years, but the net earnings for 1928 amounted to some 60 per cent. on the capital. Assuming, as is reasonable, that the new capital can be used remuneratively, a rise in the near future, or some other benefit to shareholders, can be expected. Investment abroad inevitably involves a certain amount of risk, but it is minimised in the case of a sound, well-managed concern such as this, with well-distributed assets.

EXPLOITATION OF ABYSSINIA'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

Abyssinia is known to contain extensive deposits of coal, copper, gold, phosphate rock, potash, rock salt, and sulphur; also occurrences of asbestos, feldspar, iron, lead, limestone, marble, mica, mercury, petroleum, platinum, silver-lead ores, tin, and tungsten (says the United States Trade Commissioner at Cairo, Mr. R. F. Chesbrough, in a recent report). With the exception of a small production of gold, platinum, and potash, the deposits of the various minerals mentioned have not been commercially developed, owing in part to the inaccessibility of the country and also to the fact that large areas have been only partially explored. Abyssinia has an area of approximately 400,000 square miles and an estimated population of 10,000,000.

The deposits of potash in the Asal salt plains, which were worked by an Italian company during the World War, have been estimated at over 1,000,000 tons. The mines have been idle for several years. The areas in which the mineral wealth is known to exist are in the districts north-west, west and south-west of Addis Ababa, the capital. It is reported that indications of important oil deposits have been discovered in the north-western section, near the Sudan frontiers. An American company holds a concession for the exploitation, in different sections of the country, of mica mines, the product of which is said to be of excellent quality.

The power of granting concessions to foreign interests for the exploitation of mineral areas lies either in the hands of King Tafari or the governor of the Province in which the privilege is sought. This power, in some districts, is held jointly by the King and the governor in question. Concessions already granted have, in some cases, provided for percentage royalties on production, to be paid to the Government. This participation may be in the form of a fixed stock interest or percentage of the profits. Certain details of three of these concessions are as follows:—

In the Province of Beni Shangul, 100 areas, each 5 by 5 kilometres square, or a total of approximately 900 square miles, comprise the concession granted by King Tafari to the Deutsches Studiensyndikat of Stuttgart, Germany. It provides for the prospecting and exploitation of all mineral deposits in the allotted district, which include gold and platinum. The terms have been accepted by King Tafari and ratified by the German Minister at Addis Ababa. Already 12 areas have been registered, and it is expected that work on these will be begun after the rainy season in October. Deposits in this district are mostly in river beds where placer mining and washing are carried on by the natives. The Province of Beni Shangul lies along the Sudan frontier opposite Kurmuk, to which point metals extracted could be most easily and economically

shipped. From Kurmuk they may be transported abroad by truck and rail through the Sudan to Khartoum or Port Sudan. Precious metals of high value, such as platinum and gold, could be carried to Khartoum by airplanes. It is necessary for the concessionaire to secure the approval and permission of the governor of the province in order to operate in the areas granted. In the Deutsches Studiensyndikat areas gold and platinum deposits have been found together in the river beds, usually at a depth of 3 to 6 feet. Alluvial gold has been assayed to run 32 grains per cubic metre. Samples of platinum from this district have been analysed and found to contain 70 per cent. platinum, 10 per cent. gold, 7 per cent. irridium, 3 per cent. omnium, and 10 per cent. palladium and other foreign matter.

An Italian citizen has obtained from the King concessions in Beni Shangul, and in the adjoining province of Wollaga where rich alluvial deposits of gold and platinum exist. The territory has been allotted in the form of seven circles, each having a radius of 5 kilometres from a given point. Several of these areas already have been worked, and in 1928 platinum was produced and sold in Europe at prices ranging from 55,000 to 100,000 French francs per kilo. During December, 1928, and January, 1929, 38 kilos were extracted. The work was done by hand, by natives who were paid the equivalent of 0.50 dollars per gram of gold or platinum turned in. The production was taken across the border and shipped abroad through the Sudan. According to the terms of the concession, 10 per cent. of the output is given to the Government.

A third concession, granted by the governor of the Province of Selale to a citizen of Abyssinia, is situated north of Addis Ababa in the districts of Borana, Jamma, Gundubret, etc., in the Province of Selale, which has an area of 25,000 square kilometres. In this province are important deposits of saltpetre which, according to various analyses, have produced 70 per cent. of potassium nitrate, in the raw state, and 95 to 97½ per cent. after decantation. Deposits have been found at Debra Libanos, Harro Fitché, but the most important are those at Derra in the district of Jamma. In these areas are deep caves where crystallised nitrates in almost pure state in the form of stalactites have been found. Coal and copper have been discovered in these district, but have not been exploited on account of the costly means of transport. Alluvial gold is also known to exist.

The terms of this concession allow the holder to select seven different sections for exploitation, each of which is to have an area of 9 square miles. A royalty of 3 per cent. on nitrates extracted for the first two years is to be paid to the Government. The rate increases to 6 per cent. beginning with the fifth year and thereafter applies to the expiration of the concession, which is for a period of 30 years. At the option of the Government this concession may be renewed for a similar period. The right is given to the holders to make use, gratis, of timber and waterfalls on the property.

Distances from Fiche, Debra Libanos, and Derra to Addis Ababa by a very bad road are respectively, 51, 66, and 84 miles. These minerals cannot be exploited profitably until a modern highway is built from this area to the capital. According to the treaty of August 2, 1928, between the Abyssinian and Italian Governments, the former has agreed to construct a highway from Addis Ababa to the Eritrean frontier and the route will pass through Fiche. This highway probably will be built by Italian interests for the account of the Abyssinian Government.

The English Steel Corporation have been given a contract by the Egyptian State Railways for the supply of helical springs.

The yield of the Egyptian cotton crop is officially estimated at 7,490,609 kantars, of which 2,528,275 kantars are Sakellarides. The average yield per acre was 4.7 kantars.

After visiting Tabriz on October 23 and examining those parts of the city which were damaged by the recent floods, the Shah of Persia ordered the early construction of the barrages sufficient for the future protection of the town. The Shah gave £1,000 to those who had suffered from the floods at Tabriz, and motored from Ardebil via Astara along the new Caspian littoral road, arriving at Pahlavi, formerly Enzeli, on October 26.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Microscopes and Accessories.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of microscopes and accessories required during the year 1930-1931. December 7.

Medicinal Oils.—The Egyptian Department of Public Health invites tenders for the supply of medicinal oils required during the year commencing May 1, 1930. December 7. (D.O.T.)

Disinfectants.—The Egyptian Department of Public Health invites tenders for the supply of disinfectants for medical and general purposes required during the year ending April 30, 1931. December 7. (D.O.T.)

New Bridge over the Nile.—The Main Roads and Bridges Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the construction of a new bridge over the Nile at Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo, to replace the existing one. February 1. (D.O.T.)

Swing Bridge.—The Main Roads and Bridges Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the construction of a swing bridge over the Bahr-el Baqar Drain (Charkieh Province). December 9. (D.O.T.)

Money Safes.—The Central Stationery Stores of the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of small iron money safes with steel keys. November 28. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Railway Material.—The Turkish Railways and Ports Administration invites tenders for the supply of metal parts for 155 railway trucks (wheels, axles, wheel centres, brace bolts, axle supports, brake parts, washers, springs, nuts and bolts, etc.). November 12. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Electric Cables.—The Indian Stores Department, New Delhi, invites tenders for the supply of electric cables for the period from December 1, 1929, to November 30, 1930. November 7. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Manchester, November 4; Birkenhead, November 5); s.s. Massilia for Bombay (Glasgow, November 15; Manchester, November 19; Birkenhead, November 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 7); s.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Glasgow, November 7; Birkenhead, November 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 13).

British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 2); s.s. Domala for Bombay (London, November 2).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bantria for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Mitylene, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if inducement (Glasgow, November 14; Swansea, November 16; and Liverpool, November 16); s.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Algiers, Oran, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, November 23; Swansea, November 26).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 8) (this steamer will be the last sailing of the season to the ports of Galatz and Braila, and sailing November 9); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Viceroy of India for Bombay (London, November 8); s.s. Behar for Calcutta (London, November 8).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 9); s.s. Portuguese Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Cyprus ports, Tripoli, Alexandretta, and Mersin (London, November 13).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Lesbian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 2; Swansea, November 2); s.s. City of Lancaster for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, November 7; Liverpool, November 14); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, November 9; Swansea, November 14); s.s. Roumelian for Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, November 23; Swansea*, November 23); s.s. Destro for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, November 23); s.s. Maronian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Swansea, November 28). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS, UPPER DECK CABINS.

MODERATE FARES.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*ELYSIA ...	Nov. 12	*CASTALIA ...	Dec. 10
*MASSILIA ...	Nov. 26	*BRITAINNA ...	Jan. 10

† Leaves Marseilles January 18.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. † Calls Port Sudan.

‡ First and Third class passengers.

ANCHOR LINE,

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

British Consular Reports

V—EGYPT.

(Continued from page 471.)

Trade With the United Kingdom.

While the import and export trade of Egypt shows an increase for the year under review, leaving a favourable trade balance of over 5½ million pounds Egyptian, the United Kingdom's share of the imports shows a decrease of one million pounds, being only 21 per cent. of the whole import trade. While the United Kingdom's largest loss of trade was in cotton-piece goods, quite appreciable increases on the other hand are noticeable in engineering goods, Colonial tea, footwear, jams, bottled beer, stout and ales, whisky, cement, printers' colours, chocolate and confectionery, proprietary articles, ink, patent fuel, toilet soap, sewing cotton, artificial silk and cotton goods, cotton laces, trimmings and embroideries, sheets, etc., and other cotton articles (other than piece-goods), linen sewing thread, handkerchiefs and piece-goods, linoleums, woven machine belting, iron and steel goods, sluices, valves and hydrants, rail locomotives, portable steam engines, stationary internal combustion engines, power pumps, cutlery and hardware, threshing machines and other agricultural machinery (exclusive of tractors) sewing machines and parts, textile machinery, unenumerated machinery and parts, motor vehicles and spare parts, insulated electric cable, armoured electric wire and cable, electric light fittings, antifriction metals, silver, plated and gilt metal goods, tinplate, stationers' sundries, toys, hats, scientific and surgical instruments, gramophones and discs, asbestos, cigarettes and tobacco, and woollen goods.

Coal.

Imports of coal into Egypt during the year under review amounted to 1,221,916 metric tons valued at £E1,531,832,

of which about 1,100,000 metric tons entered through the port of Alexandria. The latter figure represents a general decrease of 27,363 metric tons in volume and £E400,753 in value compared with 1927, this decline being mostly due to the fact that the consumption of liquid fuel is steadily increasing and also to the sufficiency of water for irrigation during the summer.

The United Kingdom supplied 1,159,084 metric tons valued at £E1,455,545, as compared with 1,249,279 metric tons worth £E1,856,298 in 1927. Of the total quantity of 588,500 tons imported for trade purposes, Great Britain furnished 533,650 tons compared with 659,030 tons in 1927, but the increased consumption in that year may be mostly attributed to the replenishment of abnormally low stocks consequent upon the coal stoppage.

Despite the opening given to German and American coal exports during the period of the stoppage, neither country has maintained its position since the United Kingdom coals have returned to this market. German steam coal has proved to be a failure and the only American imports for trade purposes in 1928 were to the order of the Gas Company (French). This company obtained their supplies either from Newcastle or from the United States. The total imports of coal from the United States in 1928 were 26,072 metric tons. The foregoing figures are exclusive of bunker coal, the imports of which amounted to 1,160,476 metric tons in 1928 as compared with 1,066,542 metric tons in 1927. The United Kingdom share was 1,054,524 metric tons in 1928 and 908,163 metric tons in 1927. The import of Russian coal is increasing, but it is unlikely that it will cause any damage to British trade. The greater part of this coal is imported for bunkering purposes at Alexandria for the Sovtorgflot vessels. Russia is also sending some anthracite coal to Alexandria, which is superior to German but inferior to the British product.

German anthracite, as all anthracites in Egypt is used in suction plants, but it is of inferior quality. Recently rumours have arisen that Poland intends to compete in the Egyptian coal market, but up to the present no Polish coal has materialised and in the trade doubts are expressed as to whether it could hope for success. The price of German patent fuel is considered to be much too high in comparison of its calorific value with Welsh coal. Before the War patent fuel was 1s. below Cardiff qualities, while now this commodity costs 2s. 6d. more than Cardiff coal. These briquettes are practically only used in ploughing machines. United Kingdom patent fuel is generally dearer than the German product. The locally produced briquettes also compete strongly with the imported article. The same conditions apply to foundry coke, which is used for smelting purposes and for lime burning. German foundry coke is generally preferred to, and cheaper than, the United Kingdom article.

Imports of Machinery.

The sales of oil engines in Egypt fall into three distinct classes, viz., (a) Small paraffin engines up to 10 h.p., (b) larger heavy oil engines from 10 h.p. to 100 h.p., (c) large multicylinder diesel engines. The first are used for driving lighting sets and for small centrifugal pumps for irrigation of smallholders' lands from artesian wells. The second are used for all power purposes, but particularly for flour mills and larger irrigation pumps both in wells and canals. The third are used, of course, in smaller numbers, for large flour mills, ginning factories and oil plants.

It is generally considered that the Continental, Far Eastern or American manufacturer gives his agent far easier terms than the United Kingdom manufacturer will consider, and he does not hesitate to carry large quantities of consignment stocks at very cut prices. He frequently helps his agent, by paying Egyptian customs

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duties for him and relieves him of all charges on goods, with the exception of storage and selling charges in the market. In addition, he will grant his agent quite a good percentage of commission on sales effected. On the other hand, several local agents complain that, though they are willing to push sales of British machinery, they are quite unable to do so as they are not in a position to finance the stock that they require to exhibit as samples of the goods that they want to sell.

Imports into Egypt of stationary internal combustion engines amounted in value to £E452,203, compared with £E277,519 in 1927. Of this grand total the United Kingdom's share stood at £E285,440, or more than 100 per cent. increase compared with 1927, while the chief competitors were Switzerland and Germany, with totals of £E69,864 and £E69,974 respectively. So far as the small engines are concerned of an average of 45 h.p., the United Kingdom continues to predominate; but in the larger machines of over 100 h.p., United Kingdom quotations are far in excess of Continental prices. In fact, Continental engines can be delivered in their packing cases, c.i.f. Alexandria for something like £E7 per h.p.

With the exception of one important contract for three powerful turbo-alternator groups and accessories, the United Kingdom did not fare well where Egyptian Government contracts were concerned in 1927 and 1928 with the result that Continental internal combustion engines supplied the major part of the considerable Egyptian Government requirements during these years. On the other hand, it should be observed that the British machinery, valued at about £E53,000, in respect of an Egyptian Government order for the installation, of power pumping plant for the great drainage station at Amira, which was placed in 1926, was, for the reasons given in Mr. Mulock's Report on Egypt, dated May, 1927, only supplied in 1928, and thus figures in the import statistics for that year.

Total imports of power pumps during 1928 amounted to a value of £E70,411, compared with £E46,056 in 1927. The United Kingdom continued to predominate in this business, her share being £E43,115, or an increase of £E18,076 compared with the previous year. Swiss imports showed a slight increase, but generally Continental imports remained constant. In this trade there is still greater discrepancy in price than in the case of internal combustion engines, as pumps of Continental manufacture can be purchased in Egypt for nearly half the price of United Kingdom pumps. The United States does not participate in this trade to any considerable extent. Some Continental manufacturers of engines and pumps have thoroughly studied the requirements of Egypt and have even gone to the extent of designing special engines and pumps to meet the duties which they have to perform in this country. The above refers especially to the pump question where Egyptian Government regulations prescribe that a farmer is allowed to have a pump of, say, 6 in. discharge. As the standard pump throughout the world, which is called a 6 in. pump, has a 6 in. impeller and a 6 in. discharge pipe, Continental manufacturers have now designed for this market a pump which, taking this standard size, would possess a 7 in. impeller inside a casing tapering down to a 6 in. discharge pipe, thus complying with Government regulations, but producing a unit which, it is claimed, is capable of discharging a much greater quantity of water due to the size of the impeller—the Government regulation being met by the size of the "discharge orifice." The Egyptian buys on quantity of water discharged and, therefore, this type of pump

is obtaining a fairly wide demand in this market. The general requirements of centrifugal pumps are a very large discharge at generally very low heads. Two sets of conditions exist, firstly the raising of water from canals to the land, where two or three metres head is the average; and secondly, the raising of water from artesian wells, chiefly in Upper Egypt, where the head averages from 12 to 15 metres.

The only portable steam engines imported during the year under review were supplied by the United Kingdom, who also furnished the greatest quantity of threshing machines, boilers, sewing machines and parts (£E101,162), textile machinery (£E11,407), unenumerated machinery (nearly half the total import of £E569,803), motor cycles (£E17,188), road locomotives, and gramophones.

The exceptional advance in British imports of electrical machinery during 1927 was, unfortunately, not maintained during the year under review, the British share of this trade declining by almost one-half of the previous year's import, whereas total imports, though smaller than in 1927, did not decline in the same proportion as the United Kingdom's loss of trade. France during 1928 occupied the United Kingdom's former position, and Italian business, though less dangerous, is nevertheless increasing. The cause for this decline must apparently be sought in the fact that British prices are far in excess of Continental quotations, as British firms do not manufacture the cheaper lines so popular in Egypt. British trade is made more difficult by the absence of electrical regulations in Egypt. It may, however, be remarked that a British firm was successful in securing for future delivery an important order from the Egyptian Government for three turbo-alternator generating sets with auxiliary Diesel engine and generator.

It is anticipated that the market for rice hulling machinery should tend to increase, while it is also believed that extension of existing, or erection of new, flour milling plant will be executed in the near future. Threshing machinery should be a good opening, as the method still employed of treading out the grain by driving cattle over a threshing floor results is a most unsatisfactory product. The age-long customs will, however, be hard to overcome. Milling installations will now be necessary as the existing mills, of which there are only a few of any considerable capacity, would be inadequate to cope with a possible crop of 350,000 tons.

Motor Cars, Motor Cycles, etc.

The United States remained the only important supplier of tractors, and it should be noted that this business is steadily increasing, amounting in all to a value of £E94,118 in 1928, compared with £E55,519 in 1927. The United States also retained the predominant position in the local market for motor vehicles, the total import of which was valued at £E907,613, compared with £E947,895 in 1927. While imports from the United Kingdom and from Continental sources appreciably declined, American deliveries on the other hand were far in excess of that country's trade with Egypt during 1927. For example, out of a total import of motor cars and chassis amounting to 4,639 valued at £E772,789 during 1928, the United States supplied 3,385 worth £E506,687, compared with 2,559 valued at £E371,767 in 1927. France and Italy, with greatly reduced imports, contributed 423 and 417 respectively, valued at £E96,393 and £E84,301, whereas the smaller share of the United Kingdom, viz., 328 valued at £E62,699, though also recording a diminution of trade, yet represents only a relatively small decrease.

On the other hand, although the United States increased her share of the business in motor buses, truck, and lorries by 300 in number, compared with 1927, United Kingdom deliveries also increased appreciably, viz., by 65 in number. Of the total import of these vehicles, amounting to 1,090 valued at £E134,824, the United States supplied 913

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valued at £E83,774, the United Kingdom 102 worth £E25,347, and France 54 valued at £E15,968.

In the above-mentioned category particularly, British manufacturers should be encouraged to persevere in view of the intention of the Egyptian Government to enforce regulations in control of motor buses. Moreover, it may safely be assumed that the British share of the trade, though relatively small, was in general conducted on sounder lines than appears to have characterised the apparently venturesome system adopted by some of the powerful American interests in connexion with their provincial sales of light lorries on extended credits. However this may be, there is no doubt that American manufacturers, though competing keenly with each other, have the Egyptian market almost to themselves. The principal reasons for this situation may be briefly summarised as follows:—(a) American manufacturers with their strong financial position are able to expend large sums of money on advertising. (b) They can afford to stock in Egypt all types of models and necessary spare parts. (c) Price for price they offer to the buyer up to £E350/400 (which represents the most popular sales of cars) greater horse power than a British car of equal value, which is always a consideration in this market where economy in running is of less immediate consideration than in the United Kingdom. Local tastes also incline to prefer the finish of American cars and their usually wider seating accommodation.

A very important factor in successful sales in Egypt is that of commission. Whereas agents for British cars make as a rule 18 per cent. to 20 per cent. on selling prices, agents of American manufacturers make from 22 per cent. to 30 per cent., and even 40 per cent. Another fact which stands out is that almost all the American makes of cars, of all prices, are represented in Egypt, and that, moreover, they are continually increasing their business, whereas on the other hand only a comparatively few well-known British makes have attempted to concentrate in any way on the Egyptian market, and only one on a relatively large scale. The result of these and other circumstances has been that American suppliers of Ford and other light cars have seized their opportunities, particularly in the provinces, and it will now be an up-hill fight to secure for British cars the position they should hold on the Egyptian market.

The market for motor cycles remains favourable to British manufacturers of all designs, the only competition being felt from "Indian" and "Harley-Davidson" makes. The local interest in motor cycling has been stimulated by the formation of motor cycle and light car clubs in Cairo and Alexandria which, it is hoped, will result in an increased demand. Stocks of spares are essential. There is a wide field for the sale of a motor cycle and side-car at £E60 to £E65, which should be easy to handle and to keep, reliable and silent. Speeds of about 35 m.p.h. to 40 m.p.h. maximum, if easily arrived at, are quite sufficient in most cases for local requirements. British solo machines already hold a very good position in Egypt. Of a total import of motor cycles valued at £E20,864, the United Kingdom furnished £E17,188.

Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

The Motor Show and After.

The great Motor Show is over, and it is to be hoped that it has done a great deal of good to an industry which is sorely in need of a tonic. Quite a number of those who visited Olympia had the air of buyers; agents, of course, were there in plenty to give huge orders. There are pessimists in the motor trade to-day, but the more recent news regarding a scheme for financing the export trade will probably do a good deal to reduce their ranks.

Compulsory Insurance.

There is a good deal to be said in favour of compulsory insurance. Equally there is a good deal to be said against it, and the general feeling is that the disadvantages are so numerous that the idea will fall through. When everything is said and done the arguments in its favour boil down to the fact that there are a large number of motorists on the road who are, from a financial point of view, men of straw, and if they are involved in accidents the sequel is unfortunate. So the proposal is made that insurance shall be compulsory in order that some insurance company shall pay whatever sums have to be paid—out of monies provided, in the shape of substantial premiums, by other and more careful motorists!

With regard to this accident aspect of the matter, there is another point to be considered. Taking the class of motorists we have mentioned, is the mere fact that they have paid an insurance premium likely to render them any more careful? In the non-compulsory days, they stood to lose something; they might have to sell the car or borrow the money from a reluctant friend, or they might have some few possessions with which they might have to part. But, when they have paid their insurance premiums a possible consequence is that such elements of caution as they had may become modified.

It does not seem possible, unless the Government pays a portion of the premiums, which it can only do by taking money out of the public purse, that premiums can be anything but heavy. Taking the number of fatal and other accidents that occur each year, and taking also into consideration the fact that at present no insurance company is concerned with many of them, it will be seen that the annual sum to be paid out will be very high, and if we add the necessary establishment and other charges, profit for engaging in the business, taxation and so forth, and divide the total by the number of motorists, we shall get some idea of what the premiums are likely to be. In regard to this, there is a further matter to be taken into account and that is, the inherent desire amongst a certain class to "get their money's worth" and, in short, to magnify if not actually to invent accidents. The less scrupulous of the public will cheerfully take a hand in that game and stumble into or near to cars without the least hesitation. Bogus claims are not unknown to-day; what will they be like in number when every driver is insured against third party risks?

The objection has been raised, also, that any scheme of compulsory insurance would create another and an over-ruling licensing authority, in that insurance companies might and in all probability would refuse to insure certain people known to be careless, reckless or unscrupulous. There is, on consideration, very little in that; careless, reckless and unscrupulous drivers are not wanted on the road and any scheme that would prevent them from driving would meet with considerable approval.

IVORY PRICES STEADY.

Messrs. Hale and Son report that the quarterly ivory sales held on October 22 comprised 30½ tons (against 38 tons at the same time last year and 37 tons in July last), viz., 13½ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African, Rhodesian, and Siam, 3½ tons Abyssinian, 2½ tons Egyptian (2½ tons Alexandrian, ½ ton Malta description), 8 tons West Coast African and Congo and 3 tons land carriage, also ½ ton mammoth tusks, ¼ ton sea horse tusks and boars' tusks and ¼ ton rhinoceros horns; total, 31½ tons.

There was a moderate attendance of buyers. America and the Continent bought freely, and the home trade took about the usual quantity. The quantity catalogued of all descriptions was small. A generally quiet tone prevailed. Soft large tusks met with good competition at firm prices to £2 per cwt. advance, but hard was £2 to £4 per cwt. lower. Some quantity was bought in. Ball pieces did not maintain the extreme prices of last sales.

Abyssinian.—Only a very small quantity sold, being held above views of buyers; soft tusks were steady. Ball scrivelloes were £4 to £6 per cwt. dearer.

Egyptian.—Soft large tusks were firm to £2 per cwt. higher, medium steady to a little easier. Hard, £2 to £4 per cwt. lower. Ball scrivelloes, £4 to £6 per cwt. higher. Scrivelloes steady.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

[The following notes are taken from the bulletin of the British Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce of Sofia, dated September 30.]

General Situation.

The debating of the Eastern Reparations issue in Paris is followed with keen interest all over the country. In business and financial circles, there is a marked tendency to refrain from any new commitments before this very important issue comes to a head. The general impression is that, whatever the decision taken in Paris may be, the financial and fiscal burden resulting is not going to be heavier than the present reparation annuities. It is at any rate premature to form an exact opinion on this subject at the present stage.

Owing to circumstances repeatedly referred to in this Bulletin, the position of the local money market is showing symptoms of considerable uneasiness. Credits are becoming scarcer, rates are increasing, and the general state of solvency is viewed with some pessimism by business men and bankers. The hardware, cotton yarn and piece-goods trades are still involved in difficulties, although the peasant consumption appears to expand on normal lines for this season of the year.

Exports have been more active during September, and the position of the foreign trade has very probably improved. Large tobacco sales are on the point of being concluded. Sunflower seed, beans, and maize exports are expected to be very active this and next month.

The acute traffic crisis prevailing on the railways, as a consequence of the shortage of rolling stock, is causing some disturbance to the export trade and to the local distribution of goods and produce.

The position of the Treasury continues to be satisfactory. Receipts are coming in regularly and expenditure is being kept in proportion to the resources available. The service of the foreign debt is carried out punctually, all payments falling due being effected without any delay.

Sericulture.

Sericulture in Bulgaria may be considered as one of the best auxiliary occupations of the farmers and the inhabitants of the small towns. The raising of silk worms takes place in May and June just before harvesting of the cereal crops begins. The Ministry of Agriculture, in order to encourage the production of cocoons, has allotted special tracts of the Government nurseries to mulberry trees, which trees are later on distributed among the population free of charge.

In order to illustrate the development of this industry, we are giving below the quantity of silk worm eggs hatched and cocoons produced during the last ten years.

Year.	Quantity of silk worm eggs ounces.	Quantity of cocoons produced kilograms.
1920	25,101	1,120,000
1921	29,391	1,200,000
1922	23,850	1,100,000
1923	30,007	1,300,000
1924	38,283	1,600,000
1925	35,200	1,700,000
1926	37,240	1,863,360
1927	41,721	2,038,300
1928	38,370	1,971,672
1929	41,714	2,357,230

The Large Industries of Bulgaria.

In 1927 the National Bank of Bulgaria instituted an inquiry into 312 large undertakings representing the ten chief industries. According to the results obtained, the capital invested in these undertakings on December 31, 1927, amounted to 114,285,763 gold leva and was distributed as follows: real estate 5,819,578 gold leva (5.00 per cent.), construction 47,570,589 gold leva (41.25 per cent.), and machinery 61,325,596 gold leva (53.66 per cent.). The capital invested in 331 large undertakings on December 31, 1926, amounted to 11,270,012 gold leva, and on December 31, 1925, in 349 large undertakings it amounted to 89,352,330 gold leva.

The power producing plants of these 312 undertakings in 1927 numbered 453 with an effective h.p. of 33,316, of which 233 steam boilers, locomobiles and turbines with an effective h.p. of 2,166; 34 benzine engines with an effective h.p. of 375; 70 Deisel engines with an effective h.p. of 6,349; 14 water-wheels with an effective h.p. of 174; 2 naphtha engines with an effective h.p. of 20; and 19 other type engines with an effective h.p. of 280.

There were employed in these 312 undertakings 20,077 workers, of which 12,303 were men and 774 women. The number of wage-days reached 5,450,791 for which 12,296,880 gold leva were paid. The raw materials used in these 312 undertakings on December 31, 1927, were valued at 92,463,474 gold leva, of which 60,787,171 gold leva (65.74 per cent.) were paid for materials of local origin and 31,676,303 gold leva (34.26 per cent.) for imported materials. The auxiliary materials used are valued at 9,934,773 gold leva, 1,870,725 gold leva (28.90 per cent.) of which were used for the supply of materials of local origin, and 7,064,048 gold leva (71.10 per cent.) for imported materials. The fuel used is estimated at 4,894,468 gold leva. The total value of the materials used by these 312 undertakings on December 31, 1927, totalled 107,292,715 gold leva, of which 67,983,583 gold leva (63.36 per cent.) for the supply of materials of local origin and 39,309,132 gold leva (36.64 per cent.) for imported materials.

Miscellaneous.

Receipts of the State Treasury for July show a slight decrease as compared with the figures for June. The receipts for August, however, show a small decrease, as compared with July, due to decreased receipts from direct taxes. In August, ordinary receipts amounted to 549,730,774 leva, and in July to 596,134,000 leva, while in June they were 620,070,000 leva.

The wholesale commodity index number (on the basis of 1914 equals 100) for August was 3,141 as compared with 3,200 for July and 3,245 for June and 2,961 for August, 1928. The general level of wholesale prices, therefore, has decreased by 1.9 per cent. as against July, while an increase of 6.1 per cent. is shown as compared with August, 1928.

The trade balance during July is down by 383,791,755 leva as against 33,119,339 leva for June, and 248,199,380 leva for May, while the deficiency for August is stated to be 310,864,985 leva. Imports during July totalled 52,781 tons for 775,846,516 leva, and exports amounted to 16,314 tons for 392,054,761 leva, while in August, imports amounted to 45,012 tons for 675,836,011 leva, and exports totalled 18,049 tons for 364,871,026 leva.

The quantity of bank notes in circulation from August 15 to September 23 again show a steady level. On August 15, the notes in circulation amounted to 4,016,043,000 leva, on August 23, to 3,997,100,000 leva, on August 31, 4,121,003,000 leva, on September 7, to 4,170,148,000 leva on September 15 to 4,148,064,000 leva and on September 23, 4,129,942,000 leva.

The foreign exchange reserves of the National Bank, also show a steady level during August and September. Thus on August 15, foreign exchange amounted to 1,275,592,000 leva on September 15 to 1,310,174,000 leva, on August 31 to 1,259,807,000, on September 7 to 1,275,592,000 leva on September 15 to 1,310,174,000 leva and on September 23, to 1,313,842,000 leva.

The movement of goods transported by the State Railways for the first six months of 1929, show a considerable decrease as compared with the same period last year, which decrease is due mainly to the shortage of rolling stock.

According to official data furnished by the Labour Section of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, the number of employees in industrial undertakings during August was 89,698 against 86,565 in July, and 76,676 in August 1928.

Company Meetings.

EASTERN OIL INDUSTRIES.

Review of Past Year's Operations.

Amalgamation Proposals Approved.

The annual general meeting of Eastern Oil Industries, Limited, was held on October 24 at Winchester House, London, E.C.

The Right Hon. Sir Montague Barlow, Bt., P.C., K.B.E. (the Chairman), in the course of his speech said:—With regard to the balance-sheet now in your hands, I wish to make one or two preliminary points clear. It will be borne in mind that, as clearly indicated in the particulars, a large policy of re-organisation and re-equipment, coupled with the purchase of interests in certain subsidiary undertakings, was being initiated; this policy of development had been commenced prior to January of this year by reconditioning the factory at Haifa, and by acquiring the undertaking at Smyrna and launching a programme of reorganisation there. In accordance with this policy, the company had also during the later portion of 1928 acquired a controlling interest—valued in the particulars at £186,000—in, and commenced the development of, the business of Adolf Kohn and Co., at Budapest, operating two oil mills, a large one at Raab in Hungary, and a smaller one at Vienna; the company had further arranged to purchase interests valued at some £43,000 in undertakings at Ivry and Balti, and one or two other subsidiary businesses, as indicated in the particulars. This process of re-organisation and development occupied the close attention of your directors during the earlier part of this year, and it will be appreciated that during that period it has been impossible to secure output to capacity, or to realise trading profits on the scale which, now that the process is completed, can be reasonably anticipated. In addition to that, and pending certain negotiations with a very important group, which occupied a considerable period, your board did not consider it desirable to press forward the trading operations of the company in the particular areas, or in relation to the particular commodities, which might be affected by the contemplated agreement.

It will be realised that, owing to the extension and reorganisation that has taken place in the last eighteen months, no effective comparison with last year's balance-sheet is possible; it is, however, satisfactory to point out that, in place of a deficit last year of £25,618 8s. 4d., our accounts this year show a balance of over £71,000; while items of £10,044 13s. 3d. for preliminary expenses, and £5,000 expenditure in relation to patent rights, have been written off. With regard to the trading losses, I wish to anticipate possible queries by stating at once that the amount of such losses is approximately £20,000—not a considerable figure in view of the magnitude of the company's undertaking. The losses themselves are mainly due to certain special and temporary difficulties at Smyrna and Haifa. In accordance with a sound conservative policy, which the Board believed would commend itself to the shareholders, it was decided that the balance of £71,976 os. 6d. as shown in the profit and loss account, resulting from the sale of a capital asset, could not be considered as available for the purpose of declaring a dividend.

Important Working Arrangement.

Your Directors realised at an early date that it would be in the best interests of the company to come to a working arrangement with the powerful group represented by the Margarine Union and its allied undertakings, with a view to promoting satisfactory business relations and eliminating unnecessary and wasteful competition. Accordingly negotiations were entered into with that group and ably conducted on behalf of the company by Mr. Rosenberg and our legal advisers. These negotiations resulted in conclusions satisfactory from the point of view of your company.

Our Directors agreed to dispose to the Margarine Union Group of all its holding in Adolf Kohn and Co., of Budapest, the chief asset of which was two oil mills, including one of large capacity at Raab, valued at £266,194, the company's share in which was stated in the particulars as estimated at £186,000.

In consideration of this sale and of certain other agreed limitations of the company's activities, your company received a consideration which ultimately realised a gross sum of £511,224, but it was arranged that this sum should be subject to adjustments due to investigations of values of stocks and to certain valuations, guarantees, etc., contemplated under the contract; in addition, deductions on account of commissions, compensations to subsidiary companies and other claims had to be taken into account, making altogether the sum of £78,229, and leaving a net cash balance receivable of £432,995. This amount of cash, pending further developments, has been employed in repayments of the company's loans from its bankers in respect of working capital.

Trading Results.

Although the company's trading results have necessarily been restricted by the limited period covered, and also by the time and effort necessarily devoted to the reorganisation, so far as possible the trading operations of the company have been actively carried on. At the same time, the period under review was a difficult one, and the market in edible oils—the chief commodity in which your company deals—suffered a considerable drop in price. This involved a depreciation in the stocks carried at the time when the accounts were made up. Recently, that is since the close of the accounting period, prices in edible oils have generally shown a more favourable tendency.

The Smyrna Factory.

By far the most important of your company's undertakings is the business and factory at Smyrna. The new tariff laws for the development of Turkish industries have been foreshadowed for some time and, as the Board were aware, these would certainly involve a largely increased import duty for the majority of the oils in which your company deals. A principal preoccupation of the Board from the start has been to equip its factory at Smyrna in such a way as to be ready to take full advantage of this new situation as soon as it should arise. The development involved was very considerable, as the bulk of the machinery had to be adapted to deal with the higher oil-bearing seeds, such as sunflower, sesame, etc., in place of the cotton seed previously crushed, and it involved a capital expenditure up to June 30, 1929, of approximately £31,000. The work was delayed by the severe frost of last winter, but the factory is now in full working capacity. This delay in productive capacity, coupled with the necessity of paying continuously wages and other overhead charges, accounts for a portion of the trading loss, as mentioned above. It will, of course, be realised that this improvement in the conditions at Smyrna could not be reflected in the accounts now before you, which were closed in March last.

Quite recently—namely, on October 1 last—the tariff, involving a considerable increase of duty on the majority of oils in which the company is interested, came into actual operation. The full effect of the tariffs cannot be felt for some months yet, as naturally importers made arrangements to increase their stocks, in anticipation of the new tariff. Satisfactory reports recently received from our factory in Smyrna justify the Board in anticipating that the programme of sales at this factory indicated in the particulars will be realised.

The Haifa Undertaking.

The business of the Haifa undertaking has shown a steady development, and between January 1 and April 30, 1929, the turnover was approximately 20 per cent. above the average turnover in 1928, and a substantial gross profit was shown. Owing, however, to the difficulties of falling prices and a depressed market already indicated, and the charges involved in carrying certain stocks both of raw material and manufactured goods, a small loss was the net result; the period concerned, however, is only a portion of a year, and it is satisfactory to be able to report that, since the date when the accounts were made up, the position has improved and portions of the remaining stocks are now being realised at a profit. Some interruptions of business naturally occurred as a result of the disturbances in August, but I am glad to be able to report that no actual damage was done to the factory, and although the works had to be closed it was possible to re-open them and recommence business in a few days.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Advantages of Amalgamation.

The Chairman then moved the resolution approving the amalgamation of the company with the Eastern and Overseas Products, Ltd. In doing so he said:—I need not labour the advantages—advantages

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.10½
Athens	Drachms to £ ..	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.39½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.17½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 13/16—½
Brussels	Belga to £.....	85	84.86½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	816
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.91
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 13/16—½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1,034½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.87 13/16—.88
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123.83
Prague	Krohen to £.....	164.25	164½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	93.11—.14
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	673
Teheran	Krans to £	48	58
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.70
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	48 7/16—9/16

which will be enjoyed by both companies—of greater economy and the prevention of unnecessary waste which will result from the amalgamation. These have been fully set before you in the printed scheme, and, indeed, are obvious. But there are one or two considerations which especially affect the position of this company and its shareholders.

The Products Company, though not an old or long-established company, have had so far a successful career and find themselves in the position already, as was stated by the chairman, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, at their general meeting two days ago, to pay an 8 per cent. dividend in respect of their first accounting period.

Further, in addition to having under their control a large and expert organisation throughout Central Europe and the Near East, the Products Company has developed a large and extensive business as general merchants, and enjoys the benefit of strong financial support. As indicated by Lord Hardinge in his speech, the Products Company and its German partner, the Osthandel, have been able to rely on the constant assistance of the Deutsche Bank, which was—even before its recent amalgamation—one of the most powerful banks on the Continent.

The Osthandel has during recent years paid a dividend of 15 per cent. After the amalgamation, the close co-operation between the Osthandel and the Products Company (which, in fact, owns all the shares in the Osthandel) will continue; while the interest and support of the Deutsche Bank in the amalgamated undertaking can, as Lord Hardinge indicated, be relied on in the future.

Finally, the Board secured for the shareholders a substantial bonus, in the shape of three shares for two—equal to 50 per cent.

It is proposed that, after the amalgamation, the Boards shall be reorganised, and some of our Directors will co-operate in the work of the Products Company. I am glad to be able to state, as was stated by Lord Hardinge at the Products meeting, that no compensation will be paid by the company to any retiring Directors.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

Passenger Traffic Increasing.

The forty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Ltd., was held on October 23 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Mr. James Mackenzie, the chairman of the company, who presided, referred first to the loss the company had sustained through the death of the late chairman, Mr. George Turner. To fill the vacancy Mr. G. E. Harris, who had been associated with the undertaking since 1921, had been elected to the Board.

The most important event of the year had been the receipt of an intimation from the Government of India that they did not intend to exercise their option to take over the railway in 1931. The Board were relieved, rather than otherwise, that the Government had not exercised that option, as the railway had always contributed its full share to the profits of the company, and traffic at present showed signs of increasing. Moreover, the knowledge that they had at least another 11 years in possession of the railway enabled them to push on with schemes of development and supplies of rolling stock to cope with the increasing traffic.

The passenger traffic had developed in a most promising way during the last few years. It was in 1926 that the shareholders were congratulated on the fact that for the first time a million passengers had been carried; only three years later, as would be seen from the report, well over a million and a half had been carried and the Board believed that with continued improvement in facilities and accommodation, the passenger traffic would continue to increase. That, of course, implied a sufficient supply of modern rolling-stock. Moreover, they would adopt a programme for the replacement of the "F" class of engines over the next two or three years.

As to the railway accounts, the coaching traffic was the largest they had ever earned; the goods traffic showed a decrease, but it was only a falling off as compared with the high-water mark of 1927 and 1928, apart from those two years the goods traffic never before having reached £140,000. It did not seem to him, however, that the setback was more than temporary; the figures for the current year up to date showed quite a good increase.

On the other side there was the satisfactory position that working expenditure had been reduced to practically 50 per cent. of the earnings, which was a very good result indeed. The colliery account was not quite so satisfactory, as once more it showed a falling off in profit. The encouraging feature was, however, that reduction in price seemed to have steadied sales, which this year showed an improvement, and the Board hoped to reduce costs following on an increased output and thus improve the position. The company's investments had paid practically the same as last year. It was proposed to pay the same final dividend on the "B" stock as last year, making a total of 12½ per cent., carrying forward slightly less at £13,330.

As to the future, at the moment prospects were more encouraging. The figures of earnings showed a distinct improvement, and while he would not say more than that he thought the company was advancing, he was prepared to end on an optimistic note.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., for the year ended June 30 states that during the year additional capital was expended upon the new ginning factories, agricultural machinery, buildings, canalisation, and other items required by the extension of the area under cultivation. This, together with increased running expenditure necessary to finance the tenants and the agricultural operations on the larger area entailed a reduction in the company's liquid resources. In the Gezira and at Zeidab the average yields of cotton per feddan exceeded those of the previous year. The subjoined table shows the areas under cotton and the crop produced during the year, together with the corresponding figures for the previous season:—

	1928.		1929.	
	Area in feddans.	Bales.	Area in feddans.	Bales.
Zeidab ...	5,100	3,330	5,026	3,855
Gezira ...	105,587	77,605	131,351	108,287

At June 30 41,957 Gezira bales and 2,847 Zeidab bales, together with all the cotton seed shipped from the Gezira and from Zeidab, amounting in all to 45,480 tons, had been disposed of at satisfactory prices. Owing to the conditions which prevailed in the cotton market a larger proportion than usual of the cotton remained unsold at the close of the financial year. This stock is entered in the balance-sheet at a valuation made by the directors, which, judged by sales since effected, appears to be conservative. The directors are pleased to be able to report that as a result of negotiations recently concluded with the Sudan Government, considerable additional areas, which are to be brought under irrigation to the north of the existing area, will be entrusted to the Syndicate's management.

The Kassala Cotton Company, Ltd., has made better progress in the development of its new concession area than had been anticipated, and an area of 15,548 feddans is now planted with cotton. A crop from this area should be obtained in the year 1930. The activities and interests of the Brazil Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., after its abandonment of cotton growing, became practically identical with those of the Parana Plantations, Ltd. The two companies have therefore been amalgamated by means of a share for share exchange. The share capital of the Parana Plantations, Ltd., has been increased by £200,000 for this purpose.

The profit and loss account for the twelve months, after deduction of all outgoings, shows a net profit of £656,356 7s. 8d., which, added to the balance brought forward from last year, viz., £412,117 10s. 4d., less payment made on account of directors' percentage, £8,483 10s. 10d.—£403,634 0s. 6d., brings the total credit to £1,059,990 8s. 2d. The directors now recommend the declaration of a final dividend of 3s. per share (equal to 15 per cent.), payable on Wednesday, January 15, 1930, to shareholders on the register on December 31, 1929, less Sudan profits tax at the rate of 1s. 5½d. in the £, and British income tax at the rate of 2s. 6½d. in the £, which, with the interim dividend paid in July last, will be equivalent to a dividend for the year of 5s. per share (equal to 25 per cent.). This final dividend, amounting to £337,500, together with the interim dividend of £225,000, will absorb the sum of £562,500, leaving a balance to carry forward of £497,490 8s. 2d.—£1,059,990 8s. 2d.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at July 31, 1929, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes:—Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000; reserve fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E1,340,625; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E14,021,665; Egyptian Government, £E16,008,479; Sudan Government, £E116,340; Mixed Tribunals, £E2,072,832; bankers' accounts, £E498,686; cheques and bills payable, £E203,275; sundry other accounts, £E1,914,707—£E40,654,109. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E22,433,610; sundry securities, £E916,704; advances on merchandise, £E1,935,446; advances on securities, £E4,015,772; advances otherwise secured, £E1,356,029; sundry other advances, £E1,241,440; bills of exchange, £E3,199,790; local bills discounted, £E719,669; buildings and furniture, £E225,579; money at call and at short notice, £E979,875; bankers' accounts, £E430,462; sundry other accounts, £E1,207,209. Cash: Notes, £E1,361,100; gold, £E325,739; silver, nickel, etc., £E295,685—£E1,982,524—£E40,654,109. Issue Department.—*British Treasury Bills, £E8,200,430—£E11,600,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, and British War Loan, £E10,100,000—£E11,600,000—£E23,200,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

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THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 23 :—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Quite a large volume of business has been transacted in this market during the past week, and, with one or two factors developing to influence a healthier undertone, there has been distinctly less disposition on the part of local "short" interests to continue their rather aggressive campaign. In fact, on one or two occasions when covering orders have made their appearance, prices have reacted sharply, but from the subsequent action of the market it appears that it is yet too early to anticipate the consolidation of any material upward swing. Too much cotton is coming "into sight" for one thing, and with trade buying both in this country and on the Continent continuing on the present close lines, the passing of the early crop movement into consumers' hands will probably only proceed on a very gradual scale. Reviewing both sides of the situation, it rather appears that values will stabilise in the neighbourhood of the present level for some little time. In contrast to previous seasons the natural laws of supply and demand have so far been given free scope, but whether this position would hold if Alexandria falls much below the ruling basis we very much doubt. Past experience shows the Government amenable to pressure from the growers, and some form of intervention would no doubt be sought if, for some reason or other prices reverted to the low point of the season reached a couple of weeks ago. Features of the local trading have again centred on the demand for near position, and these have closed in further with the later contract deliveries as a consequence, also our market has gained appreciably in comparison with Alexandria. Taking a long view of the position, we would prefer to advise purchases should prices fall away to any extent, especially as trade reports are beginning to be of a more encouraging character, and increasing support from this source is commencing to develop.

Upper Contract.—Business in this contract has proceeded on fairly similar lines to preceding weeks, operations again being mainly confined to moderate trade purchases which have been offset by merchants' sales against imports. Very little speculative business is coming into the market, and values have been governed mainly by the action of the American departments. On the whole, we consider values stand at a reasonable basis and whilst it is probably too early to look for any decided upward movement purchases at the present level should later on be realisable at a moderate margin of profit.

Egyptian Spot.

Sentiment has been more two-sided during the past week and buyers have not had it all their own way. Values have fluctuated somewhat erratically, and the tendency has (for once) been in an upward direction, and at one time it looked as if quite a substantial advance might be registered. The harder rates have not attracted any great influx of buying on the spot; in fact, business in this department appears to have been checked for the time being, but it is always difficult to judge the offtake by spot results alone, and we are inclined to the opinion that c.i.f. business has been more active.

Sakel has been in fair request at from 75 to 150 on, and there have been limited but active inquiries from time to time for cotton at about 200 to 300 on. "Inferior" cotton at from 5d. to 8d. has also figured on the board more frequently than of late.

Uppers have again been rather on the quiet side, but the inquiry has been steady for cotton at from pass to 20 on, and some improvement has undoubtedly been witnessed in the demand for the better cotton up to 75 on November contracts. "Off" cotton down to 50 points below the same contracts has met with rather more support.

Pilion has been almost entirely neglected this week.

Nahda has been in moderate request only and results have been meagre.

White, Maarad, etc.—Neglected.

Sudan Sakel.—A good business has been done, chiefly in the medium qualities.

Tokar Sakel.—A very slight improvement in the offtake has occurred.

C.i.f. business seems to have been more active on the whole. Forwardings to the trade last week were returned as 4,547 bales Egyptians and 2,102 bales Sudan.

Spot Sales.—Estimated sales for the week, 1,600 bales Egyptian and 2,100 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel show an advance of 25 points; Upper and Pilion have hardened 10 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 15.90d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 11.07d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 11.95d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 17, state:—Since our last report the futures market has been quite exceptionally active; the tendency, however, has again been weak and prices have continued to lose ground. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaris: November, 29.75 dollars, 0.85 dollars down; January, 30.45 dollars, 0.74 dollars down; March, 31.00 dollars, 0.75 dollars down; May, 31.50 dollars, 0.73 dollars down. Ashmouni: October, 10.75 dollars, 0.30 dollars down; December, 20.10 dollars, 0.43 dollars down; February, 20.50 dollars, 0.50 dollars down; April, 21.05 dollars, 0.38 dollars down; June, 21.40 dollars, 0.43 dollars down.

THE ROUMANIAN MARKET.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended October 12 :—

Grain.—Notwithstanding a temporary improvement about the middle of the week, grain markets abroad have been much quieter, and a continued fall in prices towards the week-end has made it very difficult for merchants here to effect fresh sales. So long as arrivals of grain at Danube shipping ports were in excess of demand, local prices adjusted themselves sufficiently to encourage transactions, but as at the moment only limited quantities are arriving, merchants are confining themselves to the fulfilment of old sales. Grain arrivals have fallen off partly on account of low water in the Danube delaying the movements of up-river lighters, and also due to the fact that transport by cart and rail from the interior has been more intermittent owing to the peasants being occupied with the gathering of the maize. In the circumstances no fresh freight engagements of importance are taking place, and chartering has been correspondingly quieter. The available stocks at shipping centres are expected to keep spot tonnage going for a certain time, but berth rates for Continental destinations have weakened to 15s. 9d. and even 15s. 6d. The position is likewise weaker at Constantza, where there are several steamers loading full cargoes and waiting for turn at the silos in fulfilment of old engagements, there being practically no new demand for space.

Timber.—Cargo is still available only in limited quantities, but freights have been maintained owing to scarcity of small steamers whose owners, in view of prospects of employment for anticipated export of maize to the Adriatic, prefer to abstain from committing themselves to timber. Rates are £7 15s./£8 Greece, £8 10s. West Greece, £7 15s. Smyrna, £10 Syria and Palestine, £8 5s./£8 10s. Alexandria, and £10 10s. Sicily and South France.

Weather and Crops.—Warm cloudless weather lasted until Wednesday in the Western districts and till Thursday night in the Eastern, when the sky became overcast and the wind, which had been a mere drift from the south, veered north-west and became strong, and there was a considerable fall in the temperature. Rain was reported on Thursday, October 10, from nearly all parts, excepting the Dobruja and adjoining districts, and by Friday the clouds had also spread to this neighbourhood, the weather becoming very dull and cold, though the rain here has so far not been much more than an intermittent drizzle. The rain in other districts, however, was more abundant, especially in Transylvania. Ploughing for the autumn sowings is reported to be very backward owing to the recent dry weather and the large area covered by maize which is only now being cleared, but the useful rains of this week should sufficiently soften the ground to enable ploughing to be carried on more actively.

Sulina.—Bar depth, 24 feet. General conditions are satisfactory; a bucket dredger is working as often as the weather permits. River depth, minimum 22 ft. 6 in. Two suction dredgers are in use up-river, where the depths at several points are less than that on the Bar, the minimum of 22 ft. 6 in. being at the 41st mile.

Constantza.—This week about 10,000 tons of grain arrived from the interior, and about 20,000 were shipped to the Antwerp/Hamburg range, mostly going to German ports. The only shipment to the Mediterranean consisted of a few hundred tons for Genoa. At the time of writing two steamers of 7/10,000 tons are loading at the elevators, and another steamer is loading from carts, whilst five others are waiting for berth or expected to arrive to load grain. Twelve vessels loaded about 58,000 tons petroleum products, and one took oil fuel for bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, October 5.—Business has been brisker this week, and there was a fair demand for room for Rotterdam, about 3,000 tons maize and a similar quantity of sunflower seed at 11s. to 11s. 6d. and 18s. respectively having been booked, as well as 2,000/2,500 tons oilcake, mostly for Hamburg at 16s., all for prompt shipment. A few small parcels have also been engaged for Antwerp at above rates. Business to Mediterranean destinations has also been more active, beans and maize being the principal articles shipped, but the numerous regular liners calling at Varna and Bourgas sufficed to lift this cargo. The weather was cloudy and cold at the beginning of the week, but since Wednesday, October 2, it has been fine and warm.

In their report for the week ended October 19, Messrs. Watson and Youell state :—

Grain.—Little alteration in the position took place at the beginning of the week owing to inactivity here and abroad due to the Jewish holidays, but on the resumption of normal business the weakness of consuming markets became gradually accentuated, culminating in a serious fall in prices abroad this week-end, which has temporarily paralysed business in the Danube market. Very few parcels have been booked this week in the circumstances, but nevertheless rates for the Continent have been maintained at about 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d., and some freight engagements have been effected for the U.K. at

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Weather and Crops.—According to an official report the rain between October 10 and 13 appears to have been sufficient to facilitate the autumn sowings in the Carpathian regions, i.e., Transylvania and the districts bordering the Eastern and Southern slopes of the mountains, but in other directions, including Bessarabia (apart from the extreme north), Moldavia, Dobruja, and parts of the Danubian plain, rain appears to have been insufficient, and ploughing and sowing is delayed owing to the hardness of the ground. The weather has been fine and generally cloudless all the week, only light rains being reported from a few districts in the south-east on Sunday, the 13th. There was a heavy gale at Constantza on the

Constantza.—This week about 8,500 tons of grain arrived from the interior, and about 17,527 tons were shipped to Antwerp/Hamburg, Rotterdam, London/Hull. At the time of writing two steamers of 6/8,000 tons are loading at the elevators, whilst nine others are waiting or expected to arrive to load grain. Nine vessels loaded about 25,500 tons petroleum products, and three took oil fuel for bunkers.

Bourgas, October 12.—Business continued to be active and further 2,000/2,500 tons of maize and 1,000/1,200 tons of sunflower seeds were booked for October shipment, mostly to Rotterdam. The yield of barley having been found far below estimates, this commodity is being shipped in moderate quantities only. The rates to Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Hamburg are being maintained at 11s. to 11s. 6d. per unit for heavy grain, and 16s. per ton weight for sunflower seed. Activity to Mediterranean destinations is also being maintained. The weather has been mostly foggy in the early mornings, but fine and warm during the day until yesterday morning, when the sky became overcast and it has been raining at intervals since last night.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	501	SPECIAL ARTICLES—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		Tribes of the Southern Sudan II.	510	Notes and News ...	517
India and Dominion Status ...	503	BOOK REVIEWS ...	515	Notes from Roumania ...	519
SPECIAL LETTERS—		PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	513	Notes from Bulgaria ...	519
Egypt ...	504	CORRESPONDENCE ...	512	The Week's Finance ...	521
Cyprus ...	505	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	514	British Consular Reports—	
Abyssinia ...	505			V.—Egypt ...	524
Bulgaria ...	506			Engineering Topics ...	523
Calcutta ...	507			Company Meeting—	
				South Indian Railways ...	526
				The Roumanian Market ...	527

Notes of the Week.

The Coming Elections in Egypt.

The General Election in Egypt has been fixed for December 21; it will be followed by further elections on December 29, when a fresh ballot will be taken in constituencies where no candidate has obtained an absolute majority in the first instance. Parliament will re-assemble on January 11, and shortly afterwards the fate of the proposed treaty between Egypt and Great Britain will be decided. When it was announced that the Liberal Constitutionalists had resolved to take no part in the elections, it was difficult for the outside observer to believe that a mistaken policy was not being adopted. The motive behind the decision was good; they hoped to prevent the treaty from being thrown, as it were, into the electoral cockpit. But the main point of the General Election is that it should enable the Egyptian electorate to pass judgment on the proposed treaty. To this end the provisions of the treaty have to be explained to the electors, and no one is better qualified to do this than the representatives of the Party identified with the drafting of the proffered terms. It would seem to be the duty, therefore, of the Liberal Constitutionalists not only to take part in the elections, but to see that they are represented by candidates in every one of the 235 constituencies. These will not be expected to enter into competition with the Wafd in promising to secure more advantageous terms, which they know to be unattainable, at least for some time to come. Let them explain and commend the proposed treaty, and claim full credit for it. If the electorate prefers to rely on the rash promises of their rivals, the Liberal Constitutionalists will be in no worse position than if they left the field clear to the Wafd. At least the electors will understand better what it is they are offered to-day, and will not be deceived by any subsequent attempt to prove that the treaty, as it may be signed, is an improvement on the terms brought back from London by Mahomed Pasha Mahmoud. It is unfair to the Egyptian people that only Wafdist candidates should offer themselves for election. Egypt has need of the best brains the country produces for her Parliament, and to this end her best men must stand for election. If they are defeated, they will have done their duty, and will not be responsible for what follows from a Parliament deprived of the salutary check of an

able Opposition. Not the least unsatisfactory aspect of the Egyptian situation is the spirit of "defeatism" shown in the general belief that the cause of moderation and intelligence is doomed to be overwhelmed at the elections.

Balkan Recriminations.

Protests and accusations have once more been going the round of the Balkan States. A collision between Italian and Yugoslav sailors at a Dalmatian port has led to Italian protests to the Belgrade Government, which, while restricted to the immediate cause of complaint, must be read in connexion with the tension that has arisen between the two countries over the execution of a Yugoslav student in Italy and the consequent outbreak of anti-Italian feeling in Yugoslavia. Another Note has reached the Belgrade Government from the Albanian Government regarding the murder of a Catholic priest, who is stated to have been an Albanian subject. As the murdered man is also claimed as a Yugoslav subject, the matter is not likely to be carried further than an exchange of assertions regarding the priest's nationality. There has also been a recrudescence of the Press warfare—unhappily never suspended for any length of time—between Yugoslavia and the public prosecutor of a district Court. The particular band of brigands responsible for the outrage, it is declared in Bulgaria, spends the winter in Yugoslavia and roams about Bulgaria during the open months, and a Yugoslav commandant is named as responsible for arming the band and providing it with a plan of campaign. It may be immaterial whether the allegations are true or untrue; they are believed in Bulgaria, and the charges brought against the Yugoslav authorities are not unnaturally resented in Yugoslavia. So long as murders are rife in the Balkans the overlapping of the different peoples provides a wide field for these accusations and counter-charges, which serve to keep alive international bitterness. The evil could be mitigated to a considerable extent by mutual good will on the part of the various States; but life is not valued in the Peninsula as highly as it is in Western Europe, and consequently the incentive is lacking to put an end to a state of affairs that would be regarded as a disgrace in other countries. Unfortunately, each Government seems to imagine that it divests itself of all responsibility by levelling charges against

another Government, and remains oblivious of the fact that the West has ceased to make any distinctions in the degree of culpability attaching to one country or the other. It must hold all equally responsible until it sees a genuine attempt to establish a more satisfactory state of affairs.

A Political Crisis in Bulgaria.

As a result of her misguided action in the Great War Bulgaria prepared for herself such a troubled heritage that it would not have been a matter for surprise, if it had been her fate to undergo the chronic political changes that have been the bane of her Yugoslav neighbours. With only five changes of Government during the eleven years since the Armistice Bulgaria has enjoyed a degree of political stability that does her credit. The present Prime Minister, M. Liaptcheff, has been in office since January 1926, and it is inevitable under the conditions prevailing in the Balkans that his position should show signs of weakening. On more than one previous occasion the Government has been challenged by M. Tzankoff, the former Prime Minister and now President of the Sobranie, who, although nominally a supporter of the coalition of which M. Liaptcheff is the head, has maintained from the outset a critical attitude towards the latter's policy. During his own period of office M. Tzankoff had shown little disposition to temper justice with mercy in his dealings with Agrarians and Communists, and it was mainly the fear lest something like the permanent division of the country into two hostile camps might result, if no limits were set to his policy of repression, that brought M. Liaptcheff to power. The change of Government proved successful; but, whereas better relations have been established in Bulgaria between Agrarians and the so-called bourgeois classes, it cannot be denied that the position in regard to the Macedonian question leaves much to be desired. Under the ægis of Mikhailoff there has been a recrudescence of Macedonian outrages. M. Liaptcheff's Government would seem to have been more successful in stopping raids into Yugoslav territory than in coping with the campaigns of murder on Bulgarian soil. This fact provides Dr. Tzankoff with his opportunity, and he has made a fresh outbreak of Macedonian assassination the occasion for withdrawing the support of his Party from the Government on the re-opening of the Sobranie.

Settling Down in Afghanistan.

It is not the custom of the East to suffer Pretenders gladly or to spare the vanquished, but King Nadir Shah's reputation in the West was high enough to allow for the hope that he would be able to dispose satisfactorily of

the Amir Habibullah without resorting to the more obvious method of putting him to death. The new ruler, however, appears to have found it politic not to adopt too firm a stand against his victorious tribesmen, with the result that the deposed Amir, his brother and chief supporters have, according to report, all been executed in Kabul. There is no reason to suppose that these executions will cause any reaction in Afghanistan, where the sparing of the lives of the ex-Amir and his principal followers would have been more calculated to give rise to comment. On the contrary, the elimination of all traces of the old régime may well have a tranquillizing effect, and help King Nadir Shah in his efforts to consolidate his position. The crux of the situation lies in the King's capacity to obtain adequate sums of money to enable him to carry on the government of the country without pressing his tribesmen too severely at the beginning. His task is neither easy nor enviable, but until it is completed, the outlook in Afghanistan must necessarily remain precarious.

The Future of Trans-Jordan.

In treating of the Middle East the realist observer finds himself nowhere at greater loss than in commencing upon Trans-Jordan. For of all political entities in that part of the world, Trans-Jordan, without question, is the most artificial. It has been said that there is no way of judging the future but by the past: which means, as it concerns Trans-Jordan, that we know—nothing. As a matter mainly of academic interest, however, it may be recorded that the Parliament of Trans-Jordan was officially opened on November 2, when it was announced, in addition to the fact that the Anglo-Trans-Jordan Treaty had been ratified by Great Britain, that King George had granted to the Amir Abdullah a salute of twenty-one guns. Whether, as a result of this, the Amir will now feel he is indeed a ruling prince, we do not know, but the recognition has been so long delayed that it may be supposed that the Sharifian monarch had some time ago adjusted his mental processes to the facts of the situation. There it is, however; and in a perfectly natural way the Amir Abdullah went on to speak of striving to realise the "desires and hopes" of Trans-Jordan for "national sovereignty." Much water, nevertheless, will have to flow down the Jordan, before that section of the untapped, inchoate region beyond Palestine, develops a real consciousness of its own. There are those who believe that out of the artificial the real may emerge, that since something in the nature of an independent Arab State for the Amir Abdullah had to be created, if Great Britain were to fulfil her honourable obligations, an illusion of natural unity had to be fostered. And at least this can be said: that those who so believe have a very creditable record to show in Trans-Jordan.

After Twelve Years.

The anniversary of the Balfour Declaration this year was like none ever before celebrated. For on this November 2 it was the Arabs, not the Jews, who marked the day. There was, indeed, a general strike by the Arabs as a protest against the Declaration, and the Jews took good care not to provoke any violence by the simple expedient of keeping quiet. That there was in fact no bloodshed upon this significant day is probably a good omen for the immediate future: the situation must be well in hand, and the spokesman of the Colonial Office in the House of Commons last week was justified in his denial that the situation was still serious—serious, that is, in the military sense. Psychologically, there appears to be little real change in the situation; the boycott still continues, to the apprehension, apparently, of both Arabs and Jews. The voice of reconciliation between the Arabs and the Jews is heard but thinly, for the air is thick with partisan cries, and the trumpets of propaganda are sounded from almost every house-top. It is, however, a matter for some gratitude that action has been changed from the violent to the vocal sphere.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1929.

INDIA AND DOMINION STATUS.

The wisdom and expediency alike of the time-honoured convention, that India should be kept above party politics, were never more clearly demonstrated than by the events of the past ten days. With the claims, counter-claims, and personal recriminations that are the inevitable but minor consequences of the departure from precedent, we are not now concerned, except to deplore that issues of such magnitude should ever have been made the object of merely partisan animosity. For the unbiased student of Indian affairs, and all who are genuinely anxious to promote the permanent interests of the two countries, the real issue is, fortunately, more simple. It can be stated in a few words. Are the letters exchanged between Sir John Simon and the Prime Minister, the text of which appears on another page, and the form and substance of the Viceroy's subsequent announcement, published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* of November 1, likely to prove a help or a hindrance in the difficult task to which we have set our hands in India. Obviously, no short nor dogmatic answer can be given to such a question; it remains, therefore, to examine briefly, but in all their bearings, three specific declarations of policy. Each is of outstanding interest, though, as we shall seek to show, not all are of the same significance and importance. The correspondence between Sir John Simon and the Prime Minister, in one respect at least, will occasion no surprise to readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA. More than two years ago we referred in these columns to the growing belief which we shared, "that the Commissioners will find it impossible adequately to deal with the wider issues remitted to their charge without taking into earnest and early consideration the problem presented by the Indian States." The integral connexion of the States (which comprise one-third of the territory of India and contain one-fourth of its total population) with the British Empire not only consists in their relations with the British Crown, but also in their growing interest in many matters common to them and to the British provinces.

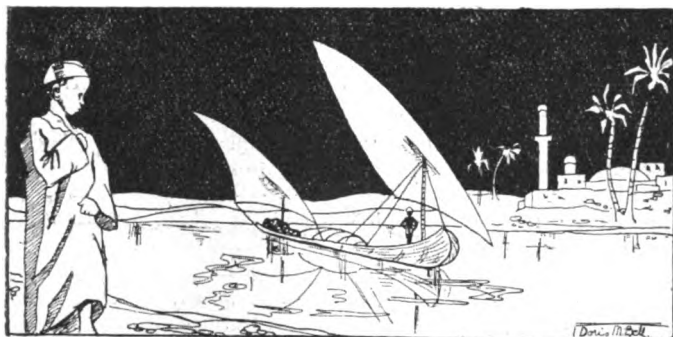
When the Indian States Committee was appointed we emphasised again the fact that the work of the two bodies was in a large degree complementary, and that it was essential that some means should be found whereby the work of these two investigating authorities might be satisfactorily co-ordinated. "Perhaps it may be feasible," we proceeded, "so to widen the terms of reference to the Commission as to enable it to deal, in consultation with the Butler Committee, with questions affecting the States. Or, if this is impracticable, the appointment of another Commission is a possible way out of the difficulty. But, whatever method may be adopted, it will be, in our opinion, impossible for any authority to deal adequately with the question of further constitutional changes in British India without bearing in mind the problems presented by the Indian States." The somewhat indecisive nature of the Butler Committee's report rendered the extension of the scope of the Simon Commission's inquiry more imperative than ever, and we unreservedly welcome the proposal in that regard. It is in our judgment no less essential, if the Commission's report is to take this wider range, for the scheme of subsequent procedure at present proposed also to be revised. We are fully aware of the interpretation which may be placed upon the Government's action in agreeing to the particular plan suggested by Sir John Simon to that end, namely that between the publication

of the Report and the drawing up of legislation a conference should be held between His Majesty's Government and the representatives of British India and of the States, but there is no other obvious means by which the latter could be brought on to the common ground. The difficulties in the way of evolving a practical working scheme are more formidable. The concurrence in the plan of the leaders of other parties in this country and the attitude of moderate Liberal opinion in India towards the proposal encourages, nonetheless, the hope that they may be surmounted without imperilling unduly the Conference's chances of securing "the greatest possible measure of agreement for the final proposals which it would later be the duty of His Majesty's Government to submit to Parliament." We come now to the famous declaration by the Viceroy that, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, "it is implicit in the declaration of 1917 that the natural issue of India's constitutional progress, as then contemplated, is the attainment of Dominion Status." In the view of no less an authority than the late Secretary of State for India this authoritative exposition of what is and always has been the aim of British policy in India, is either "mischievous and should be repudiated . . . or superfluous and should never have been made." From the terms of the motion of which Lord Reading has given notice in the House of Lords, this weighty opinion is shared in substance by Lord Irwin's predecessor.

While the declaration might with advantage have included some reference to the conditions attaching to the time and manner of the advance, we think that the position taken up by Lord Irwin's critics is wholly untenable. Neither the statement itself, which, as we have said, no more than reiterates promises made by many responsible statesmen, including Lord Birkenhead himself, at various times since 1917, nor its promulgation at the present time affects in any way the weight of the Simon Commission's report when it is published in due course. There is not, and never has been, any disagreement about the ultimate ideal of full self-government for India. The all-important questions are the rate of the progress towards its attainment and the measure of each successive stage in that advance. That is the real problem, and vital to its successful solution is the considered judgment of a body of disinterested members of all parties possessed of very different political ideals and of some irreconcilable personal standpoints, but united in their determination to present a just and impartial verdict on facts and conditions more complex than any person without real experience of India can conceive. With the supreme necessity of avoiding any action that might throw, or be regarded in India as throwing, a shadow of doubt upon the authority of the Commission, or prejudgment in responsible quarters of its survey and conclusions, we are in cordial agreement. But we have yet to learn that vitally important as are the responsibilities entrusted to its care His Majesty's Government has abrogated its functions in the Simon Commission's favour. The responsibility resting upon the shoulders of the Secretary of State and the Viceroy, in whose considered judgment the need of the restatement afresh of the British position was never more urgent, is a heavy one, but it is their's alone. Until they are proved unworthy of their high offices—and the course of events in India since the announcement is a striking testimony to the value of the advice tendered by Lord Irwin—we must and shall continue to repose the utmost confidence in their ability and discretion. Constructive criticism from fully-informed and responsible quarters is vital to the development of policy on sound lines; but it becomes a hindrance rather than a help, unless the matter is viewed from the beginning in proper perspective. Denunciation of the authorities' action on the lines which too many of their critics have taken can only logically be accounted for, as Lord Zetland has aptly pointed out, "on the assumption that the critics themselves place upon the Viceroy's words the very interpretation that Indians naturally desire to give them."

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, October 26.

The Residency.

Lady Loraine arrived in Alexandria this week from Athens, where she had broken her journey from England in order to superintend the packing of the furniture and effects which had been left there. For the time being the Residency remains at Bulkeley, but it will probably come up before November 15. Some of the Legations, such as the French and the American, have already transferred back to Cairo. But the rest remain by the seaside, and in view of the intention attributed to the King to remain at Montaza until the end of November it seems improbable that there will be a general move in official circles to the capital much before the middle of the coming month.

It has been with the greatest regret that everyone has learned that neither of the Aides-de-Camp, who have worked with such success during the past three years at the Residency are returning. One knew that Major O'Callaghan had decided to retire in order to take up a civil occupation, but it has come as a surprise that Captain Kimmins would not resume his duties. Both will be sorely missed, for they were admirable at their work, and as charming and as affable as they were efficient. None will miss them, however, more than the representatives of the Press, who, like myself, had repeatedly to have dealings with them. It mattered not what rush was on, how many important things and persons had to be attended to at the same time—they never lost their heads and always found time to arrange for, or to give, the information one wanted. It was indeed a delight to drop in to the A.D.Cs' room, of which alas! we shall now be deprived, for it has been arranged that henceforward there shall be no "A.D.C.s," and that all the hospitality side of the work shall be done by the permanent clerical staff with the assistance of an Attaché. The reason is that the opportunity has been seized by the Treasury to reduce the already inadequate allowance, which will now scarcely permit for the ordinary upkeep, let alone any entertaining on anything like the scale that has been witnessed during the past four years.

The Elections.

The Cabinet is still occupied with the preliminaries which must necessarily be accomplished before the elec-

tion decree can be issued. The promulgation of the latter will, however, in all probability have taken place by the time this letter reaches you. The Wafd is leaving nothing to chance, and is already hard at work selecting its candidates and seeing that its regional committees are ready for the fray. Whether there will be much of a contest is exceedingly doubtful. The Liberals, who of the minority parties are certainly the most important, have decided not to participate in the elections, and their example may be followed by the Ittihadists, who, like the Liberals, have accepted the proposals, and the Nationalists, who have rejected them as being contrary to their principles, which forbid any negotiations so long as British troops remain on Egyptian territory.

The decision of the Liberal Party is undoubtedly due primarily to their realisation that their position at the elections will be a hopeless one. Another reason is stated to be their desire to save the Treaty, or at any rate not to do anything which might in any way embitter the situation and obstruct the passing of the Treaty. But the decision is so worded that it is likely to have just the contrary effect. The reference to the Treaty as having been negotiated by the President of the Liberal Party is alone calculated to touch the susceptibilities of the Wafd, and to make it more determined than ever to see that whatever Treaty is accepted bears its cachet.

The New Customs Tariff.

Considerable uncertainty reigns with regard to the new customs régime, which should be applied next February—as from which date the customs conventions with the various Powers have been denounced by the Egyptian Government. It was understood that the new tariff would be ready next month, and would be communicated to the Chambers of Commerce for comment, so that whatever adjustments might have to be made could be introduced before its promulgation. A Special Committee, under the presidency of Ahmed Bey Abdel Zahab, Under-Secretary of State for Finance, has now been set up by the Ministry of Finance to study the whole project and report on it as soon as possible. But the change in the political situation and the return to a parliamentary régime will, it is feared, interfere with the scheme. It is considered as not at all improbable that Parliament will want to have a say in the matter, particularly in view of the fact that the question had already been debated to some extent in the Chamber. If that is so, then there will be difficulty in getting the new régime applied next February, and the Government may be compelled to continue the old system and prolong the commercial treaties until such time as Parliament has been able to deal with the question.

The Mixed Court Codes.

In other directions also the change in régime will interrupt useful work that was being done. For instance, a commission has been sitting at the Ministry of Justice charged with the work of elaborating a new Code of Criminal Procedure, and other law amendments required by the transfer of limited jurisdiction in criminal matters from the Consular to the Mixed Courts, which has been under discussion with the Capitulatory Powers. The complete transfer will necessitate a far more extensive remodelling of codes and general reorganisation than the limited transfer of criminal jurisdiction would entail. Consequently the work, which this commission was doing, has had to be suspended pending a decision with regard to the whole question of the Capitulations.

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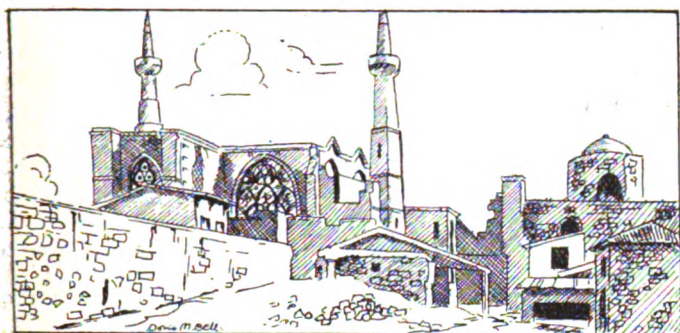
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*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

The Village Hospitals.

Whatever difficulties the political events of the past few months may have placed in the way of most of the Government services, they have, however, by no means interfered with the progress of the Public Health Department, where, under the direction of Dr. Mohamed Shabine Bey, the programme of hospital construction initiated a year ago has been quietly adhered to. Already two of the village hospitals have been completed and are working, while before the end of the month five others will have been taken over by the hospital service and by the end of the year it is expected that twenty village and ten district hospitals projected for the first year will be at the disposal of the provincial population.



CYPRUS.

Nicosia, October 23.

The Petition for Union.

According to a telegram received by the Greek Archbishop from the Bishop of Kition in London on October 12, the deputation, in their interview with Sir John Shuckburgh, submitted an abbreviated statement of the claim put forward in the memorial conveyed by the delegates. It is confined to the "one and only" desire which is alleged to be felt by the Greeks of Cyprus, to the exclusion of all other claims and grievances. The impression has prevailed in the island that the late Unionist Government were considering the adoption of certain changes in the Cyprus Constitution, with a view to remodelling it on the pattern of Ceylon and Malta. This would not please the agitators for union. Whatever the issue of the mission, it is considered certain that changes will be introduced by the present Government. The Press unceasingly urges that every other consideration should be subordinated to the one aim, the fulfilment of which is regarded as a "just right."

The Population of Cyprus.

The total island population on December 31, 1928, amounted to 344,020. The largest town population was that of Nicosia with 20,945, Limassol coming next with 16,572.

More Tourists.

On October 17 Larnaca was visited by a large number of British tourists. The majority, over 200, proceeded to Nicosia and inspected the mosques, bazaars, and museum, buying over £50 worth of objects of antiquity. Others visited ancient Kition and many other places of interest.

The Military Police.

Much pleasure has been caused in the Police Force by the announcement that the King has approved of the institution of a silver medal for long and good service. The regulations governing the award are published in the *Cyprus Gazette* of October 18, and a list of officers and other ranks to whom it has been awarded. The body of foot and mounted police, composed of both Greeks and Turks, has always proved a most useful and efficient one, and its duties are very numerous and miscellaneous.

Cyprus Sponges.

Tenders are invited by the Treasury for the purchase of 320 okes (8 cwt.) of sponges from inland waters, to be sent to the Tender Board. The Cyprus sponges are of very good quality, especially for baths. Mr. Crawshaw, a sponge fishery expert, who has been for over four months in Cyprus to report on the sponges and the fishery, has left, and will return next year, should his report be held to justify further expenditure.

General News.

A forestry exhibit, which is now held annually, and which offers a very interesting show, will be held at Nicosia from November 1 to 14.

Regulations for guidance of applicants who desire to obtain British nationality, and the necessary forms, are published in the *Gazette* of October 18.

One small community of Armenians, chiefly in Nicosia, who—as well as the Turks—were said to have protested against the Greek memorial for union with Greece, contradict the statement, and say that they would do nothing displeasing to Greeks, from gratitude for their great kindness and hospitality offered to their many refugees.

Sir Ronald Storrs, with Lady Storrs, has been visiting various localities, and has recently been to the large village of Morphou, to the Central Experimental Station of the Agricultural Department, and to the boring work for artesian water, which is being carried out in the neighbourhood.

Mr. S. Pavlides, Crown Counsel, is appointed to act as Solicitor-General, in the Attorney-General's office, from October 10.

Mr. Surridge, Commissioner of Larnaca, is transferred to Nicosia, from October 11, while carrying out special work in connexion with rural life inquiry.

Mr. Reilly, Assistant Conservator of Forests, who will return from leave in January, is reappointed to be Assistant Commissioner at the important village of Morphou.

The Commandant of Police, at Papho, Mr. Kareklas, having suffered serious injury owing to a fall from his horse, is lying up at Limassol, his duties being performed by the local commandant of that district.

ABYSSINIA.

Addis Ababa, October 10.

Air Developments.

Aeroplanes have at last been seen in Abyssinia. A French machine—with a French pilot—duly arrived on August 18, having flown from Jibouti in three hours, whereas the train takes three days. A German Junkers machine, piloted by a young German, Baron von Engel, flew from Dire Dawa (not in French Somaliland), and arrived on September 5, carrying mails. *En passant*, no mails have been carried by air, so far, out of Abyssinia. There followed the arrival of two more French 'planes on September 22. It is reported that Italian 'planes—or is it seaplanes?—may now be expected. We assume that all parties concerned have satisfied themselves that these are commercial planes for mails; but it is significant that British 'planes are conspicuous by their absence, perhaps too quixotic an interpretation is being placed on the words "war material."

The race course, polo ground, and Imperial Club have been commandeered for the purpose of accommodating the machines, and it would appear that the grounds will no longer be available for games, etc. It would be a pity, but, no doubt, the authorities have realised that an aerodrome in the middle of a town is not exactly ideal and that another site will soon be found to house the 'planes.

Railway Matters.

The break in the railway line at Gotha has not yet been repaired, and considerable discomfort and inconvenience have thus been caused. It is promised, however, that the new bridge will be in position by the end of the month.

We devoutly hope so. The new railway station is expected to be ready and opened in December. It is to be hoped that adequate provision will be made to keep away the howling, clamouring mob of *guragis* from the trains—making departure and arrival nightmares.

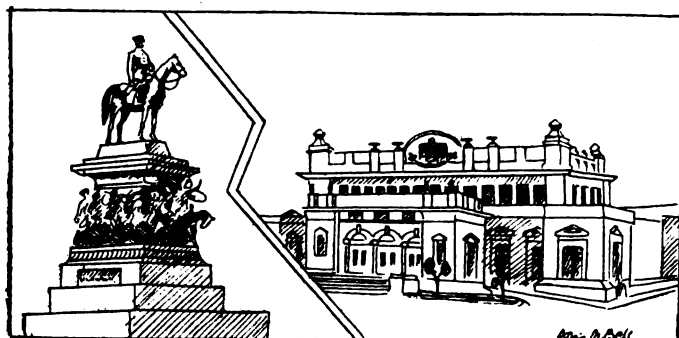
Registration of merchants and brokers is being enforced—to the decided advantage of business life. There are too many "hangers-on," masquerading as brokers, and although the tax may be too low to act as a deterrent, the recommendation that brokers have to obtain from merchants may be the means of weeding out some of the undesirables. *Negadies* are being protected too—they have been too long at the mercy of unscrupulous Arab, and other, dealers, who have not hesitated to swindle them. A recent edict has also been issued, requiring immigrants to have 100 dollars in their possession or to be assured of employment in Addis Ababa. The Capital has been in the past a refuge for undesirables of all nationalities, and this measure may stop the flow of this gentry.

General News.

It is with undisguised relief that we can record the end of the "rains." They started early—there were no "small" rains—have continued practically to the time of writing, and have been most depressing. During the "rains" life is somewhat lugubrious, but with the advent of the dry season we can look forward to delightful weather, tennis, riding, polo, and all that goes to make life bearable in Addis Ababa.

Lady Barton, wife of H.E. the British Minister, and Miss Barton, arrived at the end of August and their presence constitutes a much appreciated addition to the small British circle here. Their experience of motoring in the bed of the river at Dire Dawa, and the discomfort of the break in the railway line, will, perhaps, be remembered for some time.

Mascall—the Feast of the Cross—was duly celebrated on September 27. The ceremony was held at the Church of St. George and was attended by the King and Diplomatic Corps. All religious dignitaries, headed by the Abouna, were present also. It was a very quiet occasion—for *Mascall*. A military review was held at the same time, and included "tanks" presented by the Italian Government. Aeroplanes hovered overhead, the French machine indulging in aerial acrobatics. Bouquets of flowers were dropped from the machine—very accurately—and the German machine flew to Fichi to demonstrate to Ras Kassa. The Officers Training Corps—very smart in their white uniforms with red facings—were also very much in evidence.



BULGARIA.

Sofia, October 29.

Parliament Again.

Yesterday, October 28, King Boris opened the ordinary session of the Sobranie.

The King's Speech was very short. It was stated that Bulgaria maintained good relations with all foreign countries, and that the Bulgarian Government hoped to obtain alleviations in the matter of reparation payments.

There was no word on the internal situation, and the

silence on this point was significant. Yet the internal situation is very tangled, not to say grave. On one side, it is felt that the Government has outlived its day; on the other, popular discontent is organising itself into one vast plan of anti-Government action. In between there are military and Macedonian dissensions, and, above all, Agraro-Communist activities which culminated a few days ago in a horrible massacre on the road from Sevlievo, where three eminent legal officials were killed. The bandits, who were under the leadership of Dotcho Ouzounoff, remain, despite all the measures organised against them, uncaptured. They left on the bodies of their victims notes to the effect that they would unceasingly struggle in the defence of the peasants and workmen against the oppressive régime which had resulted from the *coup d'état* of June 9, 1923, and against the present "reactionary" Government.

A particularly lively debate is, in these circumstances, promised when the King's Speech is discussed in the Sobranie.

In the Cause of Peace.

The International Union of Associations for Peace, which recently held a general congress at Athens, took advantage of the occasion to visit the Balkan capitals. When they came to Sofia, the Congressists were the object of much attention, and the lamentable situation of the country was explained to them.

The day of their departure was marked by a remarkable demonstration in favour of peace organised by the National Committee of Bulgarian Co-operatives, who arranged a banquet in honour of the guests. At this, M. Liaptcheff, President of the Council, one of the pioneers of the co-operative movement in Bulgaria, was present, together with numerous representatives of co-operative associations in the country. M. Liaptcheff made a speech, in which he talked of Bulgaria's love of peace. He traced the events of the last half-century and the growth of the Bulgarian nation. To-day, however, even that section of the nation which enjoyed independence was prevented from living in peace. For thirty-five years Bulgaria sought by all pacific means the application of the reforms promised in the confines of the Ottoman Empire, and finally, in 1912, she founded the Balkan Alliance to assure liberty to oppressed peoples. If she lost the fruits of the War which her sons gained, the reason did not lie in the desire attributed to her of becoming mistress of the Balkans, but rather in the people's consciousness of their duty to assure the liberties of their brothers. Analysing the situation on the eve of the victories over the Ottoman Empire, M. Liaptcheff narrated the great disillusionment of the Bulgarian people, and he added that in moments so painful Bulgaria could with difficulty restrain itself, while her neighbours were allowed to carve out for themselves fresh territories. Speaking of his personal rôle since the Armistice of Salonika, M. Liaptcheff recalled the disappointment caused by the terms of the Armistice. But accepting her fate, Bulgaria, he said, had made gigantic efforts to fulfil all her obligations. He praised the League of Nations and the pacific rôle it had played in the Balkans, mentioning in particular the warlike attempt of the Greek dictator, Pangalos. Asserting that he was satisfied with the results obtained by the League, he went on to express his approval of M. Briand's scheme of a United States of Europe. Before this could come about, however, inter-Balkan relations would have to become more friendly. If all the Balkan countries had a clear conscience towards each other, confidence would rapidly be established between them, and, he said in conclusion, the obstacles in the way of this did not seem to him insurmountable if certain mental attitudes could be modified.

Mr. C. J. Norton, of the Foreign Office, has been transferred from the News Department to the Egyptian Department.

Dr. H. Schlesinger, children's specialist at the Anglo-Swiss Hospital in Alexandria, has had the honour conferred on him of the Order of Officer of the Crown of Roumania.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 17.

The Risk of India.

"I will take the risk of peace," the Prime Minister is cabled as having said. (One may be permitted to think that a Lord Salisbury, a less vain man, would have made it, "We must take the risk of peace.") It would be more to the point, we think here, if the Prime Minister was thinking of the risk of India, and in a spirit less histrionic. Even in his own day, as head of the Government, he will be so little allowed to take the risk of peace. It will be the experts, the technical men, not of Great Britain alone, but of Europe and Asia. If Great Britain knew that the technical men were determinedly opposed to the Prime Minister—knowing, too, that his whole gain can be but a saving of some millions of money, for it is not he who will change human nature—it would not be the technical men of whom Great Britain would make short shrift, but the Prime Minister. In Indian affairs, on the other hand, the Prime Minister would be master. He might be opposed in the House of Commons by Sir John Simon and the Conservatives, in the House of Lords by Lord Reading and others; but the country would support him. The British working classes, one suspects, care little really whether India remains within the British Commonwealth or goes out of it. They will be prepared to back up any Prime Minister saying gravely that this or that must be done. Speaking gravely, one must think, and not histrionically, as one who had taken over from Providence the governance of the material universe for the rest of time.

The Secretary of State.

To those who saw quite clearly that the Indian constitutional problem was much too big a thing for the Secretary of State to deal with, whoever might be holding that office this autumn and winter, the *Pioneer's* persistent effort to prepare the way for the Secretary of State's visiting India this Cold Weather appeared misguided. One agrees with the *Saturday Review* that "the rumour of Mr. Wedgwood Benn touring India is distinctly disturbing." Time was wasted and is still being wasted by the Statutory Commission. A visit of the Secretary of State to India would mean a further waste of time. One therefore welcomed a Reuter's cablegram of three days ago, that the reports of Mr. Wedgwood Benn's visiting India in the near future are baseless. Even the *Pioneer* has come over to this view. "If Lord Irwin," it wrote the other day, "were to consult with various representative people in India with a view to the convening of a round-table conference on certain conditions, and he received a satisfactory response, so that invitations could be issued for a conference in London, Mr. Benn would be able to establish the personal touch and to get the first-hand knowledge he wants without undertaking a journey to India." Two things are to be said to that: (1) that it is already well known to whom the invitations should be sent; so that there need be no more consulting; (2) it is not the Secretary of State who must establish the personal touch, but the Prime Minister. What must be done will be the better done, if done soon.

The Sikhs and the Congress.

Here is another voice on the subject of the proper attitude of the Sikh community to the National Congress, that of the President-elect of the eleventh session of the Sikh League. "Referring to the question of the Congress boycott," my report reads, "he drew a distinction between principles and methods. As regards the ideal they were at one with the Congress. If they resorted to boycotting the Congress, they would be left without a programme, while their participation in the Congress was also likely to be misunderstood. They were thus on the

horns of a dilemma. A negative policy was, however, no programme. They should find out an effective method of protest. For the present he advised the community not to boycott the Congress." The "effective protest" would be against what they see as an attempt "to subject them to slavery under one community; i.e., the Muslims of the Punjab. The Nehru Report, the President-elect thinks, would mean, if given effect to, the establishment of a Muslim *raj* in the Punjab, and under such a *raj*, they fear, they would not get their share of things. Better almost British *raj*."

Blind Leaders.

I have just quoted a man, conscious of being in the dark, and little hopeful of finding a light to guide his dark steps by. There is a worse darkness—when a man thinks he will save his soul by saying to others what he knows is not true. A professor of the Benares Hindu University, addressing a Students' Conference, will say a thing like this: "To-day I intend to speak to you as the inmates of the educational institutions to which you belong, and to which you are expected, by their authorities, to sell your souls and your convictions; but I shall speak to you as the would-be citizens of a great Society and nation, where your life as a whole moulds and expresses itself, and takes some definite shape, in the pursuit of national ideals and in the ennoblement of national traditions." What is the truth? The authorities of the colleges are concerned to teach the young men what they can, and regret it should be so little. About their souls they are unconcerned to the point of culpability. They see it as natural that the young men should have convictions, but care little what they are as long as the young men do not thrust them in their professors' faces. Most of the young men hope for quiet lives in the future, full of professional and domestic thought. They will neither pursue national ideals, nor seek to ennoble national traditions. "How is the last done?" they might well ask. The professor whom I have quoted knows all this almost as well as I do. His is the worst darkness.

Leaders and Discipline.

I had a word two months ago about the lack of discipline in India, and I have just been speaking of blind leadership. What follow are the words of an Indian, writing about the election of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as the next President of the Congress: "The Congress has been captured . . . by certain leaders who have developed . . . a 'class war mentality.' And of Pandit Motilal's leadership the same person bitterly complains that it has shattered the Congress 'into a hundred fragments.' It will be hard to deny this impeachment; and the proceedings at Lucknow, especially Mr. Gandhi's speech threat, evidence the truth of this indictment. . . . Though the Congress has not yet degenerated into 'the boil that corrupts and poisons,' it has least ceased to be 'the heart that drives the pulses' of our national activities. To this sad plight has it been reduced by the ill-chosen barbarism of the youthful and the laxity of the elders in keeping them in hand. It is so easy, as indeed is freely resorted to by way of excuse, to blame the foreign ruler for the impetuosities of unrestrained youth. But is the country in any way ripe for direct action of the revolutionary kind, with its anti-social tendencies? The Mahatma has confessed that for direct action, even on his own eminently peaceful lines, the country is ill-prepared. Yet the new evangel is mass action, to be directed by leaders themselves immature and untried."

The Child Marriage Act.

A point persistently sought to be made, in the agitation against the Child Marriage Act, is that it is "an inroad on the personal law of the Muslims, to preserve which the British Government in India is irrevocably committed;" and one suggestion that has been made is that an amending Bill should be introduced, exempting the Muslim com-

munity from the operation of the Child Marriage Act. There would then be no law binding the Muslims; it would be left to them to take their own measures to prevent child marriages amongst them. There you have another proof of the extent of the disunity of those who inhabit India. "Parliament by law established in India may legislate," it is desired that some seventy millions of them should say, "but if your law would touch our personal law, it shall not concern us." These people do not ask themselves, such is the depth of their obscurantism, if it would not be better for them that they should not marry while children. To forbid them so to marry is to touch their personal law, and that must never be done.

Murders.

No student of men and matters in India will neglect to read the annual administration reports of the Police. The report for 1928 of the Inspector-General of Police of the North-West Frontier Province has an instructive passage on the subject of murders for trivial causes. A quarrel at football may end in a murder on the field. A villager, for appealing to a man not to use force on his wife, may be stabbed to death for not minding his own business. The wife may be killed for having appealed to the villager. If you are a girl, and you love not wisely but too well, your brother may strangle you. Your lover may lose his life too. If you are a girl of nine, and your uncle have abducted some woman, you may be found dead on a railway line, strangled by the abducted woman's relatives. There are advantages in being a hum-drum Englishman.

THE REPORT OF THE STATUTORY COMMISSION—AND AFTER.

Below is reproduced the text of the correspondence recently exchanged between Sir John Simon, Chairman of the Statutory Commission, and the Prime Minister, with regard to the widening of the scope of the Commission's report and the procedure to be followed after the latter is presented:—

Sir John Simon, writing to the Prime Minister, under date October 16, said:—

My dear Prime Minister,—The Indian Statutory Commission has now entered upon the final stages of its work and hopes to be able to present its Report early next year. Before proceeding further, however, we desire to address you with an inquiry and a suggestion.

As our investigation has proceeded, we have become more and more impressed, in considering the direction which the future constitutional development of India is likely to take, with the importance of bearing in mind the relations which may develop between British India and the Indian States. We are not at present in the position to forecast the Report which we shall hope in due course to present to Parliament. It is, however, already evident to us that whatever may be the scheme which Parliament will ultimately approve for the future constitution and governance of British India, it is essential that the methods by which the future relationship between these two constituent parts of Greater India may be adjusted, should be fully examined.

We have carefully considered the Report of the Butler Committee, but the terms of reference to that body did not cover the whole ground to be surveyed so far as these relations are concerned. Our own recommendations, if we were to exclude from our purview the wider problem which we have indicated, would, we feel, be unduly restricted, and we therefore wish, before going further, to ascertain whether we should have the approval of His Majesty's Government in giving this possibly extended interpretation to our own terms of reference. It is not our purpose to seek to explore the field already traversed by the Butler Committee; but it seems clear that we cannot afford to ignore the reactions of the presence of the States on the problem we are studying in British India or

the possible repercussions on the former of any recommendations we might frame regarding the latter. At certain points an inevitable contact takes place.

We venture to point out that if the Report we are preparing and the proposals to be subsequently framed by the Government take this wider range, it would appear necessary, because of the need of consulting the States, for the Government to revise the scheme of procedure to be followed after these proposals are made known. It seems to us that what would be required would be the setting up of some sort of conference after the Reports of the Statutory Commission and the Indian Central Committee have been made, considered and published and their work has been completed, and that in this conference His Majesty's Government would meet both representatives of British India and representatives of the States (not necessarily always together) for the purpose of seeking the greatest possible measure of agreement for the final proposals which it would later be the duty of His Majesty's Government to submit to Parliament. The procedure by Joint Parliamentary Committee conferring with delegations from the Indian Legislature and other bodies, which was previously contemplated, and is referred to in my letter to the Viceroy of February 6, 1928, would still be appropriate for the examination of the Bill when it is subsequently placed before Parliament, but would, we think, obviously have to be preceded by some such conference as we have indicated.

We realise that it is not for the Statutory Commission to devise this subsequent procedure in detail, for our task will be discharged when we have reported. But we feel that it is desirable to obtain an assurance from His Majesty's Government that we shall not, in their view, be travelling beyond the terms of reference approved by Parliament if we pursue what seems to us an integral element of our investigation. We have also thought it right to make plain to His Majesty's Government the consequence that such an assurance from His Majesty's Government is likely ultimately to involve, in order that the future course of procedure may be so shaped as to provide means for consulting with the Indian States, and to promote the full co-operation of all parties and interests in the solution of the Indian problem as a whole.—Yours very sincerely, John Simon.

The letter from the Prime Minister in reply is dated October 25, and reads:—

My dear Simon,—Your letter on behalf of the Statutory Commission raises issues of such importance that I have thought right before answering it to consult the leaders of other Parties. I have now been able to ascertain their views, and they have been good enough to concur in the terms of my reply.

His Majesty's Government welcome the intimation that your letter affords of the Statutory Commission's desire to deal in its report with the wider aspects of the subject to which your letter directs attention. It appears to His Majesty's Government, as it does to those on behalf of whom you write, that your work would necessarily be more complete if it included a careful examination of the methods by which the future relationship of British India and the Indian States may be adjusted.

His Majesty's Government have given full consideration to what you have said in your letter concerning the consequential necessity of some revision of the later procedure as at present contemplated, and I am glad to be able to inform you that they concur in the view that you have expressed. His Majesty's Government are, with you, deeply sensible of the importance of thus bringing the whole problem under comprehensive review; and that under conditions which may promise to secure as great a degree of unanimity as may be practicable. His Majesty's Government are also greatly concerned to find means by which they may approach the treatment of the broad question of British-Indian constitutional advance in co-operation with all those who can authoritatively speak for British-Indian political opinion. It seems to them

that both these objects can best be achieved by the adoption of procedure that will permit the free representation of all points of view, in advance of the stage at which His Majesty's Government will lay any proposals before Parliament which may be expected later, as you point out, to form the subject of examination by a Joint Parliamentary Committee. When your Commission has submitted its Report and His Majesty's Government have been able, in consultation with the Government of India, to consider these matters in the light of all the material then available, they will propose to invite representatives of different parties and interests in British India and representatives of the Indian States to meet them, separately or together, as circumstances may demand, for the purpose of conference and discussion in regard both to the British-Indian and All-Indian problems.

It will be their earnest hope that by this means it may subsequently prove possible on these grave issues to submit definite proposals to Parliament which may command a wide measure of general assent. With my best wishes for the success of your further labours,—I am, Yours very sincerely, J. Ramsay MacDonald.

THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

The recently issued official return of the trade of Chittagong is of special interest, seeing that it covers the first year during which Chittagong has been a major port. Under the Reforms scheme the administration of the larger ports became a central subject. These ports were styled major ports, and their direct control was transferred from the local Government to the Government of India. The lines upon which Chittagong should be administered and developed had been considered and discussed for a long time quite apart from the question of development. The statutory powers of control were transferred from the Provincial Government to the Government of India by an Act which was passed by the Central Legislature in March, 1928. This Act also provided for the reconstitution of the Board of Port Commissioners so as to enable local interests to be more fully represented in the management of the port. It came into operation on April 1, 1928, from which date Chittagong became a major port. During the year ended March 31, 1929, the total trade of Chittagong aggregated rather more than Rs.15 crores. This was a drop of about 17 per cent. from the previous year, when the total went to the record figure of Rs.18½ crores; but it represented an increase of more than 7 per cent. on the total of 1926-27. It cannot, therefore, be considered to be unsatisfactory, and if the future development of Chittagong should be co-ordinated with that of the Assam-Bengal Railway, by the new scheme of administration, greater progress may be anticipated in the future. Of the half-dozen ports in Bengal, other than Calcutta, the largest is Chittagong. It is situated on the Kornafuli river, and it is the outlet to the sea of the province of Assam. Tea and jute are its chief articles of export, while the imports are mainly piece-goods, salt, oil, and machinery. The discussion to which we have referred ended by the Government of India deciding that Chittagong should be a major port in order, among other reasons, to facilitate its financial arrangements.

INDIAN AIR MAIL.

Owing to the damage to Imperial Airways marine aircraft on the Mediterranean section of the England-India air mail route, the homeward Indian air mail which left Karachi on Saturday, October 26, did not reach London until the afternoon of November 5.

Until further notice, the air mail will be carried from Croydon on an air route *via* Cologne-Nuremberg-Vienna-Budapest-Belgrade-Uskub-Salonika, instead of *via* Genoa, to Athens, whence the normal route to Karachi will be followed. The service from Karachi will follow the same route.

THE VICEROY'S DECLARATION.

The announcement of the British Government's assent to the widening of the scope of the Statutory Commission's report and the revision of the procedure to be adopted after the report is made, proposed by Sir John Simon in the correspondence reproduced in another column, was made by the Viceroy in a Gazette of India Extraordinary under date November 1. The statement opens with an account of the impressions which Lord Irwin has gleaned from his recent visit to England. After recording his unshaken belief that "behind all the disquieting tendencies of the time, there lay the great mass of Indian opinion, overflowing all divisions of race, religion or political thought, fundamentally loyal to the King-Emperor, and whether consciously or not only waiting to understand and to be understood," the Viceroy reiterates his equal confidence in the determination of British opinion, "puzzled as it might be by events in India, or only perhaps partially informed as to their true significance," that the pledges given for India's future shall be redeemed in full. "On both countries the times have laid a heavy and in some ways a unique responsibility, for the influence on the world of a perfect understanding between Great Britain and India might surely be so great that no scales can give us the measure either of the prize of success or the price of failure in our attempts to reach it."

The statement goes on to express the nature of the modifications proposed in the procedure subsequent to the Report of the Statutory Commission, and the circumstances in which the Chairman of the Commission made the proposals set out in the above-mentioned correspondence. At the same time, in a passage the real import of which has been made the subject of keen but in our opinion wholly unjustifiable controversy in this country, Lord Irwin takes the opportunity to restate the ultimate purpose of British policy in India. "In view of the doubts which have been expressed both in Great Britain and India regarding the interpretation to be placed on the intentions of the British Government in enacting the Statute of 1919, I am authorised," he says, "on behalf of His Majesty's Government to state clearly that in their judgment it is implicit in the declaration of 1917 that the natural issue of India's constitutional progress, as there contemplated, is the attainment of Dominion status."

After repeating that it is the earnest hope of the British Government that by the means suggested in Sir John Simon's letter, "it may subsequently prove possible to submit proposals to Parliament which may command a wide measure of general assent," the Viceroy concludes:—"It is not necessary for me to say how greatly I trust that the action of His Majesty's Government may evoke response from and enlist the concurrence of all sections of opinion in India, and I believe that all who wish India well, wherever and whoever they are, desire to break through the webs of distrust that have lately clogged the relations between India and Great Britain. I am firmly assured that the course of action now proposed is at once the outcome of a real desire to bring to the body politic of India the touch that carries with it healing and health, and is the method by which we may best hope to handle these high matters in the way of constructive statesmanship."

The Rev. Andrew Macfarlane, D.S.O., D.D., late of the Indian Ecclesiastical Service, having served in India for over twenty years, arrived in Cairo recently to take charge in St. Andrew's Church of Scotland for the coming winter season.

A sale in support of the Missionary Settlement for University Women, Bombay, was opened by Sir Leslie Wilson, late Governor of Bombay, at the Church House, Westminster, last week. The Settlement has for thirty years been an agency through which the university women of this country express their sense of responsibility for women seeking higher education in India. Larger quarters are needed, and one object of the sale is to help in raising the purchase money.

SOME TRIBES OF THE SOUTHERN SUDAN—II.*

The Bari.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Bari have been known to Englishmen since Sir Samuel Baker first visited them in the 'sixties, on the journey of exploration which ended in the discovery of the Albert Nyanza. He then formed an adverse opinion of them, which was confirmed when he returned in the 'seventies to administer the Equatorial Province for Ismail Pasha and to put down the abuses of the slave trade.

The Bari had by that time come to terms with the traders, who had a large settlement among them at Gon-



PITIA LUGA, CHIEF RAIN-MAKER OF THE BARI.

dokoro on the Nile, and they conspired to assist them in getting rid of Sir Samuel Baker. He found them fierce fighters, and treacherous negotiators. They are still looked upon as lazy and surly workers, though individually they may show great intelligence. However, there are a good many reasons to account for this generally bestowed bad character. They have suffered from long periods of famine and disease, and from their early contacts with the Arab slave-raiders. There is no doubt that their numbers were once much greater, and their herds of cattle were at one time so much reduced that marriage prices almost ceased to be paid in cattle at all, though cattle are probably now on the up-grade again. Even now they have a very much more precarious food supply than their neighbours, and have very often for several months in the year to go on exceedingly short commons.

They are divided into a number of exogamous clans. No one may marry within the clan, but beyond this and the fact that all the cattle have their ears cut and slit in various ways to show to which clan they belong, the organization by clans does not seem to be of much importance. The clans do not live in particular districts or villages, and the head of the clan holds no special position. The real head of the Bari tribe is the chief rain-maker. His name is Pitia Luga, and he lives at Shindiru, a village twenty-two miles south of Rejaf on the east side of the Nile. He can trace his family back for fourteen generations, and although this is nothing compared with the genealogy of the Shilluk kings, still it gives his line a respectable antiquity. His power stretches for some hundreds of miles north and south, from the Dinkas and Mandari, on the north, to the Acholi, on the south. His grandfather used to make his tour of his realm carried

on a couch by his slaves, but this practice has been given up by the present chief, although he still travels in the dry season. His power rests in the possession of certain stones, which apparently represent the spirits of his ancestors, who in their turn control the clouds. He shares his knowledge and power with a small body of assistants and representatives, and a number of other chiefs who are rainmakers in a small way. All the Bari who have not this power are his subjects, and must entreat him for rain; for this they have to pay him a tribute of cattle or goats and sheep. In the old days, if rain failed, the rainmaker ran some risk of being killed by his angry suppliants and, although this has never happened to the direct ancestors of Pitia Luga, it has happened both to his assistants and to other rainmakers.

The social organisation of the Bari is rather complex. The great bulk of the people call themselves freemen, but there is a small submerged class of *dupi* or slaves. This class is of the greatest interest, for in it we may have the representatives of the earlier and original occupants of the Nile Valley, a short thick-set hairy man, who built smaller huts, knew nothing of cattle, but lived by hunting and trapping.

At any rate, the existence of these two classes side by side is evidence of some distant migration and conquest, and the survivals of the conquered among the conquerors. Nowadays the *dupi* are the domestic servants of the freemen; they draw water and bring wood, cook for them, and on feast days feed apart from them. In return their masters are expected to give them cattle to help them in their marriages. But the *dupi* are improving their position, amid the various changes of social life that accompany a foreign rule. Occasionally they marry the daughters of freemen, formerly an unheard-of thing. Indeed, so deep was the division between the two classes in the old days, that the freemen are said to have killed the children of the *dupi*, if they became too numerous.

The freeman considers several other classes of Bari society as *dupi*. Thus the smiths or "artisans of the forge" are a base class, so are the "artisans of the river," or hunters of crocodile and hippopotamus, and so are the professional hunters of big game.

All these occupations are distasteful to the true freeman. And this is not surprising, if, as seems likely, he is in reality a Hamitic cattle-owning invader from the grass plateau country of East Africa, where his near relations, the Masai and the Nandi, still live. Thus his ideal has always been, and still is, the life of the herdsman. He has now to do much agricultural work, but he has not forgotten the old days. Then the whole life of the Bari was organised round their cattle. In the dry season these



A VILLAGE SCENE.

were kept in the village enclosures, and taken down to the river to water; but in the wet season when the inland grass was good, the herds were driven off to a large common enclosure, where the young unmarried warriors would look after them. The warriors went off

* The first of this series of articles appeared in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of September 19.

for several months with their weapons. They enlivened their time by attacking their enemies and driving off their cattle. There was a good deal of rivalry even with their neighbours. They had a curious custom of boasting of the points and merits of their favourite bulls. The boaster sneezed and then said: "My father's bull is speckled," or "My uncle's bull has twisted horns." This would be enough to start a fight. Sometimes the bulls themselves would be urged on to fight and their horns would be anointed to give them strength and courage.

The Bari did not willingly eat their cattle. They drank their milk and also their blood. This they used to obtain, as the Masai do, by piercing a vein in the neck with an arrow. They then mixed the blood with milk.

Marriage prices are paid largely in cattle. Cattle at least should form the bulk of the payment, and the balance



VIEW OF REJAF FROM REJAF HILL.

is made up of so many sheep and goats, so many horses, and so many guineas. The discussion of the price is a solemn affair. The relations of the bridegroom collect the necessary cattle and some of the sheep and goats, and set off for the village where the bride's father lives. When they arrive the time is passed in dancing and eating, while negotiations are left to the old men on either side. They have dressed up in their best shirts and trousers, with perhaps a seedy tarbush on their heads (a legacy of the Turkish fashions of the Egyptian occupation), and they settle down to a long and well-sustained wrangle, of which they probably know the outcome from the first. As each speaker rises he picks up the speaker's staff and paces up and down, stating the claims of the bride's family or the contributions of the bridegroom. At least once in the discussion, the bridegrooms's father will threaten to break off the negotiation, if the other side show such rapacity, but at last the price is somehow settled. Ten or fifteen cattle is the usual quota, and each item is earmarked for some particular member of the bride's family. Thus the mother-in-law will receive a cow and a cow calf, the father-in-law a cow and a bull calf, the mother-in-law's brother a cow, and so on.

The Bari give the impression of being a depressed people. It remains to be seen whether they will accommodate themselves to the rapid changes which they have been going through for the last fifty years. During that time it seems that they have been forced by a number of circumstances to turn from being a pastoral people to becoming an agricultural one. At present, either through inertia or the difficulties of their climate and soil, they seldom seem to grow a large enough amount of food for their needs. It is remarkable to a white man how they adapt themselves to a fluctuating food supply, and how natural they appear to feel it is to have too little one month, and almost too much another. But it seems to leave its effect in an uncertain temper, and their present most urgent need seems to be a regular and adequate food supply. When they have this, they may regain some of their former prosperity.

NEW AFGHAN CABINET.

King Nadir Shah has made the following appointments:—
 *Sirdar Shah Wali Khan ... Prime Minister.
 *Sirdar Shah Mahmud Khan ... War (Acting).
 *Sirdar Mohamed Hashim Khan Interior and Governor of Jalalabad.
 †Gul Mohamed Khan ... Interior (Acting).
 †Faiz Mohamed Khan ... Foreign Affairs.
 The Hazrat Sher Agha ... Justice.
 Mohamed Ayub Khan ... Finance.
 Ali Mohamed Khan ... Education.
 Haji Mirza Mohamed Akbar Khan Commerce.
 Allahnawaz Khan ... Court.
 *Brothers of King Nadir Shah.
 † Other members of the Royal House.

Among the other appointments are Ghulam Nabi Khan, King Amanullah's Minister to Paris and then to Moscow, as Governor and G.O.C. the Northern Province, and General Mirza Nek Mohamed Khan, nephew of the Ulya Hazrat (King Amanullah's mother), the former G.O.C. 3rd Division, as G.O.C. Jalalabad. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is the son of Gul Mohamed Khan, the King's second cousin, who is acting while the new Minister of the Interior governs Jalalabad.

A memorial, in the form of a marble column, has been erected in Liubliana to commemorate the founding of the Kingdom of Illyria by Napoleon.

A Belgian Military Mission is to visit Ethiopia, to reorganise the Army of Ras Tafari, Regent of Abyssinia.

An earthquake lasting 45 minutes occurred in Bucharest on November 1. A woman was killed by fabric which fell from the Catholic Cathedral owing to the shocks.

After Kiazim Pasha had been re-elected President of the Turkish Grand National Assembly on November 1, Mustapha Kemal Pasha, as President of the Republic, opened the third session of the third Assembly.

Mrs. Maria Elizabeth Yeilding, of Cliff Dene, Pangbourne, Berks, late of Sheffield and of Port Said, Egypt, left £23,414, net personalty £17,987. She desired that her body should be cremated and the ashes sent to Port Said for deposit in the cemetery there.

Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary-General of the League of Nations, arrived in Belgrade on November 3 from Rome, as the guest of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Sir Eric will have an audience of the King and will afterwards visit the Dalmatian coast, whence he will return to Geneva.

The Albanian Minister at Belgrade on October 30 presented a supplementary Note to that which he handed the previous day to the Yugoslav Government, asking for an inquiry into the case of the Franciscan friar who is alleged to have been an Albanian spy and was shot near Prizrend.

A party of men of the South Wales Borderers were proceeding by motor-lorry towards Lydda, when they were run into by a train at a level crossing at Ras-al-Ain, on November 1. Two men were killed outright, and an officer, Lieutenant Cox, and five men were injured.

The Order in Council of August 15, 1929, transferring "the superintendence, direction, and control of the military government of Aden" and its dependencies from the Viceroy of India to the Resident and Commander-in-Chief at Aden was gazetted on November 1 as the Government of India (Aden) Order, 1929.

The Yugoslav Government last week proposed that the Pirot Protocols, as amended by the Nish Agreement, should come into force on November 5, and that Yugoslav and Bulgarian delegates should meet on November 15 for further negotiations about the estates divided by the frontier of 1919 and the proposed neutral zone on either side of the frontier.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE ARABS AND PALESTINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I shall be much obliged if you will allow me to correct some of the errors of fact contained in the letter of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem published in your last issue, as well as to supply some significant omissions.

1. The area in front of the Western (Wailing) Wall has never been regarded by the Muslims as possessing any sanctity. Although it is a private Wakf, the Muslims have attached so little sanctity to it that on part of it they have built a cluster of miserable hovels, and they are in the habit of driving donkeys laden with dung across the pavement immediately in front of the Wall for the purpose of annoying the Jews praying there.

2. The Mufti's claim that the Muslim has always attached special sanctity to the Wall itself would not appear to be accepted by the Government of Palestine, for at the July session of the Permanent Mandates Commission the High Commissioner for Palestine made the following statement:—

"Tout retard est dangereux, car les Mahométans sont en train de répandre certaines rumeurs destinées à conférer un titre de sainteté mahométane à une certaine partie du Mur."

3. It is not true that the Zionist Congress, which was held last July, dispatched a delegation to London for the purpose of presenting "the Jewish case against the White Paper," which had, as a matter of fact, been published in November, 1928. The reason why the delegation was dispatched was to protest against the violation by the Muslims of that very *status quo* which they wish the Jews to observe. The Muslim violation consisted in effecting certain structural alterations to the Wall—a construction on top for the convenience of the muezzin and the establishment for the first time of direct means of communication between the Haram area and an Arab house which has immediate access to the Jewish place of worship at the Wall. The declaration adopted by the Congress stated (in part):—

"While not questioning the assurances as to its intentions which have been given by the Government of Palestine, the Zionist Executive felt it to be their duty to draw attention to the fact that the opening of direct means of communication between the Haram area and the Jewish place of worship at the Kotel Maaravi may, in its practical effects, have precisely those results which it is the Government's desire, and our just demand, should be rendered impossible."

4. In his account of the Jewish Demonstration at the Wailing Wall on August 14, the Grand Mufti omits to mention that it passed off quite peacefully after those taking part in it had raised cries against the Government and the Zionist Executive. Not a single Arab was molested by the demonstrators.

5. The Grand Mufti significantly omits to mention, although he must have also seen the incident, that on the following day there was an Arab demonstration at the Wall, which concluded by the demonstrators smashing the table used for the Scroll of the Law, tearing up prayer-books and papers containing petitions, and shouting "Kill the Jews: the Wall is ours!" whilst one Shaikh delivered an inflammatory speech.

6. The Grand Mufti would like your readers to believe that the slaughter of Jews committed by his followers was due to the Jewish demonstration of August 14. Sufficient evidence has already been given before the Inquiry Commission to show that the ignorant and fanatical mob who acted as tools of the Arab Executive were incited by living stories about Jews having attacked and bombed the Mosque of Omar, and that incendiary propaganda had been carried on for some time before.

7. It is not the case that "the Zionist policy has made intolerable aggression against the political and religious rights of the existing population." The Administration has carefully safeguarded the rights of the Muslims, and made them concessions that are denied to the Jews. Suffice it to refer to the impossibility of Jews to secure any position in certain Departments of the Administration, and to the official discrimination practised against the use of Hebrew—one of the three official languages.

8. It is untrue that the Administration "exploits, in the interest of a Zionist minority of perhaps 120,000 persons, the overwhelming majority of the people of this country." The position is just the reverse. In the first place, there are not 120,000, but 160,000 Jews. Although 20 per cent. of the population, they contribute 40 per cent. of the Government's revenue. The Jews are entitled, according to the Mandate, to State and waste lands not needed for public purposes in order that they may engage in close settlement thereon. But after ten years they have not received a single square inch of land, whilst Arab squatters at Beisan were given such vast areas that they were neither able to use them nor to pay the Government dues thereon, and they are now disposing of their surplus land at speculative prices.

9. The Grand Mufti concludes by saying that he will enter into no controversy regarding his statement. A further statement from him in your columns would probably be superfluous in view of the cross-examination to which, it is expected, he will be subjected before the Commission of Inquiry.—I am, etc.,

ISRAEL COHEN.

The Zionist Organisation, 77, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

November 4.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

At a Council Meeting held on October 24, the following new members were elected: Buxton, Miss Diana, Parsonage, Theydon Bois, Essex; Morton, E. D., Malquoits, Ewhurst, Guildford, Surrey; Ross, W., 71, Harley Street, W.1.; Turnham, R. Coates, 61, Muscliff Road, Winton, Bournemouth; and Urquhart, D. Ian, Linnmohr, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire. The following members were elected as Governors: Vaughan Williams, The Hon. Mrs. R. E. L., High Ashes Farm, Holmbury St. Mary, Dorking, Surrey, and Veragua, The Duke of, 7, San Mates, Madrid, Spain.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

An agreement was reached last week between the Yugoslav and the Bulgarian Government for the publication on October 31 and subsequent enforcement of the recently signed Pirot Protocols for regulating procedure along the frontier.

The Metropolitan Germanos of Thyatira, Official Representative at Lambeth of the Ecumenical Throne at Constantinople, has accepted the position of Orthodox President of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association.

A conference at Amman of Arabs from Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Iraq, and Trans-Jordan on October 31 adopted a resolution protesting against the cancellation of the draft Syrian Constitution.

All troops taking part in the manoeuvres in Roumania, which had to be curtailed owing to bad weather, returned to their garrisons last week. The manoeuvres were attended by Prince Nicholas and by M. Maniu, the Prime Minister.

The Rev. C. R. N. Blakiston, Warden of St. Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, has been appointed by Bishop MacInnes to be Headmaster of St. George's School, Jerusalem. Mr. Blakiston has had experience of missionary work at Delhi. He will take up his duties at St. George's School at the beginning of the new year.

A number of Yugoslav police were sent on October 31 to the Siemens factory in Zagreb to arrest several persons suspected of complicity in the murder of M. Schlegel. When they arrived at the factory the policemen were fired on and two of them were killed and two others wounded. Many arrests have been made in Zagreb and elsewhere.

A successful return flight to Constantinople was accomplished last week by three Lufthansa airmen in an Arado aeroplane fitted with one 500 h.p. Hornet motor. Their object was to test the possibility of a regular air mail service between Berlin and Constantinople. The flyers reached Constantinople from Berlin on October 25 in 11 hours. They did the return journey on October 29 in 7 hours at an average of over 100 miles per hour.

In Bucharest on October 29 the Dowager Queen Marie of Roumania celebrated her birthday and a Te Deum was sung in the Cathedral. Members of the Government were present. Later M. Madgearu, Minister of Industry and Commerce, and M. Raducanu, Minister of Labour, conveyed the congratulations of the Roumanian Cabinet to Queen Marie.

The Times Correspondent at Athens states that according to trustworthy information from the island of Cos, in the Italian Dodecanese, peasants of the village of Antimachi have found an important statue of Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, who was born at Cos about 400 B.C. The statue is described as being of heroic size, well preserved, and of a good period. It has been taken to the mediaeval castle of Cos, on its way to Rome.

A solemn requiem was sung for his All-Holiness Basil, the late Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, at the Church of St. Clement, Clement's Lane, King William Street, on October 29. Among those present were:—The Counsellor to the Greek Legation, representing the Greek Minister, the Bishop of Willesden (representing the Bishop of London), attended by the Rev. W. G. Cameron, the Metropolitan Germanos of Thyatira, with the Very Rev. F. Meletios, the Archmandrite of the Greek Cathedral, Bayswater, the Hon. Venetia Baring, Mr. Athelstan Riley, the Rev. R. M. French (General Secretary of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association), Prebendary William Russell, Rector of St. Clement's Eastcheap, Mr. Leonard Castle, Mr. C. F. L. St. George, Mr. H. S. Bragg, Mr. A. G. Hamlyn, Mrs. Carter, M. N. A. Klepinin, Miss Dampier, Mr. G. H. Wakeman, the Rev. H. J. Fynes Clinton, Rector of St. Magnus the Martyr (representing the Russian Church Aid Society), Miss Blevins, Mr. F. A. Yates, Miss A. M. King, the Rev. W. Horsfall Mellis, Mr. L. Foster, the Rev. V. Theokritoff, of the Russian Church in London, Mr. F. L. C. Kimber, Dr. Angelis, Miss Burls, the Rev. E. G. Phillimore, Mr. L. C. Glyn, Miss Margaret Smith, Miss Few, M. T. W. Clavey, Mr. A. K. W. Spier, Mr. Lang Huggins, Mr. T. H. Newman, Mr. W. L. Cooke, Mr. Hallett, Mrs. French, Miss Pearce, Mr. G. F. Field, and Miss Macleod.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

November 7, 1929 (New Style).
October 25, 1929 (Old Style).
Jumada II, 4, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.
Chesvan 4, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Archibald and Lady Birkinyre will leave London at the beginning of December for India.

Sir Edward Barry will leave England on November 15 in the Mooltan for Bombay.

The Hon. Mrs. Hopewell left London for India on November 2, and will be away for a year.

The Ranee of Pudukota left Southampton on November 2 in the Cunard liner Aquitania for New York.

Semsettin Bey has been appointed Secretary to the Turkish Embassy, and has taken up his duties.

Sir George and Lady Godfrey sailed from Tilbury last Friday in the Rajputana, on their return to Calcutta.

Sir Edwin Lutyens will leave England for Delhi, sailing in the Kaisar-i-Hind, on November 28.

Chief Justice Sir George Rankin left London on October 31 to join the Morea at Marseilles on his way to India.

M. and Mme. Ivan Stancioff arrived in London last week from Sofia for a month, and are staying at 9, Courtfield Gardens, S.W.

Sir Arthur and Lady Hirtzel, who have been on a visit to Italy, are expected to return to-day (Thursday) to 47, Palace Court, Bayswater.

The Dowager Maharani of Cooch Behar has arranged to sail for Bombay in the P. and O. s.s. Viceroy of India, which will leave Tilbury to-morrow.

Mr. Kinnell returned to Paris last week from Yugoslavia and Venice, and will be at 38, Upper Grosvenor Street towards the middle of November.

Sir Arthur and Lady Froom have arranged to sail in the P. and O. s.s. Viceroy of India, which will leave Tilbury to-morrow (Friday) on their return to Bombay.

On November 12, at 5 p.m., Dr. Chaim Weizmann will lecture to the Central Asian Society, in the Royal Society's Hall, Burlington House, W.1., upon: "The Zionist Movement under the British Mandate."

Sir Denison Ross gave a lecture entitled, "A Tour in the Near East," at the Ladies' Carlton Club, 8, Chesterfield Gardens, on October 29. Lady Yate was in the Chair.

Princess Antoine Bibesco, who has been staying with the Duke and Duchess of Rutland at Belvoir Castle, arrived last week in London as the guest of Lady Ribblesdale.

Raouf Beg Chadirchi has been appointed to Angora as Iraq's Minister Plenipotentiary, in succession to the late Subhi Beg. Raouf Beg, who has held Cabinet rank in Iraq, is well known in the legal profession of his country, and is also popular in Turkey.

The Colonial Office announces that Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Beattie, C.B.E., M.C., Chief Assistant Secretary, Cyprus, has been selected for appointment as Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar, in succession to Major H. W. Young, C.M.G., D.S.O., whose appointment as Counselor to the High Commissioner for Iraq was recently announced.

The Earl of Morley returned to England last week from Egypt, and is at present in residence at Saltram, Plympton, Devon.

AIR MAILS.

The Postmaster-General announces that a new edition of the Air Mail Leaflet, giving particulars of the winter services, is now available. It contains two maps, showing the principal Continental and oversea air services used, and also an inset with a map and details of the direct service to India. Apart from the usual temporary suspension of certain services during the winter, the most important alteration shown in the leaflet is the reduction, as from November 4, of the air fees for countries served by the England-India Air Mail Service. These air fees, which are additional to the ordinary postage charges, will be as follows:—

	Air fee.	Ordinary postage.
Egypt and Palestine	2d. per ½ oz.	1½d. first oz., then 1d. per oz.
Iraq	3½d. per ½ oz.	2½d. first oz., then 1½d. per oz.
Persia (including Gulf Ports)... ..	5d. per ½ oz.	2½d. first oz., then 1½d. per oz.
India	5d. per ½ oz.	1½d. first oz., then 1d. per oz.

Correspondence for Persia can now secure accelerated delivery in Persia by air services from Baghdad to Teheran and from Bushire to Shiraz and Isfahan. The air fee of 5d. per half-ounce in addition to ordinary foreign postage covers transmission by the England-India air route to Baghdad or Bushire as the case may be, and thence by air into Persia.

Copies of the new leaflet may be obtained free of charge from any Post Office.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Political Matters.

The reopening of Parliament was, of course, the main political feature of last week, but it was not that which most popular attention was given. Far more attractive than this was the spectacle of internal divisions in the Conservative and Liberal Parties.

It is known that for some time a section of the Press, nominally "Conservative," has been doing its utmost to discredit Mr. Stanley Baldwin and to remove him from office. This feud burst out last week, when the ex-Premier had to denounce assertions of weakness on his part, made by the *Daily Mail*, as wholly untrue. And I gather that in being under the necessity to make such a denunciation he had the sympathy of practically the whole House.

Another engaging topic has been the unqualified statement, made by the *Daily News*, which is regarded as the chief London exponent of Liberalism, that Mr. Lloyd George's notorious "Fund" must be scrapped. Whether this is a shadow cast of a coming event I do not know. Opponents say that Liberals have recently chased so many shadows in vain that this may be another one, but it is not doubted by adherents of the Conservative and Labour Parties that the conservation of this "Fund" has done the Liberal Party immense harm.

As for Parliament itself, the main interest of the proceedings, so far as they concern domestic issues, has been the difference unfolded in the points of view of Government and Opposition in regard to social and financial matters, or, rather, to the finance of social matters. This difference was made manifest in the debate on the new Widows' Pensions Bill, in which it was the doctrine laid down by Mr. Greenwood, Minister of Health, that "whether a nation can afford a thing or not depends upon how much it wants it," which so much disturbed the more orthodox economists of the Opposition.

That such a clash of ideas should be made visible is all to the good. So often the differences between parties appear to derive from the question of mere expediency, and it is altogether refreshing when a new political or social philosophy is allowed to be unfolded, through the medium of actual measures, in the House. Broadly speaking, the old philosophy concentrated on the interest, that is, the pocket, of the taxpayer; the new philosophy envisages a larger community, for whose advantages the taxpayer, it seems, may have to pay more.

Our Real Rulers.

It has long been recognised that the real rulers of this country are not those who make laws but those who administer them. In other words, we are fast being run by a bureaucracy. Government Departments have been doing more or less as they like, even in defiance of the intention of Acts of Parliament.

In part this tendency was inevitable: the more intricate the mechanism of a State, the more responsibility and power devolving upon the permanent expert official who alone understands it. But the tendency has gone too far, and the country now groans under (to use the rhetoric loved by the freedom-loving Englishman who has during the last decade seen a steady decline of his liberties) what is in fact a "new despotism," as the Lord Chief Justice, a salty Radical, has called it.

That the Government is fully aware of the causes of our present discontents is happily proved by the Lord Chancellor's appointment last week of a Special Committee to inquire into the whole question of the encroachment on the Rule of Law. It is, indeed, well realised that many laws passed in more or less haste by Parliament have to be determined by permanent officials, who, though they are as good a set of fellows as any, inevitably interpret those laws in the way most convenient to themselves—which is often enough the way most inconvenient to the ordinary citizen.

Yet it is difficult to see how this bad arrangement can be radically altered—any more than you can radically alter the fact that, though we are nominally a democracy, or even a bureaucracy, we are in truth a plutocracy.

The Public School.

The question whether it is worth while (often the only criterion for a large number of people) to send sons to public schools and the University is one that is being constantly and, indeed, increasingly asked. Our age is progressively utilitarian, if not materialist, and nowadays, since to earn good money both early and late is a capital object, the impression is rife that the old ideal of public school *cum* University is antiquated and unsuitable.

It is interesting, therefore, to notice the analysis which Sir Michael Sadler has just made of the careers of the hundred and fifty most notable personalities in England. These celebrities he divides into ten categories. Of lawyers, he finds that eighty-one per cent. have been educated at public schools. Of poets, seventy-seven per cent. were so educated. And in the category of financiers, economists, and leaders of industry, the percentage is as high as fifty-three.

These figures prove nothing absolutely, for they may represent a sharp decline from the figures of, say, thirty years ago; and this decline may be part of a progressive tendency. They are, however, impressive, in that most people would have thought to be more widely represented in our national life the type of, say, that to which the Prime Minister belongs.

Uniform for Waiters.

At the University one was early warned against mistaking gyps for dons, the mark of distinction being that gyps were always better dressed than dons. Even so, however, errors of identification were sometimes committed. It is comforting, therefore, to hear that a move is on foot to supply waiters with distinctive dress—so often guests in evening dress are mistaken for waiters, and *vice versa*.

One has always thought it wrong that the waiter should be wearing the second-hand garments of the guests, and wearing them much better, of course. Why should not every restaurant and hotel put its servants into distinctive uniforms, and so save all bother?

In case one should be thought to be flippant, it may be mentioned that the National Association of Outfitters is actually discussing the matter with the Hotel Proprietors' Association.

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Book Reviews

THE ASSYRIANS.

"*THE ASSYRIANS AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS.*" By the Rev W. A. Wigram. (London: G. Bell and Sons).

Dr. Wigram is well known as at once the most persistent, the most doughty, and the most lively protagonist of the Assyrian people, among whom he has spent many years of his life. He has written much upon this virile and interesting folk, from this or that particular angle, but in this very welcome book he has viewed the Assyrians as an historical factor throughout history—from the misty beginnings of time in Mesopotamia to the also misty future of the Assyrians in northern Iraq. The tale is extremely well told, with a nice sense of proportion. It does not suffer from the modern fetish of impartiality, and, although Dr. Wigram has to a certain extent controlled his tendency to indulge in light-hearted archery, a few characteristic shafts of humour are inevitably loosed from his bow. This fact only makes the book the more urgent a necessity for both student and general reader, the former of whom will find sufficient record to satisfy him, and the latter, sufficient review.

Dr. Wigram boldly identifies the hardy mountaineers of whom much has been heard since the War with the original "Assyrians," who founded the first military empire in history. He believes that the Assyrian stock was never exterminated, and continued to exist in its old home. This identification will probably provoke challenge, for although no evidence exists of the destruction of the Assyrian stock, it has been widely assumed. Be that as it may, it is quite certain that the people to whom Christianity was first preached during Parthian rule, were the forebears of the folk whose fortunes have since been so chequered.

The account of the Assyrians, with their neighbours—Kurds, Armenians, and the rest, during the Sassanid period, is excellent: particularly clear is the explanation set out of why the Assyrians separated from the Church of the Empire, and of the relations between Eastern Christianity and Zoroastrianism. When the Arabs conquered Mesopotamia in the seventh century, Christianity was flourishing—at least in the material sense. But trouble was ahead for the Assyrians. First came the Seljuk Turks, and then the Mongols (who might so easily have accepted Christianity, and not Islam, as their faith), and with them the disunity and the oppression of the Assyrians. The "millet" that had existed in Kurdistan was divided by the Ottoman Turks into Chaldean (Uniate) and Nestorian Assyrian—and the history of these unfortunate people since the sixteenth century is generally known. Their conduct during and after the Great War is even better known: how the Assyrians in the mountains of Hakkiari declared war on the Turks, how they migrated to Persia, how finally they marched from Urmi to Iraq, where, at Baqubah, "by an act of generosity to which one can fairly say only a British administration could have risen" about 50,000 were settled, how the Assyrian levies were formed, how the League of Nations denied to these mountaineers the chance of returning to their native homes under Christian supervision, and how the remnant of the Assyrian nation now finds itself—scattered in villages in northern Iraq, living as best it may. It is a sad history, which deserves a better ending than seems likely to be provided for it. Dr. Wigram's penultimate words are:—

If the Assyrians are accepted as an element among the subjects of the King of Iraq, then they may perhaps have a future, and begin a new chapter of their long history in the land where history began. Failing that, the old independent Church much merge itself in the "Uniate" branch of it that exists at Mosul, and the long story of a nation that begins in the days of Abraham come to an end.

Much wisdom is needed, however, if peoples such as the Assyrians and the Kurds are ever really to collaborate with the Arabs of Iraq, and the virtue of tolerance will

have to be shown in a degree very rare, though happily not unknown, in Oriental history.

As we have said, this is a most readable book, and a worthy record of a worthy people. We may quote in conclusion, lest it should be feared that in becoming the sober historian the author may have lost his old, characteristic touch, this passage dealing with the Assyrians' recapture of Amadia from the Turkish invaders:—

They (the Assyrians, disappointed at not capturing the Turkish Governor-General) did secure as trophies, however, the Turk's private store of brandy and whisky (for it seems that His Excellency liked to take the field in comfort), and with them certain papers which the Assyrians could not read, but which they duly handed to the British Colonel. They proved to be the nominal rolls of the Turkish regiments engaged, and they were subsequently handed back to Ottoman authority, as an answer to a courteous explanation offered, that the recent regrettable frontier incident had been the work purely of irresponsible frontier tribes, over whom the Turkish Government was not in a position to exercise as much control as it might have liked.

MEHMET ALI IN SYRIA.

"*IBRAHIM PASHA IN SYRIA.*" By Saleiman Bey A. Izzeddin, B.A. In Arabic. (Beyrout. 6s.).

Izzeddin Bey's well written and well documented monograph deals with the revolt of Mehmet Ali, Pasha of Egypt, against his Turkish suzerain, his seizure of Syria in 1831, and subsequent administration of the country until the ejection of his armies in 1840-41. During recent years a good deal of attention has been given to this episode by Lebanese scholars, largely through the influence of the History department in the American University of Beyrout. The author (one would hazard that he is a Druse) has been able in consequence to draw not only on the European sources, but also on the contemporary Arabic memoirs and documents; the former are his authorities for the actual course of events and their international relations, the latter supply most of the material for the administration and internal condition of the country. The main value of the book derives from the second of these aspects, and while it is by no means exhaustive, it forms a welcome addition to the existing literature on the subject.

H.M.S. Ramillies left Malta last week for Jaffa, where she will remain until December 16, when she will be relieved by H.M.S. Royal Sovereign.

Coloured reproductions of the remarkable mosaic pavements, recently excavated in the ruined churches of Jerash by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, are being exhibited in the rooms of the Palestine Exploration Fund, 2, Hinde Street, W.1, until the end of the second week of this month. The subjects of the mosaics include perspective views of ancient cities, portraits of founders and other functionaries of the Churches, studies of animals and birds, as well as inscriptions in Greek and Hebrew, and richly designed borders imitating carpets and other textiles.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that the King has approved of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Flight-Lieutenant Herbert George Rowe, in recognition of gallant and distinguished service rendered in connexion with the operations in the Nuer country during the period between December 8, 1927, and February 7, 1928.

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NOTES AND NEWS

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The Dead Sea Salts Concession.

The extremely suitable name of Palestine Potash, Ltd., has been adopted for the company which is to carry out the concession granted to Mr. Moise Novomeysky and Major T. G. Tulloch, for the extraction of salts from the Dead Sea. Details of the company, which are now available, show that the capital is £400,000 divided into 230,000 £1 seven and a half per cent. Preference shares, 150,000 £1 shares which may be issued either as Preference or Ordinary, and 400,000 1s. Ordinary shares. The directors are Lord Lytton, Mr. Israel B. Brodie, Mr. B. Flexner, Mr. E. Friedman, Mr. E. W. D. Tennant, Mr. F. M. Warburg, Major Tulloch, Mr. Novomeysky, and Mr. David Lyell. There will not be an issue of capital in the immediate future as a large proportion of the present capital of the company has been subscribed. Preliminary work on the concession has been in progress for a long time, and a good deal has been accomplished since the signature of the concession. Now that the company has been formed and capital is available, the necessary orders for machinery will be placed and the work of development will be rapidly pushed forward. It is of interest to note that during the recent disturbances in Palestine no trouble of any kind was experienced among the Jewish and Arab workers on the concession, and this was the common experience in Palestine where Jews and Arabs worked side by side under British supervision. This is a most hopeful portent for the future, showing as it does that it is perfectly possible for the two races to co-operate in the development of the country.

The Albanian National Brewery.

At the statutory meeting of the Albanian National Brewery in June last it was stated that out of a total of £200,000 due in respect of shares issued for cash, £66,621 remained unpaid, representing almost entirely amounts due from sub-underwriters who had been unable to comply with their engagements. Since that time, although every effort has been made to make them meet their obligations, only £1,529 has been received leaving £65,092 still due. The Chairman, Sir Harry Eyres, explained at an informal meeting of the company last week that the consequence of this was that there were not sufficient funds to pay the contractors for the material ordered. A minimum amount of £80,000 is required to carry out the concession, and it is proposed to raise this by an issue of Eight and a Half per Cent. Debentures at 96½. The success of this issue will depend largely on the shareholders, and as it has been plainly shown that there are promising prospects for the establishment of a brewery in Albania there is every inducement for them to give this further measure of support to the company.

Another Oil Discovery in Roumania.

It is only recently that an important oil discovery was made at Boldesti by the Astra Romana Company, and now the directors of the Phoenix Oil and Transport Company, in their monthly progress report, announce another notable find. A new deep source has been discovered in the Tzintea field at some 5,000 feet, the well sunk there having an initial output of over 100 tons per day. It is pointed out that the discovery of this prolific new sand revivifies a field that was fast approaching exhaustion. It

is of interest to note with regard to the discovery at Boldesti that the Phoenix Company also owns a large area in this field upon which development work, it is stated, will doubtless soon be commenced as a result of this discovery. In view of these developments, which throw a clear light on the importance of Roumania's oilfields, it is to be regretted that owing to the existing circumstances the industry has not yet become the economic asset to the country that it should be. The low price of oil has had a particularly severe effect in Roumania, but this factor has been overcome to a large extent elsewhere, and there seems no reason why what has been done in other regions should be impossible for Roumania.

Trade with Egypt.

A considerable portion of Mr. Turner's report on Egypt is devoted to British trade, and what he says deserves the most careful attention on the part of our manufacturers. No one could pretend that the position in the past year was satisfactory. There was a decrease of one million pounds in the United Kingdom's share of Egypt's imports, the largest decline being in cotton piece-goods. It is satisfactory, however, to know that there were notable increases in respect of a number of commodities, while there was the encouraging fact that we were regaining the coal trade lost during the stoppage. There is no getting away from the fact, however, that we are not doing all in this important market that we should do. It has been made clear abundantly in the past that, like other people, the Egyptians fully appreciate the outstanding qualities of British goods and are willing to take them if they can, but the trouble is that they are not given an adequate opportunity. It is the duty of our manufacturers to see that their goods are available in Egypt, and by giving their agents the same advantages as they receive from the exporters of other countries encourage them to promote sales. As regards motor cars, the Egyptian market, as is the case in so many other countries, is largely monopolised by the American manufacturers, while as regards motor cycles, the British product is, as usual, supreme. There is no valid reason why British cars should not hold their own, and this new export scheme will, it may be hoped, enable us to make a very different showing in this market.

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Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
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The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.*(From Our Own Correspondent.)**Bucharest, October 24.***Roumania and Poland.**

During the past few years the relations between Roumania and her northern neighbour have become more and more cordial, cemented by various agreements in regard to railway traffic and transit and Customs facilities. Some months ago an important member of the Roumanian Administration visited Warsaw, and in return for this courtesy the Polish Foreign Secretary, M. Zeliski, has just arrived on a visit to Bucharest. A reception is being given in his honour to-night at the Foreign Office, to which public men and the Diplomatic Corps are invited, and to-morrow there will be a dinner at the Polish Legation. The *Argus* of October 25 publishes a long eulogy of M. Zeliski, and attributes the success of the recent negotiations between Poland and the Soviet Government to his loyal diplomacy.

The Maize Surplus.

Although the exact figures of the maize harvest for this year are not yet known, it is already abundantly clear that they fall considerably short of the bumper crop that had been hoped for. Nevertheless, there will certainly be an important surplus of maize for export. The sowings of wheat, etc., for next year's winter crop have been retarded by the persistence of dry weather, the soil being so hard that ploughing was impossible. Within the last fortnight, however, some rain has fallen and every effort is being made by the farmers to make up for lost time. There was a very cold spell towards the middle of September, and snow fell in some of the mountainous and hilly districts. This last week, however, has again been extremely mild, and the sun unusually hot for the time of year.

Improvements in Bucharest.

The Bucharest Municipality has recently been very active in improving the condition of the main arteries of the city. Many of the streets have been repaved with strong cement foundations, squares have been opened up and embellished with little plots of flowers, the Boulevard Bratianu has been widened and now with the Boulevard Lascar Catargiu forms a handsome thoroughfare from the centre of the city right out to Victory Square, where the Foreign Office stands. Farther north the neglected copses on each side of the Chaussée Kisseliff have been transformed into charming gardens, and chairs are provided at a small charge. The "one way" system of traffic has been introduced, and tramway cars now run the whole length of the boulevards out to the northern suburbs. The transport facilities have greatly improved, and altogether the city is hardly recognisable now to a visitor whose recollection of it dates from a few years back.

NOTES FROM BULGARIA.*(From Our Own Correspondent.)**Sofia, October 14.***The Draining of the Danubian Marshes.**

The institution of compulsory labour which has replaced military service is finding a splendid opportunity of indicating its utility through the recent inauguration of the works of construction of a dike 17 kilometres long for the draining of the marshy regions of Ghighen and Bélén, in Svishtov district, on the Danube border. These regions which are not marshes properly so-called, being regularly flooded by the Danube at the time of high tides, constitute very fertile lands which cannot be used for agriculture. The dike, which will be constructed by next spring, will be six metres high and sufficiently wide to permit the passage of two motors or peasants' carts. It will liberate an area of more than 23,000 decares. A large number of compulsory labourers are allocated to this important enterprise, which, on account of compulsory labour, will not cost more than 30 million leva. The construction of this dike has been considered many times in the past, but owing to the lack of resources it always had to be postponed to a more favourable season.

The Reparations Question.

As the discussions progress in Paris on the subject of Bulgarian reparations so grows the popular movement led by the lead of the Opposition, M. Malinoff, followed by the Democrats, Liberals and Agrarians, against the present Government to which the Opposition denies the necessary national authority for a good solution of this vital problem for the country. The movement has been marked by a great number of meetings, which always conclude with a motion emphasising the financial exhaustion of the country and stating that despite the loans obtained under the auspices of the League of Nations its resources are inadequate to satisfy the more elementary needs of the national economy, and that it will be impossible for a long time to meet the heavy charges for reparations.

Bulgarian Socialists.

The Central Committee of the Bulgarian Socialist Party sent a few days ago to the Executive Committee of the Second Socialist International a detailed memorandum on the economic, financial, and social situation of Bulgaria and on the reparations charges imposed by the Treaty of Neuilly. The memorandum, after emphasising the point that the problem of Bulgarian reparations can only be solved by taking account of the capacity of the country to pay and of its needs for its economic restoration, gives the causes which, it is suggested, have brought about the present difficult position of Bulgaria. In the first place there is the loss after the War of the most fertile lands of the country, the Dobruja, Bulgaria's granary, Thrace and

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the Black Sea littoral, Macedonia, etc. Secondly, the influx of about half a million refugees aggravated further the precarious position of Bulgaria on the morrow of the War. The Budget deficits and the adverse trade balance finally brought about a financial crisis with which the country is now contending. It must be added that the national revenue has not increased though the population has increased normally and through the influx of the refugees. The memorandum further gives a description of the social conditions of the population, particularly the workers, officials, widows, wounded soldiers, and retired people who lead a miserable existence. The poverty of the population is leading, it is pointed out, to physical and moral degeneration, the consequences of which can affect in a disastrous manner the future of the race. After a comparison between the reparations payable by Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Bulgaria, the memorandum states that Bulgaria has been most unjustly and most severely treated, and concludes with an appeal to the leaders of the Second International and to all Socialist parties to influence their Governments and public opinion to help Bulgaria to escape from the tragic situation in which she finds herself.

Bulgaria and Poland.

For some time there has been in evidence an interesting political, economic, and cultural understanding between Bulgaria and Poland. The movement dates from the end of the War and the resurrection of Poland. Since then there has been established in Bulgaria a society for the development of Bulgaro-Polish relations and a Bulgaro-Polish Chamber of Commerce. But it is only this autumn that the understanding has begun to be developed in an important manner. A mission of leading Bulgarians, belonging to all ranks of the population, visited Poland on the occasion of the Poznan Exhibition, and received a wonderful welcome, its stay in Poland being a veritable triumph. In return for this visit a Polish delegation, drawn mainly from commerce and industry, has recently arrived in Bulgaria, and has met with the same friendly reception. Banquets have been given in its honour by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sofia, by the Minister of Labour and Commerce, and by the Union of Bulgarian Merchants and Manufacturers, and the mission, introduced by the Bulgarian Minister at Warsaw, has had long audiences with the President of the Council, M. Liapcheff, and with King Boris. Advantage has been taken of its visit to inspect the Pernik mine and to visit the trade and industrial centres of Plovdiv with its large tobacco warehouses, Karlovo and Kazanlik with their factories for attar of roses, and Gabrovo and Sliven. As a result of the understanding already well advanced, which will greatly facilitate the union of the Bulgarian and Roumanian railways by the construction of a bridge across the Danube so as to link Bulgaria with Poland, the forthcoming conclusion of a treaty of friendship, and also of a Bulgaro-Polish commercial treaty is to be anticipated.

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TOURING IN THE SUDAN.

The popularity of the Sudan as a winter resort is steadily growing as the attractions of that region, either for an ordinary tour or for a big game shooting expedition, are becoming more widely appreciated. A little brochure, issued by the Sudan Government Railways and Steamers Department, describes the various winter tours for the present season, among them being Shellal to Wadi Halfa and back, Shellal to Khartoum and Omdurman, and Khartoum to the Sennar Dam. An opportunity is, of course, given in the last tour of viewing the Gezira cotton scheme, which means so much to the Sudan. Details are also given of various excursions, and of the regulations regarding passports and permits, etc., while the brochure opens with a most fascinating illustrated article on "The Lure of the Sudan," to read which is to feel impelled to swell the stream of would-be visitors to that region.

LOW PRICES FOR ABYSSINIAN PRODUCTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Addis Ababa, October 10.

The new season in hides and coffee has not opened too well. Hides are at the low level of 9d. per lb., whilst there has been an ominous decline—long expected—of approximately 30 per cent. in coffee in European markets. Abyssinian hides may now be said to have reached their economic level and found their proper place in the world's supply of hides, but it is unfortunate that coffee should have received so serious a setback at the very commencement of the season; no doubt speculators have been "bitten."

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Glasgow, November 15); Manchester, November 19; Birkenhead, November 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Glasgow, November 7; Birkenhead, November 18); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Glasgow, November 18; Birkenhead, November 20).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 13).

British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 16); s.s. Mundra for Bombay (London, November 23).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bantia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Mitylene, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if inducement (Glasgow, November 12; Swansea, November 14; Liverpool, November 16); s.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Algiers, Oran, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, November 23; Swansea, November 26).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 8) (this steamer will be the last sailing of the season to the ports of Galatz and Braila, and sailing November 9); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Viceroy of India for Bombay (London, November 8); s.s. Behar for Calcutta (London, November 8).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 9); s.s. Portuguese Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Cyprus ports, Tripoli, Alexandretta, and Mersin (London, November 13); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 9).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. City of Lancaster for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, November 7; Liverpool, November 14); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, November 9; Swansea, November 14); s.s. Roumelian for Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, November 23; Swansea*, November 23); s.s. Destro for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, November 23); s.s. Maronian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Swansea, November 28). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, November 5.

The reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Bank rate on Thursday, which was quickly followed by a fall of 1 per cent. in the New York Federal Reserve Bank's rediscount rate took both the money and stock markets by surprise. So far as the latter is concerned it had an immediately beneficial effect and an all-round recovery took place. Until Thursday the London Stock Exchange had borne the heavy shocks of the Wall Street slump almost surprisingly well, and in spite of the general uncertainty and some amount of nervousness, the decline in prices, with the exception of those of the international counters, was quite small. Gilt-edged stocks, indeed, were inclined to harden, and, after the announcement of the reduction in Bank rate, took the lead in the general advance. The directors of the Bank of England no doubt argued that the $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bank rate, imposed five weeks ago, had done its work in improving the sterling dollar exchange, and as the margin between Bank rate and the market rate was steadily widening, the former was becoming ineffective. It must not be assumed, however, that this change is the prelude to an era of cheap and abundant money or that the monetary outlook has suddenly been cleared. The situation is full of uncertainties. In the meantime the decision of the New York Stock Exchange to remain closed for the last two days of the week, which coincide with the closing of the London Stock Exchange for the annual November 1 holiday and the usual Saturday closing, should give a welcome breathing space to Wall Street and help to clarify the position.

Gilt-Edged.

The rise in the value of sterling resulted in a marked improvement in British Government stocks, which in common with other investment stocks had severely depreciated owing to the high Bank rate. Now that Bank rate has again fallen, this upward movement should continue and should spread to other sections of the Trustee Securities List. There is one group of stocks which do not attract so much attention, but which are on the same

footing as British Government securities. In order to facilitate the restoration of trade after the War the British Government guaranteed debenture issues by a number of prominent industrial concerns, under the Trade Facilities Acts. Since both principal and interest are covered by a British Government guarantee these debentures represent securities of the highest class. One of the highest yielding stocks in the group is the Silver Line 5 per cent. debenture, finally redeemable in 1945, which returns £5 4s. per cent. Tata Power $4\frac{1}{2}$ "A" debenture stock gives the same yield and is finally redeemable in 1948. Amongst the longer dated stocks, Pearson and Dorman Long 5 per cent. redeemable in 1956 returns £5 2s. per cent.

The Relapse in Rhodesians.

Without doubt the recent relapse in the quotation of Northern Rhodesian copper shares has been precipitated and accentuated by the slump on Wall Street. Last autumn, when British investors and speculators were taking scarcely any interest in the development of the copper resources of Rhodesia, considerable lines of shares of companies formed for that purpose were being quietly absorbed by United States investors. Subsequently, on the strength of the reports made by American engineers, important U.S. interests bought heavily and with little regard to price. At the moment calculations as to future profits are of little importance and shares are being sacrificed under financial stress, irrespective of their merits. London interests—powerful though they be—cannot stem the torrent. Evidence of the confidence still retained in Rhodesian copper is supplied by the fact that one new issue of shares is being made by one important undertaking and a second is projected by another. The Rhodesian-Anglo-American is offering its shareholders 1,500,000 ten shilling shares at 40s. above the current price, although well below that ruling at the time the agreement was made. The issue is guaranteed by the Anglo-American Corporation group for a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Rhodesian Selection Trust is now asking for powers to increase its capital by £250,000 in 5s. shares, but particulars of the coming offer have not yet been published.

New Companies' Legislation.

Certain important provisions affecting the published accounts of joint stock companies came into force on Friday, under the Companies Act of 1929. It may seem strange, but it is for the first time that all companies, public and private, will be obliged to keep proper accounts. In future the general meeting will be entitled to see not only the balance-sheets, as heretofore, but also the profit and loss account. Balance-sheets, too, must distinguish between fixed and floating assets, showing separately the amounts of preliminary expenses, goodwill, patents and trade marks, and shares in and indebtedness to subsidiaries, stating also how the values of the fixed assets have been estimated. In the case of a holding company a statement must also be annexed showing how the profits of subsidiaries have been dealt with. These changes all tend in the desirable direction of ensuring more publicity as to the activities of joint stock companies, the need for which, as for greater confidence between directors and shareholders, has been frequently commented on in these columns. Still further progress might well be made in the same direction, particularly with regard to holding companies. It remains possible for such concerns, whose numbers are constantly increasing, to present accounts which, owing to the little information given about subsidiaries, shed virtually no light on the position of the group as a whole. It is to be hoped, however, that such companies themselves will be moved to give their shareholders more information than the law at present requires.

The P. and O. has established its own office at Monte Carlo, and has appointed Colonel Cecil Fane, D.S.O., as agent in charge of the company's interests on the Riviera.

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THE COMMERCIAL MOTOR EXHIBITION.

The Commercial Motor Transport Exhibition, organised by the Society of Motor Manufacturers, which is being held at Olympia from November 7 to 16, promises to be of exceptional interest. It is two years since the last exhibition, and as the exhibits will demonstrate the interval has been most profitably occupied by manufacturers. A list of the vehicles exhibited is at once an indication of new or improved designs, and some departure from the stereotyped, though mostly as regards improved details. Prospective buyers will find selection of makes a harder task than ever before, while newcomers may be bewildered by the variety of types and classes of vehicles, specially in the smaller and medium categories of trucks and coaches. A very high quality of comfort and body finish and upholstery has become the standard among the leading makers, a fact witnessed to by the long distance and all-night coaches. Untarnishable fittings, good lighting at all hours, roominess, safe and roomy luggage storage, even in the smaller coaches, suspension as comfortable as in a rail coach, the universal use of pneumatic tyres, and the rapid increase of six-wheel vehicles, are some of the factors which this year's show will accentuate.

Reliability nowadays is taken for granted, so much so that people are apt to overlook the fact that mileages between repair shop visits have been vastly increased, and now run into many thousands per annum. This holds good, too, of tyres; indeed tyre troubles, in spite of the vastly greater distance covered, and the increased weight of coaches, no longer count as a travelling risk. These results have been attained by attention to improvement of details of construction and to the means of maintenance and repair. Better materials of reduced weight are standard products. Higher engines speeds and better balanced engines, with increased compression rates for industrial vehicles and coaches are challenging the best results in the light engined cars. The six-cylinder engine with poppet valves or sleeve valves is becoming standard equipment for large vehicles, and is finding increased favour for smaller craft. Fuel and oil servicing is another marked improvement of the times; and to this may be added the improved filtration of air and oil which contributes so much to the freedom from engine trouble and decreases overhaul periods.

Six-wheel petrol models have made great advances since the last show, and may become standard for the largest coaches and buses. Engineers will find much of interest in the form of rear drive for these vehicles and in the vast range of technicalities in forms of brakes, transmission layouts, axles and electrical equipment. The Diesel type of crude-oil engine, too, which appeared at the last show, will be represented with many improvements as befits the effort to find means of using heavy oil fuel as well as motor spirit. Overseas visitors are promised much on this head which will make this show a land-mark in commercial vehicle development.

Full electrical equipment promises to be standard for

most industrial vehicles. All makers have provided for fitting an engine starter, and most have standardised dynamo lighting. Not all buyers wish to have the full range of electrical equipment, which explains why it is provided for, but is not universal standard equipment. Ignition by coil and battery with automatic or part hand and automatic timing, radiator temperature controllers, improved oil purifiers and coolers will be standard equipment of many exhibits. Magnetos with semi-automatic timing, and those with assisted hand starting "flick" mechanism have been improved and generally brought up to the most exacting requirements for the highest speeds and compression rates.

In the components for chassis and accessories for vehicle equipment, there promises to be a good exhibit. Free-wheels will find a place at this show, and visitors will be able to note some remarkable developments in this much discussed transmission auxiliary. Visitors, and operating engineers in particular, will find plenty of evidence of laboratory and test shop effort to improve materials and prolong wear. Centrifugal iron castings for cylinder-liners, pistons and rings, and nickel alloys for the complete range of chassis requirements are but two leading lines pointing to the great developments in recent metallurgy. New and improved metals for every day maintenance and usage are being featured by several exhibitors, who also will show patent special tools for use with their products. Accessories for furnishing coaches, body materials and upholstery fabric, and mountings; sprung cushions and hygienic sundries, and the special requirements for long distance coaches are but a few of the lines listed by several firms specially interested in these details.

Steam vehicles share, with electrics, but to a lesser extent the interest at these shows. The six-wheel steamer in particular will be found much developed since the last show. Municipal vehicles will be represented both in the vehicle and accessory and components section. Many of the larger vehicle makers are specially catering for labour saving motor plant for street service and refuse collecting, and the exhibits will show that the trade is not neglecting development of this enterprise. And it may be added that one of the attractions of these shows is the comprehensive and full range of vehicles exhibited whether for passenger, municipal use or transport of goods from a 7 cwt. van to the largest six-wheel trailer combination.

That there will be a few surprises in regard to vehicles and engines is certain. Luxury type coaches and buses of unusual elegance are promised, and there are heavy oil engines at present on test for passenger service, vehicles which will more than halve the fuel bill of the owners concerned. Overseas buyers in certain territories will note this trend with special interest.

Yugoslavia's cement exports for the first half of this year totalled 224,000 tons, of the value of 78 million dinars.

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STATIONS.	2 days				5 days				7 days				10 days			
	1st Class		2nd Class		1st Class		2nd Class		1st Class		2nd Class		1st Class		2nd Class	
	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	Mill.	L.E.	M.
From Cairo to Luxor and Return	8	—	3	900	11	600	6	900	14	—	8	900	17	600	11	900
From Cairo to Assuan and Return	9	500	4	400	13	100	7	400	15	500	9	400	19	100	12	400
From Alexandria or Port-Said to Luxor and Return	—	—	—	—	12	600	7	500	15	—	9	500	18	600	12	500
From Alexandria or Port-Said to Assuan & Return	—	—	—	—	14	100	8	—	16	500	10	—	20	100	13	—

For more details, apply to the Publicity Department, E.S.R., Cairo Station.

Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

High Pressure Steam in Industry.

Significant in view of the increasing use of high pressure steam in industry generally, was the display at the recent North-East Coast Exhibition (May-October) of International Combustion, Ltd., and their associated companies. This includes a model of the remarkable new forged steel drum boiler plant now being constructed by Synthetic Ammonia and Nitrates, Ltd., Billingham-on-Tees, which will cost about £800,000, operating turbines with "pass-out" steam available for process work. The boilers, eight in number, are to operate at 800 lb. pressure per hour, with 840 deg. F. superheated steam temperature, constituting the largest super-pressure industrial boiler plant in the world, being fired also by pulverised fuel on the latest principles. A model of the "R" turbulent burner was also shown, whereby, it may be remembered, combustion results in a flame of less than 10 feet in length, with a consumption up to 6 tons of coal per burner per hour, and not over 2 in. W.G. pressure in the air supply. Consequently, the design of the combustion chamber for pulverised fuel firing has been revolutionised, since only a few burners are required for even the largest setting, which also can now be placed at the front operating in a horizontal direction instead of downwards from the top. As a result the over-all height of the combustion chamber is much reduced, while the arrangement also includes three "Murray-USco" steel tube water-cooled walls, air heaters, and part of the hot air is passed through "Raymond" pulverisers. Also all the air, both primary and secondary, now goes through the burner itself, whilst if pre-drying of the coal is necessary, under these conditions the "Rosencrantz" vertical steam-heated mechanically continuous rabble arm dryer is employed.

With regard to air heaters, it may be stated, also as shown by a model, the well-known "USco" multiple plate heater has now been re-designed to allow of a cheaper method of construction, but retaining the method of electric welding of joints throughout so as to eliminate leakage of air and gas. Further, there is on view a model of the now well-known "Underfeed Type L" stoker with swinging louvre links, operating with "Detrick-USco" suspended arches to any width, whilst at the same time giving absolutely uniform air distribution under accurate control to every part of the grate surface, transversely and longitudinally, and eliminating all riddlings ejector mechanism, since the links all carry away their own riddlings. Single stokers on these lines over 30 feet wide are now under construction for the Deptford East Station of the London Power Company, Ltd., for operating boilers of 200,000 lb. evaporation per hour, being the largest travelling grate stokers ever constructed.

Filter Bottoms.

Recently, at a large water filtration plant, it was found that one of the filters was giving trouble, the distribution of wash water being uneven. A number of hard spots were also developing, and there was some inversion of the sand and gravel. In checking over the filter material in this unit it was found that there was but 9 inches of gravel, of which only 2 inches was greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter. The engineer made some investigations into the possibility of getting a supply of suitable gravel locally and found that it would be both difficult and expensive to do so, and he decided to see what could be done with broken limestone.

Before he finally decided to increase the gravel depth by the use of limestone in the filter bottom, he visited a big plant in which crushed limestone had been used for

about 30 years in the filtration of sewage, and he found that not only had it stood up to its work well, but that there had been no need to renew the material since it was first installed. As a result of his visit he decided to use limestone for water filtration, and he decided, further, to use dolomitic limestone of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch size.

One filter was reconstructed for experimental work, and as a beginning 4 inches of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch hard dolomitic limestone was used on the filter bottom. On this stone was placed the original gravel and then the filter sand. The filter, thus reconstructed, has now been in operation for eighteen months and has so far given no trouble with gravel inversion. It has developed no hard spots and shows a very even distribution of wash water. No examination of the stone in the filter bottom has yet been made, but it has been decided to open it up next spring and afterwards to take samples of the stone every twelve months to compare it in every way with the original stone.

In regard to the above it may be mentioned that most engineers have a preference, for filter work, for irregular crushed stone rather than rounded and water-worn gravel. The irregular particles become bedded together and after a little while become so anchored to each other that in many cases examination has shown that there has been no movement whatsoever since the filter was put in commission. It appears that in one large filter it was considered, after a thorough overhauling, to increase the depth of the filter bed, and as gravel was not obtainable in the vicinity, a 6 inch bed of crushed sandstone was laid down and gave an excellent distribution of the wash water.



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to
the Secretary

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Sewage Gas.

It is interesting to note that in many sewage disposal works the gases produced by the digestion of the sewage sludge are being collected and utilised, chiefly for sludge heating. This not only allows of a greater economy in construction of the plant by cutting the digestion capacity in half, but it also does away with the odour nuisance. So far as the writer is aware, there is only Imhoff plant in which the sludge is being heated, and in all the others the separate digestion process is being employed. At one big plant, which is not yet completed, the writer is informed that the gases will be used as a source of heat in glass-covered sludge beds to facilitate drying during the winter months, whilst at other period of the year it will be used for burning screenings. In the past, the gas has been successfully used in ordinary gas heaters for warming buildings. It has been found, however, that not only does it carry a quantity of dust which deposits itself in the pipes, but that it can be used to far greater advantage by being burned on a large scale for high capacity sludge driers.

The use of this sewage gas for power production has been developed considerably of late and there are some very large plants now at work on gas of this kind. In a number of stations the whole of the sewage is pumped, and all other mechanical work done by power obtained from sewage gas. The disposal of activated sludge by digestion has also opened up another field for the use of this gas in driving air compressors. This is already being done in many plants, and in one in particular the gas obtained from the digestion of raw and activated sludge amounts to upwards of 30,000 cu. ft. per day, and the whole of this is used in ordinary 4-stroke engines, working in 7-hour shifts, driving the air compressing plant.

Obviously when dealing with such a material as sewage gas, which, by the way, must not be confounded with sewer gas, particular care has to be taken in the design of the gas domes. In general, high seal domes are desirable, because they prevent the loss of gas if for any reason the liquid level of the digestion tank is lowered, and they also lessen the chances of gas line clogging through scum rising in the dome. In Germany it is the usual practice to use scum racks to clear the scum from the sewage, so as to prevent clogging, but it may be stated, without fear of contradiction, that experience elsewhere has shown that these racks clog quickly, require frequent cleaning and are consequently too costly in use. The best method of dealing with the scum which is such a trouble in gas collecting work, is to drain it off through a pipe running to the dome. Washing away the scum by spraying water through nozzles adjacent to the gas lines has been tried, with varying success. The methods mentioned all have advantages and all have, equally, some disadvantages, and it seems that further research work might with advantage be given to this side of sewage disposal work.

At the 80th ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, to be held at the company's offices, on December 11 at 11 a.m., the Directors, after providing for the usual dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock (less income tax), will recommend a dividend on the deferred stock of 7 per cent. (free of income tax) for the six months ended September 30, 1929, making, with the dividend of 5 per cent. paid in May, a total distribution on the deferred stock of 12 per cent. for the year. Warrants will be payable on December 16.

British Consular Report

V—EGYPT.

(Continued from page 495.)

Banking.

In spite of a certain restriction of credit in some directions banking operations may be said to have extended steadily on a sound basis during the year under review, and practically in all cases a satisfactory year was recorded.

The Banque Misr has since its inception received hearty support from the Egyptian Government, as, for example, the transfer to its care of the accounts of the municipalities and local commissions and of private trusts, the handling of Government advances on cotton loans and loans to co-operative societies, and the exemption from customs dues on imports of materials required for the use of its subsidiary companies.

The development of this bank since its formation in 1920 has been remarkable when it is considered that its capital on formation in 1920 was only £E80,000, whereas to-day its capital is £E1,000,000 fully paid up, and deposits amount to £E5,500,000. In 1927 the bank paid a dividend of 8½ per cent. During 1928 the managing director visited the United Kingdom, Belgium and Germany with the object of studying industries which his bank intended to establish in Egypt. The chief results of this visit were the establishment of the Misr Spinning and Weaving Company and the Misr Press. While the order for machinery for the latter industry, amounting to some £40,000, was obtained by a German firm, German, Belgian and British manufacturers share the important orders for the former, viz.: Power house Belgian firm; Diesel engines, German firm; Spinning and weaving machinery British firm. Thirty students were sent to Belgium to train as spinning and weaving operators, etc., Belgian mechanics were engaged for the assembling of the plant. The Misr Company has already been successful in obtaining Egyptian Government orders for medicated cotton wool.

New Egyptian Tariff.

The three international experts engaged to assist the Egyptian Government in the preparation of a new Egyptian tariff commenced their labour at the end of 1927. The aim of the new tariff is (i) to increase the revenue from customs duties (it is understood that, roughly, it is hoped to double it); and (ii) to afford a reasonable measure of protection to existing and potential Egyptian industries. It is understood that the new tariff is to be based on the "specific" as distinct from the *ad valorem* system at present in force, and that the schedule will be based on the system of classification drawn up at Geneva, modified to suit local requirements. The schedule is expected to be a single rate and not a maximum and minimum rate schedule which was at one time expected in some quarters.

No information is as yet available regarding the individual duties contemplated under the new tariff, nor as to the method of assessment to be followed. It is believed, however, that the Egyptian authorities and the experts realise the desirability of keeping the whole tariff and its machinery as simple as possible, and that, as a general rule, assessments will be on weight per unit. There will, it is understood, be no goods entirely duty free, but reductions may be expected in regard to such commodities as fertilisers in order to foster agriculture. It is unlikely that any higher duties will be placed on articles of first necessity, in order not to increase the cost of living for the working classes. On the other hand, higher duties will doubtless be imposed on articles of luxury and on such commodities as are manufactured in the country. It is as yet not known when the draft schedule of duties will be published, but the authorities have stated that ample time

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Exports of Egyptian Produce.

Exports of Egyptian onions amounted to 201,611,418 kilogrammes, valued at £E1,216,444, compared with 167,901,525 kilogrammes worth £E863,497 in 1927, but in spite of these satisfactory figures some complications were experienced in the trade owing to the crop having come forward too early. The United Kingdom remained the chief buyer while Italy, Germany, France and the United States were also important consumers.

Exports of Egyptian eggs slightly increased, the figures for the year under review being 127,066 kilogrammes in volume and £E288,081 in value, compared with 109,951 kilogrammes and £E242,965 respectively in 1927. Almost the whole of this export was taken by the United Kingdom. In spite of protests from many quarters, the Egyptian Government persisted in maintaining the restriction of seasonal export to 45 million eggs, which had been fixed in 1927 following the earlier petitions for the extension, or removal, of the 1926 restriction (fixed at 30 million eggs).

Exports of Egyptian rice amounted to 79,566,469 kilogrammes valued at £E1,023,053, the largest quantities going to Syria and Greece. These export figures represent an increase of some 25 per cent., whereas imports, mostly from British India, amountd to a value of £E192,038, or a decrease of £E16,925 in value compared with 1927. It should be observed that cultivation of rice in Egypt depends very largely upon what is known as the false rise of the Nile which precedes the full flood. If the false rise arrives at a normal time rice cultivation is allowed over a limited area, which is increased in accordance with the continuation of the rise. If the rise is late then the cultivation of rice is only permitted over about one-eighth of the normal area. It is anticipated that one of the results to be obtained by the execution of the Gebel-el-Aulia project will be that apart from the additional territory which it will be possible to devote to cotton cultivation, water will be available for a guaranteed area annually of 200,000 feddans of rice, in other words, as much again as the average cultivation over the last nine years. Up to the present only 48,000 feddans of rice can actually be guaranteed by the authorities, but the decision of the Egyptian Government to increase the area allowed for rice cultivation has caused great satisfaction.

British Participation in Trade.

Trade with the United Kingdom for the year showed a balance in Egypt's favour of some £E10,200,000, an increase of over £E3,000,000 as compared with the previous year. During 1928 Egypt imported from the United Kingdom goods to the value of £E11,326,000, or rather more than £E1,100,000 less than in 1927, while she exported to the United Kingdom produce valued at £E21,532,000, or some £E2,394,000 more than in 1927. These figures do not support the contention advanced in some quarters that from the Egyptian point of view the United Kingdom market is of diminishing importance.

The decline in the value of British exports to Egypt is mainly accounted for by the decrease in the exports of cotton piece-goods. There was, however, a falling off in regard to a number of other commodities. In some cases, e.g., rolling stock, this decrease was due to smaller purchases in general, but in many cases it would seem that competing goods were purchased, either because the market wanted cheaper goods or because competitors were at greater pains to secure orders.

The development of the Egyptian market during the past year has once again demonstrated the necessity—the urgency of which cannot be too strongly stressed—for British firms to exercise the greatest care in the selection of their local representative. Intelligent and

plausible visitors from Egypt should not be engaged without careful inquiry, and still less should they be permitted to replace older connexions, until the British firm has satisfied itself that the stagnation in orders received is due to slackness on the part of the older connexion, and not, perhaps, to his care of the firm's interests by refusing to book orders from buyers whose probable insolvency with consequent forced sale of stock would only result in spoiling the market.

The success of competitors must also in no small measure be ascribed to the greater trouble they take to investigate the market. The numbers of overseas business men who visit Egypt increase every year. Such men study the market together with their local representative and themselves obtain a valuable first-hand knowledge of its requirements. It must be remembered that a local representative, be he never so able a writer, cannot convey by written report that understanding of personalities and the "atmosphere" of the market, on a proper appreciation of which an intelligent "backing-up" by the home firm may very largely depend. This "backing-up" is a very integral part of good salesmanship and complaints are unfortunately not uncommon that there are still British firms who expect agents to sell their higher priced products on a very competitive market such as Egypt has become, without the inducements and assistance that their foreign competitors readily accord their agents. It would be invidious further to labour the point, but a failure in duty to refrain from reference to it. That "British" stands for high standard both in quality and in business methods is still traditional in Egypt. In these highly competitive days no article can be so good that "it sells itself," but the deservedly high reputation that British goods and business methods have won for themselves is a national asset from which the individual shipper derives a very direct benefit, and which should be jealously guarded by each individual in the interests of all.

Shipping.

The most noticeable features of the shipping situation during the year under review were perhaps the decrease in volume of cargo shipped in British and American bottoms, viz., 35,717 tons and 7,309 tons respectively, and the increase in quantities of merchandise exported in vessels of most other countries; also the appearance of Russia as a serious competitor in the shipping business. Statistics of shipping transiting the Suez Canal during the year under review show that total transits numbered 6,077 of a total registered tonnage of 24,940,936, as compared with 5,442 and 22,660,164 respectively during 1927. The British share of this shipping amounted to 3,315 transits and 15,810,427 registered tonnage, representing an increase respectively compared with 1927 of 335 transits and 1,140,408 registered tons. Whilst the number of transits under most foreign flags slightly increased, no particular countries, apart from Great Britain, can point to any marked increase in traffic through the Suez Canal.

During the year reports were current that the Egyptian Government were contemplating the acquisition of two or three vessels for the purpose of conveying to Egypt Government purchases abroad, notably coal. The matter is understood to be still under consideration, but in some quarters it is held that the experiences of some countries in regard to State ownership are not likely to encourage the Egyptian State in a similar venture. The question of the creation of an Egyptian mercantile marine is also

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understood to be under consideration by the Banque Misr, who are believed to have put before the Government a proposal for the formation of an Egyptian shipping company with Government participation. The suggested company would carry the Government purchases referred to above and general merchandise, and would also handle the pilgrimage traffic.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the Petroleum Harbour at Suez, but the expected official opening of the new harbour has not yet been announced. The decision of the Egyptian Government to proceed with the execution of the programme for the improvement of Alexandria harbour, to which reference has been made under the heading of the State Budget for 1929-30, will be welcomed by shipping companies, industrials and all concerned with the goods and passenger traffic in Egypt's principal port. The work already in hand in connexion with the development of the Port Est harbour should also go far to solve the difficulties hitherto experienced in providing water space for recreation purposes and, consequently, liberate more water frontage in the main harbour for commercial purposes.

Company Meeting.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

Government of India and New Construction.

The ordinary general meeting of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., was held on November 1 at 91, Petty France, Westminster, London, S.W.

Mr. Alex. Muirhead, C.I.E. (chairman and managing director), said that during the year new construction proceeded energetically. He was sorry to say that the rate of progress in carrying out the construction programme was in prospect of being curtailed by reason of the Government of India reducing the amounts available for this purpose. The company had already been advised of large reductions in the grant for 1930-31. If the rate of progress was curtailed, a very efficient and experienced construction staff, which had been organised with much labour for the purpose, would have to be disbanded.

Of the two questions mentioned at the last meeting as being outstanding between the company and the Secretary of State, the first—namely, the method of ascertaining the interest payable on the Secretary of State's capital—had been submitted to an arbitrator. As regarded the second question—namely, the method by which further capital requirements should be provided—the board considered the terms offered by the Secretary of State suitable and had accepted them.

The electrification of the Madras suburban section from Madras Beach to Tambaram was being proceeded with. The company's progressive policy was being maintained in the improvement of facilities and amenities provided for the travelling public, and particularly for third-class passengers.

The revenue earnings amounted to just over 547½ lakhs, the result being a net decrease of nearly 12½ lakhs. This decrease was entirely due to the general strike. The net result of the company's operations was an increase of Rs.16,42,565 in net earnings, and the board were again recommending a final distribution for 1929 of the same amount as for 1928, the total distribution for the year being 8 per cent., less tax.

Compared with the corresponding period in the previous year, the gross earnings in the first half of the current year showed an increase of nearly 36 lakhs of rupees, the working expenses 17½ lakhs, the net earnings 18½ lakhs, and the share of surplus profits Rs.35,500.

The report was unanimously adopted.

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NEW OIL FOR THE EMPIRE.

A new Empire industry, the production of tung-oil, is to be encouraged by the Empire Marketing Board, which has approved a grant to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for the distribution of tung-oil seeds to various parts of the Empire. A further grant has been made to the Paint and Varnish Research Association for research into the technical properties of the oil. The Imperial Institute elected a tung-oil sub-committee some little time ago, and it is this committee's recommendations which have led to the Empire Marketing Board's action.

Tung-oil is an essential constituent of certain types of varnish. It was used during the War in special water-resistant varnishes which were needed for aeroplane work. Until recently the world's wants were almost entirely supplied by China, but, after the War, tung-oil production was successfully started in America. Supplies from China are fluctuating and of irregular quality, and are not likely to expand fast enough to meet the increasing demand.

Seeds have been distributed by Kew to various Empire countries, and promising trials are now in hand in a number of Dominions and Colonies. Areas concerned include India, Ceylon, Assam, Cyprus, and Palestine. The Empire Marketing Board grant will provide for the further distribution of seed from Kew, and for the purchase of the tung fruits for experiments in this country. The second grant will provide for the appointment of a research assistant who will conduct tests on the technical properties of Empire-grown tung-oil, and other problems such as the best methods of extraction and suggested new uses for the oil. Experiments connected with the use of the residue as a feeding cake will also be undertaken.

THE DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date October 31:—

Currants.

During the first half of the period under review the market showed no more life than was displayed towards the close of the previous month. It had been hoped that the further arrivals would provide the necessary impetus to business, but evidently the disappointment felt at the out-turn of the first supplies was responsible for the absence of demand—so unusual at this season—and it would appear that some time must elapse before trade settles down and adjusts its ideas to existing conditions. This state of affairs continued, and business remained on a very small scale almost up to the closing days, when, although more interest was shown, the trade did not gather that momentum which is generally experienced in October. A steadier demand prevailed for good medium qualities, prices of which were fully maintained. The lower grades were difficult to move and concessions were granted by holders, in spite of which there was very little response from buyers. Vostizza prices have given way owing to pressure from Greece, though they show some improvement on the lowest rates recorded. Latest sales were:—Pyrgos, 38s. 6d. to 39s.; Amalias, 41s. to 42s.; Patras, 42s. to 44s. 6d.; Gulf, 44s. to 47s.; Gulf, shade dried, 54s. to 58s.; Vostizza, 54s. to 58s.; Vostizza, fine, 60s. to 64s.; Vostizza, choice, 66s. to 70s.; Vostizza, smalls, 52s. to 57s. The market has been well catered for, as the s.s. Algerian, Bosnia, Sitra, Oporto, Brescia, Lesbian, and Bantria all arrived during the month.

Sultanas.

Smyrna.—The outstanding feature of the market has been the pronounced indifference of buyers, who continue to take no interest in the article, and with the exception of fine coloury parcels at 60s. to 65s., other grades are practically unsaleable at the moment. Prices for rain-damaged qualities have further declined in sympathy with lower values from abroad. Business was done in rain-damaged at 21s. 6d. to 22s. 6d. c.i.f. Latest prices are 19s. 6d. to 21s. 6d. c.i.f., but no business reported. The latest estimates of the damage vary from 25,000 to 33,000 tons, and the total destroyed is given as 10,000 tons. Notwithstanding the insignificant quantities that have come to hand in comparison with arrivals of previous seasons, sales have been negligible, with the exception of any fruit of outstanding merit. The few parcels disposed of were good qualities 50s., fine 60s. to 64s., ordinary grades neglected.

Cretans.—Coloury fruit well competed for at 70s. to 90s., but other grades were difficult to sell.

Greek fruit met with a ready sale and was quickly disposed of—good qualities at 60s. to 68s., fine 70s. to 75s.

Figs.

The market has shown a persistently good undertone, and although a portion of the fruit has landed in tender condition it has met with an active demand at prices which have continued to advance, latest sales being the best of the year. Business concluded as follows:—Large boxes, 65s. to 90s.; small boxes, 80s. to 90s.; Locoums, 106s. to 125s.; fancy packing, 145s.; genuine bags, 40s. to 41s.; choicest bags, 44s. to 45s.

The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation has decided to construct a tunnel under the River Hooghly for the accommodation of cables and electric mains supplying the east bank of the river.

THE ROUMANIAN MARKET.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended October 26 :—

Grain.—The continued depression on consuming grain markets prevented any fresh sales from being effected this week, and, as old sales for October shipment have all been fulfilled already, no movement worth mentioning was noticeable. Arrivals of barley were very restricted, owing to low prices ruling abroad, and also to the fact that the peasants are busily engaged on the fields with the maize; hence any efforts on the part of shippers to combine business on any improvement of short duration which may have occurred during the week was frustrated by the unreasonable demands by grain holders. A few parcels of new maize have been shipped, mainly for Rotterdam, on ships ready to sail, and it is understood that several further sales of that commodity have been made for the same destination, as also for U.K. ports, shipment November/December. Owing to the recent good rains a large number of lighters mostly containing wheat, and a few with maize, have been released, and their arrival at shipping ports should have a stimulating effect on the market. Stocks of barley are plentiful at all the shipping centres, but so long as the present state of affairs continues on markets abroad there is not much chance of any appreciable shipments being effected, excepting those in fulfilment of old sales for November. Owing to the general stagnation in grain markets, chartering for the Danube has come to a standstill, and charterers are now busy endeavouring to clear the tonnage for which they are already committed. Spot sales, however, have been maintained at about 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d. for Continental destinations for any cargo that has come forward, and a few parcels have been booked for U.K. destinations at 17s. 6d. to 18s. At Constantza the position is equally unsatisfactory, as no cargo is coming forward for shipment and chartered tonnage is accumulating.

Timber.—Although a livelier tone has prevailed in general, in view of the approach of the time when the possible close of navigation may be looked for, no marked alteration in freights has yet occurred owing to arrivals of timber from the interior still being comparatively small. The main inquiry continues at present to be for Italy and Syrian ports, for which freights tends to become firmer, but for other Mediterranean destinations rates are on about the same level as those ruling last week. With regard to the Continent, tonnage is at present more easily obtainable on account of the falling off in activity in grain shipments, and it is understood that space has been offered for Rotterdam at £11 10s. per wagon without being accepted by shippers.

Weather and Crops.—Light intermittent rains fell during the early part of the week in the north and west, and subsequently in the southern districts, from some parts of which as much as 2 inches were reported on Thursday, so that there should now be sufficient moisture in nearly all parts to enable the delayed autumn field work to be carried on actively. Reports just to hand from a few districts in Bessarabia, however, still complain of lack of rain. In Galatz the first rain for a considerable time began on the morning of Thursday and continued with occasional interruptions for about 24 hours. The temperature has been very mild and without the considerable diurnal variations usual here, especially at this season. In the report of the Ministry of Agriculture of October 20 it is stated that "the last valuation in the course of September of the production of maize, made before the termination of the gathering, shows a total crop of 6,168,510 tons, an average yield of 12.9 quintals per hectare. The previous valuation was 6,384,040 tons, an average of 13.3 quintals." This appears to be a belated and non-committal protest against the rather pessimistic estimate of 4,810,000 tons, published at the end of September under the name of the General Director of the Union of Chambers of Agriculture and which is thought to be much too low, the Ministry's figure of just over 6,000,000 tons being considered more probable. As the home consumption is generally reckoned to be a maximum of 3,600,000 tons, the exportable surplus should be about 2,400,000 tons.

Sulina Bar.—The depth of 24 feet, passage 23 feet, has been maintained, and the general conditions continue to be normal. The water in the river is clear and the speed of the current slow, about one mile an hour. **River Depth.**—The last reports received by the pilot office here show a minimum depth of water in the navigable channel of 22 ft. 6 in. at the 89th milepost.

Constantza.—This week about 9,000 tons of grain arrived from the interior, and nearly 14,000 tons were exported, all going to Hamburg except a few hundred tons shipped to Mediterranean ports. Ten vessels loaded over 31,000 tons petroleum products, and four took oil fuel for bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, October 10.—Business continued to be active, but owing to the accumulation of spot tonnage, shippers are offering only 10s. for Antwerp and Rotterdam, against the 11s. recently done, but so far without result. To Mediterranean destinations about 3,000/5,000 tons of beans and maize are being loaded. Boisterous weather and intermittent heavy falls of rain were experienced from last Saturday till Tuesday afternoon, but it has been fine and warm the last four days. The rains enabled ploughing and autumn sowing to be carried on satisfactorily.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal Company from October 5 to 11 amounted to 23,100,000 francs.

Motor cars in Roumania now number 24,000, or about double the number registered at the beginning of 1928.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 30 :—

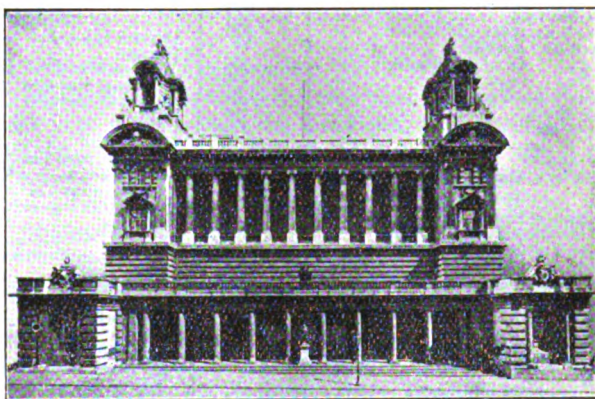
Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Active trading has characterised the majority of sessions since our last report, and evidence of broadening interest in both trade and speculative quarters has been noticeable. Unfortunately, the unsettling effect of conditions in outside markets has reacted on values, although not to the extent that one would have anticipated, the decline on the week amounting to 20 to 31 points and unchanged to 16 points for distant positions. Apart from to-day, when prices in Alexandria reacted about $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar from the earlier low level, the overseas market has sent consistently poor reports and the anxiety of holders to market part of their cotton is reflected in the very tempting basis at which shippers are making offers. Whilst there is nothing definitely "bullish" in the situation, it rather appears as if prices have been unduly depressed; locally the persistent decline has encouraged "the building up" of rather a weak short interest, and at the first sign of a turn round some active covering might readily be witnessed. In addition, a large potential demand appears to be waiting to be filled, Sakel prices at present prices are generally accepted as being reasonable, and, as customary in a falling market, the majority of consumers have been awaiting a lead; any upward swing would probably enlist a substantial following. The technical position of the market at the moment thus rather encourages the opinion that a sharp reaction may occur, and, with this in view, we are inclined to recommend conservative purchases.

Upper Contract.—Increased activity has been shown in this market during the past week, both trade and speculative interest showing more disposition to enter into commitments than for some time past. During the earlier days selling by spot houses further reduced our premium over the American contract, with the result that the January/January options in the respective markets at the time of writing are running at approximately 100 points. In view of the fact that the basis at the other side is inclined to harden and spinners are beginning to operate more freely, we consider the market has worked down to a level from which it would quickly react should outside conditions indicate returning confidence.

Egyptian Spot.

Sagging markets all round have not proved encouraging to would-be buyers of actual cotton. The decline has been altogether too rapid and the situation is still fraught with uncertainty. Nevertheless, a fair business has been transacted in spot cotton, on the whole, and



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C.i.f. Business.—Although official reports of trade up-country have not been very encouraging of late, private advices have not always been in agreement, and we are inclined to the opinion that the recent low levels attained have attracted more business, and certainly spinners have shown more inclination to purchase ahead. Forward-

Spot Sales.—These have been estimated at 1,800 bales Egyptian and 750 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel have fallen 65 points; Uppers have dropped 33 to 34 points, and Pilon 35 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 15.25d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.70d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 11.60d.

The fire department of the Royal Exchange Assurance was removed on November 4 from No. 11, Cornhill to the Royal Exchange, E.C.3. The head office of the corporation has been situated in the Royal Exchange since 1720, and now the whole of this building, with the exception of the shops, is occupied by it and certain of its associated companies.

Waring & Gillow

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	529	INDIAN NOTES ...	531	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Notes and News ...	545.
A Lull in Egypt ...	532	British School of Archaeology		The Week's Finance ...	547
		in Iraq. ...	539	Motors and Motoring ...	549.
SPECIAL LETTERS—		BOOK REVIEWS ...	543	Economic Conditions in Bulgaria	550.
Egypt ...	533	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	541	Company Meetings—	
Iraq ...	534	CORRESPONDENCE ...	540	1. Sudan Plantations Syndicate	551
Roumania ...	535	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	542	2. Bengal Doars Railway ...	553.
Calcutta ...	536			The Roumanian Market ...	555.
				Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	555.

Notes of the Week.

The Wafd's Election Manifesto.

Special interest attaches to the election manifesto of the Wafd, which is generally expected once more to secure an overwhelming majority at an Egyptian General Election. Until last year it was inevitable that there should be little love lost between the Wafd and Great Britain. In the eyes of the Egyptian party the British were the villains of the piece, and had to be fought tooth and nail in the cause of independence; to Great Britain the Wafd appeared unreasonable and unreasoning, as the question of independence was manifestly a matter for negotiation, with good will on both sides. During the last year circumstances have compelled the Wafd to look at things from a different angle, and an election manifesto should lend itself to give the first indication of any tendency on the part of the Wafd to adopt a new political orientation. From this point of view the Manifesto—to judge from a telegraphic summary—is by no means disappointing. It contains the inevitable attack on political opponents, and talks of the necessity of protecting the Constitution against violation, but it accords recognition to the principle laid down for the first time by Mahmoud Pasha's Government that projects of internal development and social schemes belong for Egypt to the forefront of all legislation. On the subject of the proposed treaty, to which it refers as a serious question to be placed before Parliament, which will leave a great mark on the country's future, the Manifesto declares that the Wafd has always sincerely desired a friendly agreement with Great Britain, and continues: "In view of the amiable and conciliatory spirit which prompted Mr. Henderson's proposals, the Wafd has firmly decided to seize this opportunity to attain a solid and honest *entente* between the countries. It is certain that the atmosphere of friendliness and confidence at present marking Anglo-Egyptian relations will help successfully to attain this end." The wording need not be examined too closely at this stage. It may foreshadow a determined attempt to haggle, which cannot enhance Egypt's prestige or promote her interests, or it may represent a tactful withdrawal from the former attitude that a treaty must embody what Egypt demanded, not what Great Britain was prepared to suggest. Under former Wafd régime in Egypt, as Mr. MacDonald discovered in his conversations with Zaghloul Pasha in

1924, was a country that could not be reasoned with. Subsequent events have shown that there is a considerable section of Egyptians as reasonable as they are patriotic. If the whole nation now places itself in line with that reasonable section, Great Britain will have no occasion to recognise party divisions among Egyptians, and will know only Egypt, bound to her by ties of alliance and friendship.

A Roumanian Landmark.

With the completion of the first year of office of Dr. Maniu's Government an occasion is provided in Roumania for stock-taking both on the part of the National-Peasant Party and of the country as a whole. Although the Liberal Opposition would not concur in the verdict, there seems no reason for the nation to be dissatisfied with the progress that it is making, having regard to the difficulties with which it has been confronted. It is all to the good to have a Cabinet in power strong enough to face uncomfortable facts, and inspiring sufficient confidence to encourage the people to bear heavy burdens in the belief that, by so doing, they can emerge from their troubles and count on the era of prosperity to which the resources of the country entitle them. Not the least difficulty to be overcome is the national impatience that a long period of crisis must engender. Roumania has been heartened by a rich harvest, and there is naturally a tendency to expect immediate relief from financial strain as a result. Unfortunately, however, the full effects of this year's satisfactory crops cannot be felt until next year. Only a quarter of the cereals available for export is likely to be exported this year, and the peasants will have to be content, that they are able to pay their rates and taxes and have all they need to live upon for the time being. It was only when the Maniu Government came into power prepared to lay bare the real position in Roumania that the actual extent of the lost ground to be made up was realised. For a Cabinet of less grit or of more adjustable honesty there would have been a strong temptation to gloss over some aspects of the situation; but, as far as is known, Dr. Maniu and his advisers have grappled courageously and successfully with all their economic problems; and, if they are able to retain office, they

should soon begin to see the fruits of their labours. It is satisfactory to note that an attempt is to be made to consolidate the alliance between the two sections of the National-Peasant coalition, on a more definite basis than has been possible hitherto.

The Turkish National Assembly.

A business-like tone characterised the speech of President Mustapha Kemal Pasha at the opening of the session of the Grand National Assembly on November 1—the third session of the third Parliament of the Republic. There was a noticeable absence of any note of challenge to suggest that Turkey still regarded herself as standing with her back to the wall against a hostile or unsympathetic world. The ideal of the Turks, the Ghazi declared, is to work to make the Republic a centre of wide progress within the national framework and that of civilisation: their policy is most essentially based on the idea of peace, and by seeking to settle by peaceful means all their problems of an international character they are adopting the procedure best suited to their mentality and interests. If there was a note of challenge at all in the speech, it was in connexion with a domestic matter. The Ghazi declared “with pleasure,” he said, that the services and sacrifices of the gendarmerie and police were worthy of the Assembly’s appreciation. As there has been some criticism—rather outspoken for Turkey—of police methods during the past year as a result of certain trials, it must be inferred that the President holds that excess of zeal on the part of the police is to be preferred to excess of caution. The administrative organisation of the country still had its gaps, and the Assembly was bidden to increase the number of communes having complete local administration. Certain vilayets had had budgetary irregularities disclosed; they were warned to establish their budgets on real and not imaginary figures or calculations. The Republic itself, on the other hand, had been able to face successfully a difficult year, thanks to the solidity of its finances and to the reality of a Budget scrupulously drawn up; the regulation of the foreign debt and the payment of railway bonds had been effected normally.

Turkey’s Economic Problem.

It was on economic matters that the Ghazi laid most stress; they occupied “all” the Government’s attention and were the special object of its activities. During the year, in spite of important losses in certain regions and unfavourable climatic conditions, the agricultural situation, compared with the dearth in previous seasons, was, generally speaking, approaching the normal. Agricultural institutes were to be created within a short space of time; agricultural co-operatives had been formed, and it was hoped to extend them all over the country. The President referred also to the Government’s policy of giving the peasant all the land that he could exploit with a view to increasing the national production. In the commercial world it was noted with satisfaction that commercial studies were now in public favour and afforded evidence of a new awakening in this sphere. Turkish companies founded during the year represented a total capital of fifteen million Turkish pounds, or one and a half million sterling. Among the economic laws to be submitted to the Assembly would be a Labour Law, a new Mining Law and a Forestry Law. Various financial measures would also come up for discussion, and the Assembly would have before it a Law for the organisation of a State Bank. This question has occupied the attention of the Government for more than two years, but recent developments are held to have brought the project nearer to realisation. During the past twelve months 445 kilometres of railway lines have been constructed, and next year’s programme provides for the construction of an additional five hundred. In spite, however, of the emphasis laid by the President on the need for economic development, Turkey continues to devote more than a third of her Budget to National Defence and Public Security. The Services, the Gen-

darmerie and the Police Force together account for £T83,000,000 out of a total expenditure of £E222,634,430. To the Public Debt the Exchequer allots £T33,000,000 and £T34,000,000 to Public Works. Education, on the other hand, has to be content with £T18,000,000, and Public Health with little more than half that amount. No country stands to benefit more than Turkey from general confidence in the reality of a world peace movement. At this critical period of her economic development she could with advantage devote to education and productive works many millions of pounds that are now spent on preparation for a war that is not likely to come.

Iraq and the League.

On November 6, 7, and 8 the British Government’s Report on Iraq was considered by the Permanent Mandates Commission at Geneva. Official intimation had previously been given to the Secretary-General of the League that Great Britain intended to recommend Iraq for League membership in 1932, and interesting economic and political reasons were supplied to the Mandates Commission by Mr. Bourdillon, formerly Counsellor to the Residency at Baghdad and the newly-appointed Colonial Secretary to Ceylon, in justification of such a recommendation. It was pointed out that in 1928 and 1929 there had been a notable increase in revenue, and that during the last year the sum spent on health, education, agriculture, irrigation, and public works was 151 lakhs—an increase of about fifty per cent. on the sum spent in 1922-23. Trade prospects, particularly relating to cotton, were good, and the desert between Iraq and the West had been so pacified as to have become a rapidly developing highway for passengers and commerce. In the political sphere also, Mr. Bourdillon stated, great progress had been made. In the second Parliament Iraqis had shown a much better understanding of their electoral duties and rights than in the first; political parties were developing naturally, on non-sectarian lines; during the past few years, in fact, Iraqis had shown themselves increasingly capable of governing without British advice. The Mandates Commission must have been impressed by all this show of progress, and though it is reported to have expressed surprise that the oil wealth of Iraq had been so little exploited, quite obviously this fact has nothing to do with the British Government’s case in recommending Iraq for League membership. The Mandatory Power has no control over the actions of a private Company such as the Iraq Petroleum Company, which will, one imagines, conduct its operations in and from Iraq solely on commercial lines. It is not to be expected, in short, that any objections will be taken at this juncture by the League to Great Britain’s proposed step in 1932 on behalf of Iraq.

The Independence in Syria.

It is even probable, indeed, that so far from obstructing the proposals in regard to Iraq for 1932, France, which, as Mandatory Power for Syria, had been thought in some quarters likely to offer objections to Iraq’s complete independence, has been stirred by this British resolve to attempt a more rapid and urgent solution of her admittedly more difficult Syrian problem. The future in Syria is still dark, nevertheless; there is still talk of appointing a King, but no move is made to such an appointment; and the indefinitely prorogued National Assembly at Damascus have little idea when they may be permitted to hear again their own voices in such auspicious surroundings. One thing is quite certain, however: that the policy of Great Britain towards Egypt and towards Iraq must inevitably have a quickening effect upon Syrian Nationalist opinion—more, on French opinion itself. Report has it that the highest French authorities in Syria itself are in favour of a solution on something like the lines laid down in Iraq. Syria has been, outwardly at any rate, very quiet since M. Henri Ponsot, High Commissioner, prorogued the National Assembly in August, 1928. This interval of quiet

progress may prove to have been exactly the preliminary which Syria (and France) required before tackling the problem afresh. One country cannot solve another country's problems, and wise Syrians will reflect on the immense differences between their own country and Iraq, which has been far easier to treat as an administrative whole. In other words, Syrians must not be content with merely saying that their case is a better one than that of Iraq, which has virtually been granted its desires, but so shape events as to make a solution by France a practical, as opposed to merely a desirable, step.

The British School of Archaeology in Iraq.

We confess to the most pleasurable surprise over the success of the meeting in London on November 8 to support the proposed British School of Archaeology in Iraq. A report of the meeting is contained elsewhere in this issue. Quite obviously the memory of Gertrude Bell, the discoveries made in recent years, and—perhaps above all—the enthusiastic work of the promoters of the scheme, have touched the public at a sensitive point. It was highly encouraging that the cultured tradition of Great Britain could be thus exemplified. The support of such men as the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Prime Minister (it is, incidentally, no secret that the ex-Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, whom we have heard quote Layard, was also enthusiastic in support of this British School) is not gained for merely sensational or pretty ends. No: the organisers of this School rightly feel that they are out upon a great and worthy task, one the accomplishment of which will not only keep fragrant the memory of Gertrude Bell, but will also enable Great Britain to secure and to retain a cultural authority in her gifted ward, namely, Iraq. The scheme is one which appeals alike to the imagination and to common sense, and we would remind readers to whom such an appeal will not be in vain that Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Hon. Secretary of this School, lives at 17, Radnor Place, W.2.

INDIAN NOTES.

A Fateful Week.

If we were in any doubt as to the correctness of the attitude which we have tried consistently to adopt towards Indian constitutional problems, and recent developments in particular, the events of the past week must have dispelled any such uncertainty. Inevitably, perhaps, the comments upon, and conclusions drawn from, a somewhat depressing chapter in British political history vary very greatly, both in substance and in tone, but upon two points all commentators and the public in general are, we think, agreed. Even if its difficulties have been for the time being increased by the events leading up to last week's debates the Statutory Commission itself has emerged from a trying ordeal with its prestige undimmed, its independence unchallenged and its moral authority, so far from diminished, actually enhanced. It is now able to proceed with renewed confidence and strength to the completion of a task, the real nature of which has hitherto been only dimly perceived by those without actual experience of the problems at first hand. The second, and perhaps even more welcome, advantage which has accrued from the events of the past ten days is that, as Sir John Simon rightly averred, one outcome is "to make everybody realise that the future constitutional progress of India is one of the most complicated as well as one of the most important questions in the whole world." We can only reiterate our hope and belief that the action of the Viceroy and the Government will achieve their sole end which, as we endeavoured to make clear last week, is neither to alter existing policy nor to anticipate the Commission's findings, but "to revive and foster that spirit of trust, co-operation and mutual understanding which is the essential condition to the attainment of the acknowledged goal." While it is as easy to overrate the significance of the immediate reaction in India to the Viceroy's declaration as to minimise the weight of the

undoubted support that Lord Irwin has already received the attitude of the Indian Princes, as indicated in several recent speeches by leading members of their Order, is clear and unequivocal and cannot lightly be set aside. Above all, for the first time, as a morning contemporary has pointedly remarked, "it may be predicted with confidence—and the thought should bring confidence to the Statutory Commission—that their Report has a real chance of being pondered and discussed in the country which it most concerns." How signal an advance that represents upon the position even a month ago only those who have followed Indian politics with sympathetic insight and knowledge of the inside working of the Nationalist movement can hope to appreciate.

Prosperous Hyderabad.

Both Hyderabad and its able and far-sighted Finance Member continue to have cause to be increasingly grateful for the contract system of budgeting introduced by Sir Akbar Hydari himself just over four years ago. The Budget Note for the current year may not be as spectacular as the previous statement, on account of the fact that it covers a period between the triennial contract term, but it must for all that, be the envy of any Finance Minister, and especially of Sir George Schuster, now on a brief visit to this country in connexion with the financial side of the Simon Commission's work. Perhaps the most gratifying feature of Sir Akbar's very clear exposition of the financial position of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government is that it is patent that the State's increasing prosperity is not due to any increase in the existing, or the imposition of fresh, demands on the people. Improved administration and the ever-rising yield from the State's investments—the reserve fund at the end of the current triennium will have risen to over Rs.15.13 crores—constitute the only, and a very satisfactory, explanation. The fact that large sums are saved from year to year by each department, and made available to meet expenditure in the ensuing period, shows, as Sir Akbar rightly remarks, "What a wide and sure field the system of departmental finance affords for expansion and development during the term of the contract." Nor is that all, for the unexpended surpluses, instead of being hoarded, are given back to the people in the form of large scale public utility works. And the last but not the least gratifying feature to the layman of the present Budget Note is the further evidence that it affords of the same close co-operation with the Government of India in the economic as well as in the social and political spheres, which has always distinguished the external policy of The Faithful Ally of the British Empire.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1929.

A LULL IN EGYPT.

The lull that is occurring in Egypt's political life is greatly to be welcomed, even if it has, almost inevitably, to be followed by an electioneering storm before December 21. Thanks to the prestige and sobering influence of Adly Pasha's Cabinet, an opportunity has been afforded to all sections of the Egyptian people for reflexion, from which the country stands to benefit. As far as the fate of the proposed Anglo-Egyptian Treaty is concerned, it is difficult to believe that Parliament can convincingly urge against the proffered terms defects which, if they had existed, must have called for immediate denunciation by any real patriot when the terms were first made known. That the Wafd should have vetoed for its followers all discussion of the proposed Treaty entailed the tacit acknowledgment that it had no serious fault to find with the document. For British observers, therefore, the main interest in Egyptian affairs during the next few weeks will attach to the manœuvring of the different parties, as affording evidence of their political capacity and grasp of the potentialities of the parliamentary system. The ban of silence regarding the proposed terms that the Wafd has sought to impose until Parliament meets is a clever device—essentially undemocratic in character, it will be noted—to counter any possible undermining of its former domination over the Egyptian electorate. As a move in the party game, the attempt to prevent public discussion of the Treaty is legitimate; but it remains to be seen whether the other parties will agree to play into the Wafd's hands by conforming to a rule laid down in the interest of political opponents. The situation would seem to be complicated by centrifugal tendencies in the non-Wafdist parties. There can be little doubt that the late Government would have been in a strong position, if it could have appealed to the electorate as a united coalition, claiming support on actual achievements during its tenure of office. It suffered, however, from lack of cohesion, one result of which, it may be inferred, is to be seen in the decision of the Liberal Constitutionalists not to take part as a party organisation in the general election. The decision is to be regretted; organised abstention from elections or from Parliament has been adopted in the East as a form of political protest, but its practical advantage to the party practising it remains problematical, and it must always be prejudicial to the interests of the country. Liberal Constitutionalists, however, may still be expected to stand as individual candidates, and to base their bid for the electorate's support on the proposed Treaty. If the idea prevailed in any quarter in Egypt that Mahmoud Pasha, when negotiating the Treaty, had been too malleable in British hands, it stands to be dispelled by *Al Ahram's* "revelations" regarding the negotiations between the Egyptian Prime Minister and the British Government. Far from omitting to press Egypt's point of view, the course of the conversations in London show conclusively that Mahmoud Pasha carried his insistence up to the limits of prudence, diplomatic usage, and common sense. The more, therefore, is it to be regretted that no party will go to the poll boldly

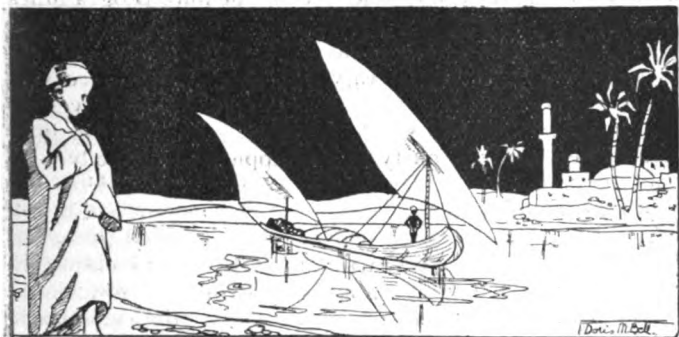
and confidently basing its appeal on the advantages that Egypt stands to gain from the Treaty.

It might be well, indeed, if all the candidates at the coming elections could stand as independents rather than as units in a party machine. Until definite programmes have been evolved, there is no real meaning in party labels, when once the demand for independence has been met by the Treaty; and Egypt has the right to require of her politicians that they should adjust themselves to the new circumstances. The future, there can be little doubt, lies with the party that grapples successfully with the great problem of economic development. Hostility to Great Britain cannot remain for all time the hall-mark of an Egyptian patriot, nor serve in the future as the end-all and be-all of a party programme. If the Wafd is unable to frame in time for the general election a comprehensive scheme for the future government of Egypt, it is to be hoped that individual candidates will come forward with clear statements of their own views, so as to facilitate an early re-grouping of parties in the new Parliament. No Wafdist may consider himself strong enough to dispense with the official backing of the party organisation, but it should be possible to satisfy the electors that he has ideas of his own without breaking any of the tenets that he has accepted as a member of the Wafd. No great powers of discrimination are to be looked for from the Egyptian electorate on the first occasion when an appeal is made solely to its intelligence; but no one will dispute the necessity of breaking away from the former habit of regarding the Egyptian people as incapable of responding to any appeal other than to their lowest passions. By common consent the *fallahin* are possessed of a brighter intellect than many European peasants, although they may be lower down, if possible, in the educational scale. With the spread of education, therefore, it is probable that the Egyptian people will be able in time to hold its own in the matter of political instinct with any of the nations in a relatively early stage of constitutionalism, and those of their compatriots who show a disposition to anticipate this stage in the national development will deserve well of the country.

Fortunately, there seems to be a growing sense in Egypt of the importance of concentrating upon the economic development of the country. The movement can count upon the keen support of King Fuad, and it will be a disappointment to many, if the fullest advantage is not taken of the present opportunity to bring together the wisest heads among the politicians of all shades in an attempt to formulate a programme calculated to meet the more pressing needs of the country. As an essentially agricultural community the Egyptians can hardly hope to escape the fate of similarly constituted countries, unless they are resolved to benefit by the experience of others and approach the agrarian question betimes with care and knowledge. It should prove of no small advantage to them that, before the question becomes acute, the country should possess an adequate supply of cheap power, which will facilitate the establishment of industries as a necessary safety-valve for the over-crowding of the land. The outlook in this direction, however, is not so unclouded that those who aspire to direct the destinies of the country can afford to postpone the serious consideration of the subject. There is certainly no time to waste in the way in which the past few years have been wasted in barren political disputes. A tentative start has been made by Mahmoud Pasha's Government; it requires to be expanded into a comprehensive agrarian policy which will seek to forestall needs that will become pressing in a few years' time. Egypt, it has to be remembered, differs from most countries in one important particular: her domestic quarrels, if they are allowed to become too intensified, are not exclusively her own affair. Owing to her geographical position, which she cannot change, disturbances which in any other country would have only local significance can in her case assume an aspect which makes them the immediate concern of foreign Powers.

'The Near and Middle East'

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, November 2.

Victoria College.

The High Commissioner and Lady Loraine paid a visit to Victoria College this week, the first since their arrival in Egypt. They were received by the Chairman of the Council, Sir Henry Barker, and Lady Barker, the Consul-General and Mrs. Heathcote-Smith, and the acting Headmaster, Mr. Scovil, and, after making a tour of inspection, were entertained to tea in the Library, where they met the members of the Council and the School Staff. Victoria College is going from success to success. Last year, for the first time in its history, it reached the three hundred-pupil mark, and this school-year that number has been exceeded by forty-eight. Among the pupils are not only English but also boys of seventeen other nationalities, including Abyssinians and Iraqis, a tribute to the good work the School is doing and to the wide area over which its reputation has now spread.

Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha.

The granting of the G.C.M.G. to the late Prime Minister, Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha, is no surprise. He fully deserves such recognition from the British Government, for the work he had done in promoting good relations between Great Britain and Egypt exceeded that done by Zivar Pasha and the late Sarwat Pasha, both of whom have been honoured with the same British decoration. Owing to the political controversy raging round his retirement the real value of the services rendered to the Anglo-Egyptian cause and the qualities displayed by him have not yet been properly appreciated. As with Lord Lloyd, it may be some years before the great part which he played will be seen in its proper light.

The Turkish Legation.

General Maheddine Pasha, the Turkish Minister, gave a very successful reception on the occasion of the anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish Republic. In spite of the fact that many have not returned from leave yet and the Government is still at Alexandria, it was very well attended. Among those present were many ex-Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, and the leading Egyptian and European residents. In the morning the Minister received officially the congratulations of the European Governments and the foreign communities, and in the evening there was a fête in the Ezbekia Gardens, which attracted a very large crowd of all classes.

The Mixed Tribunals.

The Mixed Tribunals, both in Alexandria and Cairo, resumed work this last week, and one of their first acts

was to elect Presidents and Vice-Presidents for the ensuing judicial year. Mr. Hansson and Mr. Gator were confirmed as President and Vice-President respectively of the Court of Appeal; Mr. Peter, Vice-President, was elected President of the Cairo Court of First Instance in the place of Mr. Houriet, promoted to the new Counsellorship created in the Appellate Division, and Mr. Molestvoff was elected Vice-President. It is interesting to note that both Mr. Houriet and Mr. Peter are Swiss, and that M. Molestvoff is a Russian. None of these sits as representatives of his country but as a foreign judge, for, while Switzerland has never had any capitulatory treaties with Turkey or Egypt, Russia has lost the right she had before the War.

It is now confirmed that Mr. Hansson, who, incidentally, paid a most charming tribute at the inaugural sitting to the memory of Judge Herreros, who died this summer, will not be leaving, for the present at any rate, so that the vexed question of a successor will not come to add itself to the other complicated matters with which the British and Egyptian judicial authorities are having to deal. It appears that M. Hansson has been offered a position on The Hague International Courts which does not entail any regular attendance. In fact the members are summoned at long intervals, when, indeed, they are summoned at all. Consequently the acceptance of the post, since it does not entail the immediate execution of duties at another jurisdiction, does not clash with the regulations of the Mixed Tribunals which forbid its members to cumulate two judicial appointments. In effect, Mr. Hansson is being allowed to treat this appointment in the same manner as M. Nyholm, the Danish Counsellor, who was offered a similar post and resigned only when, some considerable time afterwards, he received his first summons to sit. It has been with considerable relief that the news has been received that Mr. Hansson will not be leaving as yet, for he has admirably filled the post of President, and it would be difficult to find anyone combining the same administrative and judicial capacity to take his place.

Lord Lloyd.

The British Chamber of Commerce, at the first meeting after the return of its members from their summer leave, passed a unanimous resolution expressing their sincere regret at the retirement of Lord Lloyd, who, they consider, during his tenure of office upheld in an exceptional manner and in extremely difficult circumstances the dignity and prestige of the British Empire, and, in addition to furthering the maintenance of good order and general prosperity of the country, unsparingly devoted himself to the advancement of British interests in Egypt in the domains of commerce and education. In particular, they placed on record their very real appreciation of Lord Lloyd's great and never failing interest in the work of the Chamber and the fact that, while he held the post of High Commissioner, very considerable expansion both in membership and useful activity was achieved—owing in great measure to his constant encouragement and untiring enthusiasm. The inspiration of his example, they

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added, had far-reaching effects and would long be remembered by the members of the British community in Egypt. With this opinion the whole British community in Egypt will cordially agree.

The Elections.

The way is now clear for the elections and for the assembly of Parliament. The last legislation necessary was promulgated on Thursday and to-day, viz., the Royal Rescript putting into force once again the four provisions of the Constitution, referring to the liberty of the Press, the convocation of electors and the conditions under which the Constitution could be suspended, the operation of which was suspended in July last year, and the decree fixing the date for the elections. The general elections will be held on December 21, with balloting on the 29th for those constituencies where no candidate has obtained an absolute majority, and Parliament has been convoked for January 11. The Ittehadists, and, it is expected, the Nationalists, will take part in the elections, but there is not likely to be much of a contest, and the Wafd is assured of its majority. Following past precedent, therefore, in the New Year there will be a Wafdist Cabinet in office.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, October 24.

The High Commissioner.

Until the arrival of Sir Francis Humphrys, the duties of High Commissioner are being carried out by Major Hubert Young, Counsellor, who was recently appointed to that post on the transfer of Mr. Bourdillon to Colombo. Sir Francis Humphrys is expected to arrive in Baghdad early in December.

Government Plans.

The new Government under the Premiership of Sir Abdul

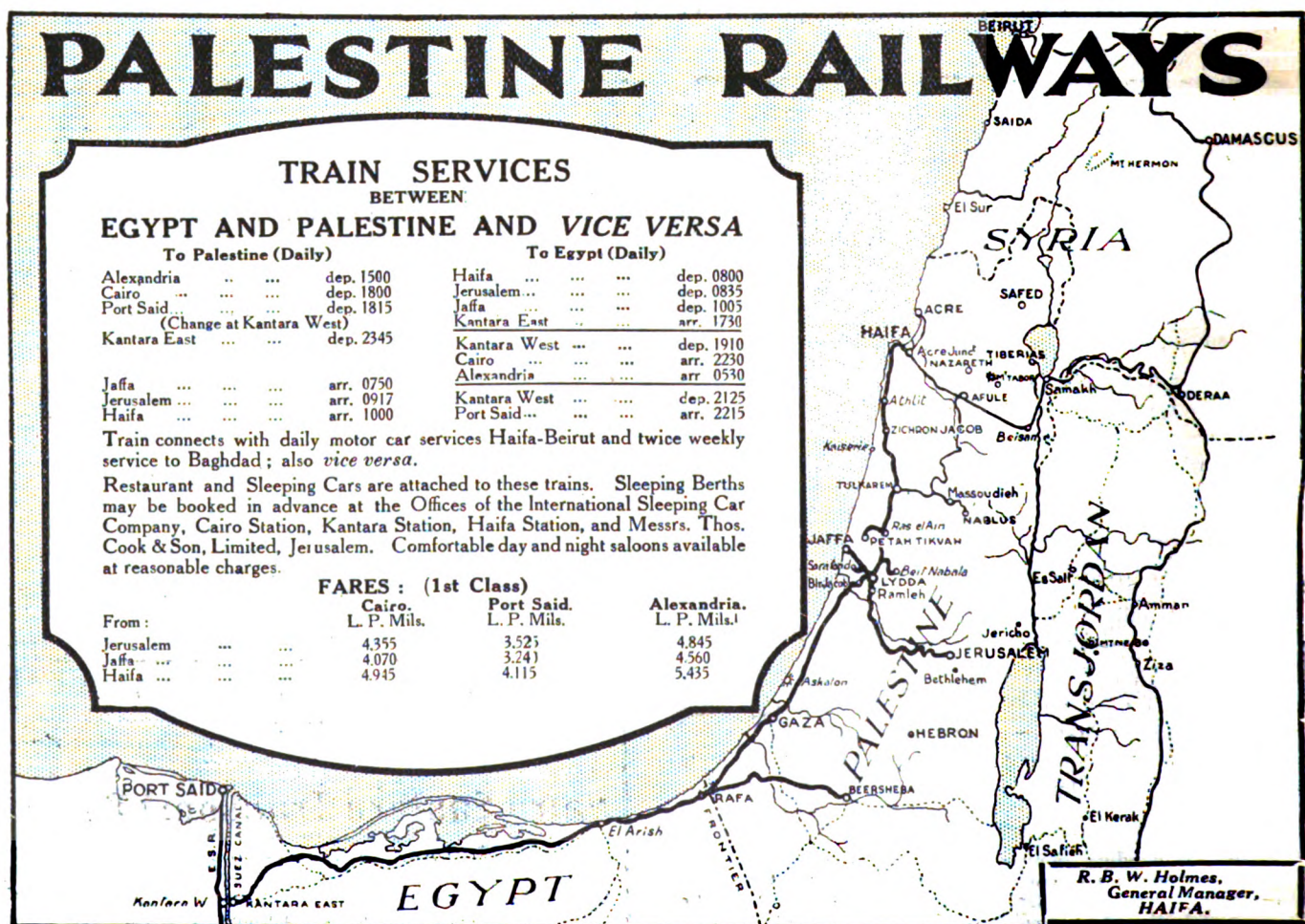
Muhsin Beg as Saadun announces its intention of drastically reducing the number of foreign officials, both British and Indian, now holding posts in Iraq. Contracts of such officials now nearing their termination are not to be renewed, and no fresh contracts are to be given. The Government is reported also to aim at the protection of Iraqi products by means of tariffs, and proposes to bring into force a heavy luxury tax, while reducing some existing taxes, such as judicial and land registration fees. The institution of a National Bank, and the immediate construction of two important reservoirs near Baghdad, are other aims of the new financial policy.

Baghdad Municipality.

The Baghdad Water Board has been enabled this year by its improved financial position to begin the building of new works which will provide pure filtered water for Karkh, the northern quarter of the city on the right bank of the Tigris, and for Kadhimain. This is an important development, for Kadhimain, with its perpetual influx of pilgrims from all over the Muslim world, has always been a danger point, and in times of epidemic a serious menace to the public health of the city. The provision of pure drinking water in these two congested areas should greatly benefit the general well-being and sanitation of Baghdad. It is hoped later in the year to extend the supply to Rissafa, the southern suburb on the right bank. The Water Board has made every effort to rely as much as possible on local products and workmanship, only sending outside Iraq for machinery, tanks, and special fittings.

Gertrude Bell Memorial.

The materials for the Gertrude Bell Memorial have now reached Baghdad, and its installation in the Museum has been begun under the supervision of the Government architect and the Director of Antiquities. All the thirty-four cases of bronze and stone work have been transported to Baghdad from London free of charge by the kindness of the firms and departments concerned.



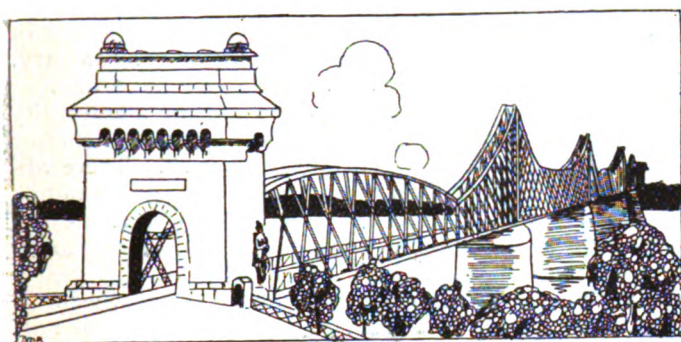
Archæology.

The Eighth Joint Expedition of the British Museum and the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania has just passed through Baghdad on its way to Ur of the Chaldees, under the direction, as before, of Mr. Leonard Woolley. The expedition this year is on a larger scale, and is setting out full of hope of discovering traces of pre-deluge civilisation in the city of Abraham.

Air Transport.

The new Air Mail service between Holland and the Dutch East Indies was inaugurated on October 17. The flight from Amsterdam to Baghdad is scheduled to take three days.

Imperial Airways made a remarkably fast passage last week, when the air liner was delayed two days and left Baghdad, not as usual on Tuesday, but on Thursday morning. In spite of this, the mails it carried were delivered in London as usual on the Monday morning following.



ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, November 6.

Political Situation.

During this last fortnight before the reopening of Parliament, the Government is busy preparing the Budget for 1930. M. Madgearu, interim-Minister of Finance (owing to the resignation of M. Mihail Popovici), who is working hard in this connexion, appears to be very well satisfied with the general economic development. As a result of the stabilisation of the currency and the establishment of the country's finances on a sound basis, and also of the new economic legislation introduced by the present Government, the Budget will be genuinely balanced for the first time since the War. This statement is justified by the fact that there has been registered an increase of several million lei, in the course of the last three months, over the revenues of the last few years at the same period. There has been less difficulty in raising the revenues, thanks to the better harvest and also to the Minister of Finance's careful study of the possibilities of payment. Moreover, very energetic measures have been adopted to oblige the ratepayers of all classes (including business and industrial concerns) to pay their taxes, and also to prevent the evasions hitherto practised.

Civil Servants.

One of the greatest problems facing the Government at the present time is the restriction of the number of clerks in the Civil Service (so-called public functionaries) in accordance with the party programme, and with the new "Administration Law" passed during the last session of the present Parliament. This measure is considered imperative, in order that the Budget may be balanced, as the enormous number of people now employed in Government offices is far too heavy a burden on the Treasury. As there exists a statute which protects the rights of civil servants, the Government has decided to begin by pensioning all those who are over 57 years of age, or who have had 30 years of service. In this way it is expected that a considerable saving will be achieved. As was to be expected, the application of this measure has caused con-

siderable dissatisfaction and great perturbation in the ranks of the Civil Service, especially in view of the high cost of living at the present time.

The Government have put off the evil hour as long as they could, however, and are at last faced with the imperative necessity of taking this step to reduce expenditure. The employees and officials (unfortunately many of them the higher officials, who are authorities in their various departments) are being gradually dismissed, and it is intended to complete the reform by the end of the year.

From the political point of view the National-Peasant Government has another problem to solve, which is no less important than it is difficult. This is the application of the new Administration Law, for which a tremendous effort will be required, for this Law completely alters the old administrative organisation. It is, therefore, a very delicate and complicated matter, and it is costing the Ministries much hard work and thinking.

There are constant rumours of radical changes in the Cabinet, but it seems fairly certain that nothing of this kind will take place before the beginning of next year, at which date the new Administration Law comes into force, and the members of the present Cabinet representing the various provinces (Moldavia, Bessarabia, Transylvania, and Bukovina) will leave the Cabinet to take up their duties in their respective provinces. Then the places in the Cabinet will be divided equally between the two groups making up the Government—the Nationalist party and the Peasant Party. The President of the Council, M. Maniu, made a formal statement yesterday to the Parliamentary delegation to the effect that M. Mihalache, leader of the Peasant Party, and he were working together in complete and loyal agreement. Rumours have also been rife of a disagreement between the Queen and the Government owing to the manner in which the succession to the late M. Buzdugan in the Regency was handled. In proof of the complete agreement existing between her Majesty and the representatives of the Government two facts may be mentioned: (1) On October 27, the Queen's birthday, two of the most influential members of the Cabinet visited her Majesty at her autumn residence in Balchic on the Black Sea to offer her the good wishes of the Government on this occasion. (2) On the occasion of her Majesty's return to Bucharest yesterday all the members of the Cabinet and all the Under-Secretaries of State and higher officials and members of Parliament went to receive her at the station and to welcome her back to the capital.

The Earthquake.

On the morning of November 4, about 9 o'clock, there occurred the most violent earthquake that has been felt in Roumania for many years. It was accompanied by a loud rumbling noise and, according to report, its violence was but one degree below that registered as catastrophic. Huge pieces of masonry fell from the roof of the Roman Catholic Cathedral, killing a woman who was just leaving church, and some old houses fell, but on the whole there was little damage done, although in offices files and books were thrown to the floor and the noise and alarming swaying of the buildings caused panic in many cases. The earthquake lasted for about half a minute.

The weather has been unseasonably mild for the last fortnight, with occasional rain, but to-day there is a wintry chill in the air and the grey sky seems to promise snow before long.

The Pirot Convention regarding the regulation of frontier questions between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria came into force on November 5.

Jamal Hussein Effendi, representing the Supreme Muslim Council of Palestine, has arrived in London to present the Arab view of the recent disturbances to the British Government.

The Roumanian National-Peasant (Tsaranist) Party celebrated on November 10 the first anniversary of its accession to power under Dr. Maniu, the Prime Minister. The celebration in Bucharest took the form of a demonstration of partisans of the National-Peasant Party from the Vlasca and Ilfov districts.

CALCUTTA LETTER.*(From Our Own Correspondent.)**Calcutta, October 24.***Uneducated India.**

This week, following the publication of the Report of the Auxiliary Committee of the Indian Statutory Commission, the Hartog Committee, to give it its familiar name, we have naturally spent in thinking and talking about education in India. A London cablegram stated that the Report had been extensively reproduced by the morning newspapers, and a *Times* editorial was quoted, in which the opinion was expressed that it was an admirable document, but that it would have been still more effective, if the wings of the enthusiasm of its authors had been "ever so slightly clipped." I share that opinion. Sir Philip Hartog—I had half an hour's talk with him, one day early last month—was for a term Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University. That, of course, was a good preparation for one who was to guide the labours of the Auxiliary Committee, and to write its report; but to some extent it stopped his mouth. To speak the whole, bare truth about the universities in India, among other things, was to speak the truth about Dacca University, among other universities; about the young men who were undergraduates at Dacca in Sir Philip's own time, about their professors. That was a word easier to be said by one with no previous personal connexion with India and the Indians; easier also to be said by one with a harder heart than Sir Philip's.

Uneducable India.

Those familiar with the cast of mind of Professor Saintbury, a man with long and deep experience of the matter, will remember that his view is that some persons are educable and others not. What to my mind most impaired the work of the Hartog Committee, and subtracts most from the value of its report, is that no attempt was made, in the course of the inquiry, to ascertain if the educability of India is of high degree or of low degree; and, no attempt having been made to ascertain that, nothing is said of it in the report inevitably. The implication of the report, in every line, is that the peoples of India are as educable as any other people. That is not likely to be so, or they would have educated themselves, and have had, before the advent of the British, the same reputation for education that the Scots, say, made for themselves. The Scots, the evidence would seem to show, were a more educable people than the English, possibly only from having "tumbled" earlier to its value, and from having taken it more seriously. They had their opinion of what education is, and set to work to educate themselves. The peoples of Asia, the Arabs and Persians for instance, the men of Baghdad and Iraq generally in Harun ur-Rashid's time, in Nizam ul-Mulk's, had their idea of what education is; and the old scholastic books show how sound it was. The story of their numberless educational endowments testifies to their high opinion of the value of education.

The Asian Decline.

A change appears to have come, however. The day appears to have dawned when Asia's idea of educating itself was to get a few texts by heart. As no one could see any very great value in that—the man who is learning a long text by heart is not living a life that is being stirred and quickened by what he is doing—no one saw any harm in the effort to educate themselves being the effort of but a few. What should a peasant cultivator be doing, getting a text by heart? Would it not be enough for him, if his mother or his wife knew parts of it, and could recite the poem to his children? I believe it is the fact that, at the time of the British advent in India, most of the education that there was outside the temples was possessed by the women of the family. It may not have been much, but it was what it was; it was not merely a thing that could only pretend to be. The education of

my educated Indian acquaintances appears to be largely a pretence; to have been built up upon the aptitude to get texts by heart, and only to extend as far as such an aptitude can reach. What I should have wished is that the Lord Balfour of five or ten years ago should have been chairman of the Auxiliary Committee, and that he should have written its report. That document would then have been a very searching analysis.

A Searching Analysis.

A searching analysis by some one capable of it is wanted. It is wanted, not merely for the satisfaction of such a human interest as my own, but that the lines should be laid down upon which our effort to foster education in India should be made. If the educableness of India is of an unusually low degree, and that may be the case, then ambitious schemes of education are useless; then the assumption that the Indians are as educable as any other people is pernicious. That has been the assumption in the past; that appears to have been the assumption of Sir Philip Hartog and his colleagues. They will rightly make the point that "the Indian universities are not giving adequate attention to the proper adjustment of admission to graduation standards, but, on the contrary, are burdening themselves . . . with a very large number of students who have no chance of completing a university course successfully, and on whom expenditure of money intended for university education is wasted. There appears . . . to be no sign of any consistent and sustained resolve to grapple with this evil." They have rightly made that point; but the thing of real importance to do was to give an estimate of the number of this year's undergraduates who, in the Committee's opinion, were in their right place at college, and how many were not. Suppose there are 95,000 young men and women in the colleges to-day, if the fact is that 90,000 were rightly at college and 5,000 not rightly, it may be enough to say only a thing as general as the opinion quoted above; but if the fact is that only 5,000 were in their right place in college and 90,000 in a wrong place, there is no use in saying anything, unless you say something definite as that. The impression I have gathered myself is that hardly any of the students at a college in India are in their right place there; that the rest are there because it was assumed that the Indians generally are educable, which they are not. The country gave itself through too many centuries to learning things by heart, so that now all there is for anyone to work on is the getting-things-by-heart mind. A thing you can do very little with.

Facing the Facts.

The condition of betterment in India is, more even than elsewhere, that the facts should be faced. It is no use our everlastingly letting our wishes be father to our thoughts. In yesterday's newspaper Lady Simon is reported to have said at Caxton Hall: "I think India is going to see that she takes her place in the advance of civilisation, but I do not think it is the men who are going to do it, but the women." It is as easy to say a thing like that as to fry a herring, but what if it is not really a thought? What if the civilisation that Lady Simon had in her mind is a thing that India ought not to concern herself with? Think of the waste in all ill-directed effort. I have spent thirty years in India, watching Englishmen who could teach, trying to teach Indians who could not be taught, and Indians who could not teach trying to teach Indians who could not learn. All the time what India wanted was to be taught things she could learn, as to burn cheap coal or wood and not cow-dung cakes, but to manure the fields with the cow-dung; not to throw away the most nutritious part of her food; not to be superstitious and "suggest" day and night the conditions of disease; to keep to the old simple, inexpensive ways of living, and so on. But blundering people had talked big about universities, colleges, the advance of civilisation, and so on, and there is still no end to it.

General News.

There has been an unusual dearth of news this week. India, for a week at least, has been happy as those countries are said to be that have no history. Mr. Gandhi has gone to Mussoorie for a week's rest, and the other political leaders have all been silent. The Finance Member has been summoned to London, but that you will have heard as soon as we did here.

DOMINION STATUS AND THE INDIAN STATES.

The Maharaja of Alwar, addressing a meeting of members of all parties in a Committee Room of the House of Commons on November 6, said he cordially welcomed the announcement made by the publication of the exchange of letters between the Prime Minister and Sir John Simon that a conference or conferences were to be convened where British Indians would be invited to place their views before the Government of the day and similarly Indian Princes to put their points of view forward also.

Referring to the use of the words "Dominion status," which the Viceroy had explained to be the ultimate goal to be reached by British India through progressive, responsible self-government, the Maharaja said the Viceroy's pronouncement seemed to him a perfectly clear and genuine declaration. Responsible government, as declared by Mr. Montagu in 1917, was to be the method; surely Dominion status was the logical conclusion. Although it might require to be worked out possibly on a different footing, nevertheless it would place India in a position of equality with her sister Dominions.

"The question does not seem to me," he continued, "in doubt as to the goal, but the difficulties appear when the question is considered as regards time, as to when this Dominion status goal might be reached. My simple answer to that proposition is: "When, by mutual consent between the Government of British India and ourselves, our future relations are so adjusted that we can all unitedly work towards the achievement of this ideal. The conference that has been suggested will be a fundamental factor, I most devoutly hope, in the achievement of this method."

"As for the Indian States, if there is a will towards co-operation and the spontaneous recognition of our individual positions, matters can be adjusted in such a way that our future interests, without being jeopardised, can become not only a source of happiness and contentment to our country, but, I earnestly believe, a source of strength to our Empire, in which we are proud to be partners."

In conclusion, the Maharaja observed: "I emphatically state that a status which would place India on a similar footing of equality to that of her sister Dominions is a noble aspiration for our country, and an equally noble goal to be aimed at by those in whose hands lie the future progress and advancement of our country at the present moment. If the object of this storm which has been raging here recently in certain quarters is to clear the air, let me say with all humility that the manner in which it has been done in some places is not likely to remove misunderstandings but to cause disturbance in minds which will take a long time to settle down again. To me it has seemed as though it were a storm in a teacup, and I sincerely hope that it will clear away with no ill-effects and that we shall all advance forward—for stagnation is death—towards a goal where the British Government, British India, and the Indian States will work out in harmony and co-operation a destiny that will lead to a loyal and greater India that may be the strongest link in the strength of the future Empire."

In consequence of a change in the Imperial Airways time-table the homeward Indian air mail will in future leave Karachi on Tuesdays instead of on Sundays, and will be due in London on the following Tuesday afternoon. Correspondence should be delivered in Central London on Tuesday evening, and elsewhere on Wednesday morning.

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION AND THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS.

Bengal Government's Memorandum.

The reformed system of Government which was introduced in 1921 by the Government of India Act of 1919 has worked less satisfactorily in Bengal perhaps than in any one of the other provinces. The Bengal memorandum cannot, therefore, fail to be of exceptional interest. It takes the shape of a report on the working of the reformed constitution in the province from 1921 to 1927. It explains what the new system of government is, and how it has worked in practice. The Government of India Act prescribed certain tests and subjects of inquiry as being likely material for a decision on the success of the new constitution, and of the degree of progress made towards self-government. These tests and subjects of inquiry are: (a) the co-operation received from those on whom new opportunities of service have been conferred; (b) the extent to which it is found that confidence can be reposed in their sense of responsibility; (c) the working of the system of government; (d) the growth of education; and (e) the development of representative institutions. Applying these tests, the Government of Bengal find little to encourage them in their experience of the Reforms in the Province. They acknowledge the value of the co-operation which has been received from the members of different Ministries. But they point out that there has been more obstruction than co-operation, both within the Legislature and outside it. The Legislative Council has shown some sense of responsibility in relation to "transferred" subjects. It has, however, acted irresponsibly on many occasions in dealing with "reserved" subjects. Education has made but little progress. The electorate is largely illiterate and incompetent. Local self-governing institutions have not advanced except for the rapid development of Union Boards, mainly under official control and despite opposition by the Swarajists.

This is a gloomy picture and, as the Government recognise, if the inquiry were to stop at this point there would be only one possible answer to the question of whether Bengal has satisfied the tests of progress. But there is more to be said. The apparent failure and stagnation are but the symptoms or reflection of more vital factors which cut deeply into the political life of the province. The obstruction is but a tactical move in the furtherance of a policy which has a wider and larger objective than the mere operation of the constitution. It is also reasonable to argue that the form of the constitution itself foment a spirit of irresponsibility with regard to "reserved" subjects. Financial difficulties, both provincial and local, have made progress impossible; and education, which is one of the test subjects, has suffered from the general stringency. It may be concluded also, the Government of Bengal go on to say, that although the electorate has many defects, these are not such as can be pressed to the point of condemnation. The general conclusion at which the Government have arrived is that there is no positive ground for asserting that the province has definitely made progress towards self-government. "The most that can be said is that with less inadequate financial resources, and with a constitution which met with more general approval better results might have been obtained." But the proceedings in the Legislature and in the Corporation of Calcutta—where the Swarajists rule—indicate an absence of constructive and administrative ability among the popular representatives. It may also be reasonably urged that the misuse of talent to obstruct the working of the constitution is itself a proof of unfitness for responsibility.

The Government of Bengal have no illusions as to the serious character of the obstruction which has been practised. They regard the existence of the Swaraj party as a vital factor in the situation. It is, they say, a strong and well-organised party which declines to operate any constitution framed outside India, or by any one other

than Indians, unless it concedes complete self-determination in both provincial and central affairs. The party is strong enough to enable it successfully to obstruct the working of the Council; and it has a majority in the non-Muhammadan electorate from which it derives continuous support and encouragement. There is no ground for supposing that its policy will be other than one of permanent hostility to the Government so long as any trace of foreign control remains in the constitution. This hostility will find expression in general attacks on the constitution itself to the detriment of good government. Of recent years the Muhammadans have left the Swaraj party, but they have failed to organise a strong political party of their own. They will be, however, united in the demand for the maintenance of communal electorates and the recognition of communal claims in all branches of the administration. This fact cannot be ignored and the Government of Bengal (with two dissentients) take the view, therefore, that communal electorates must be retained for the present.

Such being the situation in the province, the Government of Bengal recommend, in the first place, that the new Government should be unitary and not dyarchical in form. They take the view that dyarchy has not been successful, and that it should be abandoned. They would establish a unitary Government with a Ministry controlling all subjects. To secure good government certain safeguards will be, in their opinion, necessary. Experience has shown that the Legislative Council has at times acted irresponsibly. And if the official block is reduced, and the distinction between "reserved" and "transferred" subjects abolished, then the constitution must provide a powerful brake to check rash and precipitate action by the Legislative Council. And if the Executive Government is to consist of a Ministry responsible to the Legislature, then it is desirable that the brake should be provided within the Legislature rather than that it should be solely in the hands of the Governor. The Government of Bengal consequently favour the creation of a Second Chamber, composed of the more prudent and conservative elements in the people.

If it be accepted that dyarchy must go, then there would appear to be, the Government of Bengal point out, the following main alternatives: (1) a return to autocracy or the system of government in vogue before 1921; (2) an advance to complete responsible government such as that outlined in the All-Parties Report; (3) a system of complete provincial autonomy such as that recommended by the Associated Chambers of Commerce; or (4) some kind of intermediate stage between the present dyarchical system and complete provincial autonomy. The Government of Bengal rule out the first alternative as being out of the question. Not only is it impracticable, but it would involve a breach of faith with India, seeing that it would be in contravention of the declared policy of Parliament. The second alternative is, they hold, entirely out of touch with reality. "In the existing state of communal feeling, and of education, the proposal to constitute a provincial Council solely on the basis of universal adult suffrage with one member for one hundred thousand of the population is one which must be considered to be outside practical politics at the present time." The Muhammadans would not trust to a single electorate; and the proposal ignores the enormous interests in the province of communities which are numerically very unimportant. The third alternative—complete provincial autonomy—is not, the Government of Bengal hold, suitable for Bengal in present conditions. A legislature with no nominated official members would be impossible; and safeguards are required in connexion with the administration of the police, the judiciary and jails. It is noted that the Associated Chambers recognise that special safeguards will be required to prevent wrongful and unfair treatment of magistrates and police officers; and that the posting and transfer of District and Subordinate Judges should be supervised by the High Court. These recommendations suggest to the Government that behind the optimism of the Associated

Chambers there is an uneasy feeling that all will not be well. The Chambers have also attached to their proposal to grant responsible government the condition that the position of the Government of India *vis-à-vis* the Legislative Assembly is strengthened. "Progress in the provinces is to be accompanied by reaction at the centre," is the comment which the Government of Bengal make on this condition.

The conclusion at which the Government of Bengal finally arrive is that in present circumstances there cannot be a strictly logical constitution with full responsible government. There must be a period of transition, and in due course, sooner or later, the province will qualify for full provincial autonomy in the matter of all the subjects which are reserved for provincial disposal. Recognising that their proposals are not strictly logical, the Government of Bengal suggest that the next stage should be a unitary government consisting of a Prime Minister and four Ministers responsible to the Legislature, and two official Ministers. The latter would be in charge of appointments, Law and Order including Political, Police, Judicial, Jails and, at present, of Finance and European education. The Prime Minister, and the other non-official Ministers, would be, as now, elected members of the Legislature. The Prime Minister would be chosen by the Governor; and the other Ministers would be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The salaries of all the Ministers would be fixed by statute. The Prime Minister would preside over the meetings of the Cabinet, and all questions coming before the Cabinet would be decided by a majority.

The foregoing is an attempt to summarise the principal points that are dealt with by the Government of Bengal in their very able memorandum. Unfortunately, considerations of space make it impossible to refer to numerous other matters, which are also discussed in the paper, as, for example, the emergency powers to be conferred on the Governor, the functions of the Upper Chamber and its relation to the Lower Chamber, the control of the Services, the grave problem of finance, and so on.

THE FUTURE OF INDIA.

It is announced officially that the following letters have passed between Mr. Baldwin and the Prime Minister as a result of the Indian debate in the House of Commons on November 7:—

"My dear Prime Minister,—It will be within your recollection that the debate on Thursday last in the House of Commons was concluded without any answer being given by the Secretary of State for India to my second question—namely, 'whether this statement (i.e., the Viceroy's declaration) implies any change in the policy hitherto declared, or in the time when this status may be attained.'"

"It is true that this question was answered in the House of Lords, but I feel that the answer should equally be given by the Prime Minister in his capacity as Leader of the House of Commons.—I am, very sincerely yours, STANLEY BALDWIN."

The Prime Minister's reply, of the same date—November 11—reads:—

"My dear Mr. Baldwin,—I am grateful to you for your letter. The answer to both parts of the question 'whether the Viceroy's declaration implies any change in the policy hitherto declared or in the time when this status may be attained' is 'No.'"

"The policy, as you will remember, is set out in the Preamble of the Government of India Act, 1919, and it stands unchanged unless and until Parliament decides to amend that Act.—I am, very sincerely yours, J. RAMSAY MACDONALD."

Sir Frederick Sykes, Governor of Bombay, presided over a literary session of Goanese in Bombay on November 9 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Francisco Luis Gomes, the historian patriot of Goa.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY IN IRAQ.

Great Success of Inaugural Meeting.

The Memory of Gertrude Bell.

It was extremely gratifying, and a tremendous tribute to the organisers—particularly to the Hon. Secretary, Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter—of the proposed British School of Archæology in Iraq, to which reference has been made from time to time in *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*, to find that the meeting which had been arranged on November 8 in the Central Hall, Westminster, was not only well attended but actually overcrowded. Every seat was filled, and people were standing in every nook and cranny, so to speak, to hear unfolded a scheme which has evidently aroused a very lively public interest.

Major-General Sir Percy Cox, who presided over the meeting, described the steps that had already been taken to found the School in memory of Gertrude Bell. He read the following letter from the Prime Minister, who had been prevented by public engagements from supporting the scheme at this meeting:—"I am very sorry indeed to find I shall not be able to come to the meeting in aid of the British School of Archæology in Iraq on Friday. Before I went away I had hoped it might be possible, but you will, I am sure, understand to what an accumulation of work, in addition to my ordinary duties, I have now returned. You have my very best wishes for success in your efforts, and I sincerely hope that a School of Archæology will be built up that will be worthy of the memory of Gertrude Bell and the wonderful archæological treasures in Iraq." The Chairman, referring to the great work accomplished by Gertrude Bell in Arabia, mentioned the gratification felt by everybody at the presence at the meeting of Sir Hugh Bell, who, despite a recent illness, had come to honour the memory of his daughter. Sir Percy mentioned, in connexion with the Appeal Fund, that the total amounts received and definitely promised doubled the legacy of £6,000 bequeathed by Gertrude Bell. About £20,000 was needed before a start could be made. The total aimed at was £50,000. Donations might, if donors so wished, be made payable in instalments over a period of years, and it was requested that cheques should be drawn to the order of the British School of Archæology in Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) Appeal Fund, crossed and sent to the Hon. Secretary, at 17, Radnor Place, W.2.

The Archbishop of Canterbury paid a brilliant tribute to the memory of Gertrude Bell. He said that it was in the museum which she had helped to establish at Baghdad that Gertrude Bell found her most constant recreation and joy. She had the true instinct of the archæologist. Every item discovered in the excavations appealed to her imagination, and she saw it in its place in the whole unfolding history of the country. She gave her lifeblood to the cause of rescuing and preserving the wonderful antiquities of her adopted country. The best memorial of her radiant ardour, her brilliant imagination, her scholarship and sympathy with human life would be to preserve for all time more of the memorials of the splendour and greatness which had set their stamp upon the country she loved and served. Then, speaking of the appeal of ancient history to the imagination, he quoted a striking remark which he said was made to him when he was a prison chaplain by a gaol-bird, who as a punishment was only allowed to read the Bible—a study to which he brought a singularly unprejudiced mind. "When I turn in of nights I say over to myself some of the queer names. When I speak them names I seem to see great shapes rising before me and passing through the dark like a procession." The Great Empires that succeeded one another in Mesopotamia, Chaldea, Assyria, Babylon, truly rose in our imagination like clouds in a desert, passing before us in their barbaric splendour and out of sight. It was truly the romance of death. Other countries were eager to take their place in discovering the treasures of Iraq, and it would be strange

indeed if this country, which had so special an interest in the country, were to fail to contribute its share. He could not believe that British scholarship would not rally round the scheme.

Mr. L. S. Amery, speaking of the vast possibilities of research in Iraq, said that the discoveries at Ur had opened a great new window back to the world of antiquity. Iraq was perhaps the most interesting field of archæology in the world, for unlike Egypt it was the highway between the civilisations of the East. All the great early discoveries, those of Rawlinson, Layard, and others were made on the sites of Assyria and Babylonia, and the most wonderful recent discoveries made by the expedition under Mr. Woolley had been in the same region. For some reason, he added, British Governments had always been afraid to contribute to archæology the sums—a very mite in our national expenditure—which would yet produce immense results. He thought that our national standing in the world depended as much upon what we do in this field of culture and the spirit as upon what we do in the diplomatic or any other field. He hoped the time would come when the Government of this country would not think it beneath them to give even a Ministry to these matters. Turning to the personality of Gertrude Bell, he said that in his associations with her he had always been impressed by the comprehensiveness of her intellect. In one of her letters published in *The Times* that day, defining the qualifications of the Director of Archæology, she wrote that he must above all be an historian—"Nothing to him must be common; a monument of Sultan Murad, a Safavid inscription, have their place in the history of the country, different in degree of honour but not in essential character from a palace of Hammurabi." That comprehensiveness showed in her devoted love of her own country. It was out of the overflowing abundance of that love that she gave herself to the Arab nation. Few knew how much her love for the Iraqi meant in the setting up of that country or how much it contributed to the co-operation between British and Iraqi which in a few years had raised a derelict country and the remnants of a divided race into a young nation entering on its career among the nations of the world. When that task was nearing completion and the final decision of the British Government to stand behind Iraq in 1925 made her feel that part of her work was done she turned back to her first love of archæology and the work of creating the Museum and this School. She had left behind in this country and in Iraq an enduring memory and affection. Those who had been able to appreciate her wonderful spirit could do nothing finer or more fitting as a tribute to her, nothing more honouring to our own country, than to make good her last wish and create a really worthy School of Archæology.

Lady Astor remarked of Gertrude Bell that "she was great in a country where only the great survived. Men go East and their reputations go west. Gertrude Bell went East and the East came to Gertrude Bell." She said that she had been consulting Colonel Lawrence on what she should say about Gertrude Bell, and she only wished he could have been there to tell the meeting the things he told her about Gertrude Bell's great work for the people of Iraq. She thought that one of the most striking proofs of the bigness of Gertrude Bell was her decision when she thought it necessary to give up her political work in Iraq and to devote herself to archæology. She would have liked

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to have gone on, "but it was her woman's maternal instinct which made her pull herself out and let her child go on." She (Lady Astor) was there to pay tribute as a woman to a woman. She could not honestly say she was interested in archæology—her problems were of the living, not of the dead—but she felt that if Gertrude Bell thought it necessary to have a School of Archæology in Iraq, those who admired and believed in her should do their part to help to build it.

Sir Frederick Kenyon, Director of the British Museum, spoke of the need for the School and the scarcity of trained archæologists. Trustees and officers of the Museum cordially supported the establishment of the proposed School. The first finds at Ur and Kish and other places in Palestine, Trans-Jordan, and Iraq showed how great a field had been opened for research since the War. It might well be that there were other cities just as important as Ur still waiting to be excavated. They were short of persons of sufficient energy and experience to take charge of such work, and Schools for their training were needed. There were Schools at Athens and Rome; there was a School at Jerusalem, struggling on under great difficulties, and there was ample room for a School of that kind in Iraq.

Sir Francis Humphrys, who is going out to his post as High Commissioner of Iraq at the end of this month, expressed pleasure at having the opportunity before leaving London to take up his appointment in Baghdad to associate himself whole-heartedly with this excellent scheme. It would surely be wrong that England should lag behind America, France, and Germany in the encouragement of scientific exploration in a country which was so closely bound to us by ties of peculiar friendship. He assured the promoters of the scheme that he would do everything in his power when he went out to Iraq to further the interests of the proposed School. "I propose," he concluded, "with all the diplomacy at my command, to appeal to that stony-hearted British Treasury to make a contribution itself towards the scheme."

Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Hon. Secretary of the School, gave some details of the contributions already received. The lowest amount received was 2s. 6d. Mrs. Wm. H. Moore, of New York, had given 10,000 dollars, Sir Charles Hyde a thousand pounds, and Dr. William Ruston Parker had generously promised to add ten per cent. to any sum up to £4,000 contributed by British donors before the end of next December. It was hoped to raise, altogether, £44,000, which with the £6,000 left by Gertrude Bell would supply the required £50,000.

After the speeches, Dr. H. R. Hall, of the British Museum, gave an interesting lantern lecture illustrative of the recent discoveries in Iraq, especially at Ur, Al Obaid, and Kish.

LECTURES ON EGYPT.

The Committee of the Egypt Exploration Society is again arranging a series of winter lectures for the benefit of members of the Society and their friends. The first of this series will be given by Dr. John Johnson, Printer to the University of Oxford, on November 27 at 8.30 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Royal Society, Burlington House (by kind permission of the Council). The lecture, entitled "The Search for Lost Literature in the Rubbish Heaps of Egypt," will be illustrated with lantern slides.

A few tickets are available to the public free, if application is made to the Secretary of the Egypt Exploration Society, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

A history of ancient Persia, designed particularly for pupils in the elementary and secondary stages, has been specially written, at the request of the Minister of Public Instruction, by Mirza Hassan Pirnia (Moshir-ed-Dowleh). The book is being sold in all the libraries in Persia at ten krans.

Since the compulsory introduction of Latin characters in Turkey 400 publications have been issued by Constantinople printing establishments. Of these, ten have given the text of new Laws, ten have been literary works, 37 novels and histories, 44 various books and 26 magazines. More than 200 were educational books and one was a dictionary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE INHABITANTS OF PALESTINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Mr. Grane's letter, contained in your issue of October 17, was much needed in view of the mistakes often made in writing of the people of Palestine. The fallahin, who form the majority of the inhabitants, are heartily despised by the Arabs, both by the Badawin and the settled Arabs; and the fallahin in turn hate and fear the Arabs. There are some Badawin tribes on the outskirts, but they seldom take much part in local politics, unless—as in the late riots—there is loot to be obtained. The fallahin are, no doubt, mainly descended from the old Canaanites, who were here before the Israelite invasion under Joshua, though the Christian natives may be descended from the "Pullanis" or Eurasians described by Fulcher de Chartres. Until the Arab invasion in the 7th century the natives all spoke Aramaic, and still use many Aramaic words. Neither they nor the Arab rulers (for a Turk was seldom seen here till the War) gave us the smallest help during our Palestine campaign. They sat on the fence and cheered the winner. The fallahin, however, are well pleased with the English rule, and do not dislike the Jews wherever they are neighbours. Those who do are the Effendi class, who are of Arab descent, and are rich enough to control a large following, especially when the ignorant fallahin are misled by false reports as they were lately, and on the other hand threatened if they do not join. A very large number of fallahin villages, however, refused to take part in the pogrom, and realise that they are better off than they ever were before the British occupation.—I am, etc.,

Jerusalem. October 29.

C. HUSSEY.

ARABS AND JEWS IN PALESTINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—In the letter by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem published in your issue of October 31 he says: "It is not the fact that the feeling of the Islamic population of Palestine is anti-Semitic." Is it not well for everyone to remember two things: first, that the Arabs themselves are Semites, and, secondly, that an important body of Jewish opinion is itself anti-Zionist?

In your leading article of the same date you say that the real problem of Palestine is "reconciliation between the Arabs and the Zionists." But are there not two problems? First, the reconciliation of two religions, Judaism and Islam; secondly, the reconciliation of two policies. The policy of the Arabs is the unity of the Arab peoples, and the policy of the Zionists is the settlement of Zionists in Palestine. I am convinced that religious peace can be obtained, but the political question is, I fear, likely to be a source of danger for some time. It may even prove that the two policies are incompatible. If this should be so, would it not be well to recognise this incompatibility? And when we weigh the two policies, should we not remember that while the whole of the Arab race looks forward earnestly to political unity, the policy of the Zionists is that of only a section of the great Jewish people?—I am, etc.,

November 7.

"INTERESTED."

BYRON RELICS FOR GREECE.

The Historical and Ethnological Society of Greece has recently received a valuable collection of Byron relics from the son of the late Sir John Murray. It consists of eight items: (1) Several pages, written by Byron at Missolonghi in 1824 under the title of "Notes about Greece"; (2) letters of Byron from Ravenna and Missolonghi to his editor and friend, Douglas Kinnaird; (3) several pages by the poet about contemporary Greek literature; (4) various letters addressed to Byron by different persons during his residence at Missolonghi; (5) two locks of his hair, one of them cut off on the day of his death; (6) a cheque for £700 from the house of Murray, endorsed by Byron; (7) a cast of Byron's bust by Thorwaldsen; (8) a copy of the poet's book-plate. By the express desire of the donor these relics will be placed in a special glass case of the Society's Museum with the inscription "In memory of John Murray." The Museum already contains several mementos of Byron, besides a valuable collection of the costumes and portraits of the heroes of the War of Independence and of the chief persons connected with Greek history since then.

PALESTINE IN WATER COLOUR.

Mrs. P. A. F. Stephenson is holding an exhibition of water-colours, called "Flowers and Stones in the Holy Land," at the Alpine Club Gallery, Mill Street, Conduit Street, W.1., from November 19 to December 3.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

November 14, 1929 (New Style).

November 1, 1929 (Old Style).

Jumada 11, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Chesvan 11, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Earl Peel left Marseilles on November 8 in the Rajputana for Bombay.

Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson will return to London about November 24 from Vienna.

Lord and Lady Hawke will leave London for India about the end of December.

The Earl of Inchcape returned to London on November 4 from Freiburg and Paris.

Sir Arthur and Lady Froom left London on November 8 on their return to Bombay.

Lord and Lady Lloyd have returned to London from the Continent.

Sir George and Lady Godfrey left London on November 7 to join the s.s. Rajputana at Marseilles for India.

Sir George Schuster arrived in London on November 9 on a short visit from India.

Sir Dhunjibhoy and Lady Bomanji last week left The Willows, Windsor, for Paris, en route for Bombay.

Lord and Lady Dunsany will leave England on November 21 for India. They will be away until the beginning of March.

The Right Hon. William Wedgwood Benn, M.P. (Secretary of State for India), had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on November 9.

Colonel and Mrs. Perowne left London last week for India in the Viceroy of India, and expect to be away until April.

Sir Stanley and Lady Reed have arranged to join the P. and O. s.s. Viceroy of India at Marseilles to-morrow (Friday), on their way to Bombay.

Viscount Goschen, Governor of Madras, arrived in London on November 9, from India, accompanied by Viscountess Goschen and Captain and the Hon. Mrs. Melville Portal.

The Aga Khan has consented to accept the Presidency of the British Red Crescent Society, which was left vacant by the death of its first president and founder, Syed Ameer Ali.

Sir Henry Payne, Second Secretary of the Board of Trade, who has been engaged to reorganise the Department of Commerce and Industry of Egypt, arrived in Cairo on November 6, and has taken up his duties.

Dr. and Mrs. Cavadias gave a reception on November 7 at 52, Wimpole Street, for the members of the Anglo-Hellenic League. Mme. Nicolopoulou sang a selection of Greek songs, and Mlle. Banchaouer played the piano. The large attendance included the following: The Greek Minister, M. Ambatielos, Commander C. Bellairs, Madame Benachi, Mr. Tatton Bower, Mr. Cassavetti, Dr and Mrs. Cathcart, Mr. Colls, The Consul-General for Greece, Mr. Costomeni, Mrs. Dsyche, Sir James Dundas-Grant, Mr. N. and Miss Eumorfopoulos, Miss Kephala, Dr. and Mrs. Lane, Professor and Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Metaxas, Lady Meiklejohn, Miss Pallis, Dr. Herbert Spencer, Sir John and Lady Stavridi and Miss Stavridi, and the Hon. Katharine Thring.

Viscount Gage left England on November 7 for India, and is not expected to return until the end of March.

Sir Hugh and Lady Cocks left London on November 7 to join the Rajputana at Marseilles on the way to Bombay.

Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan, member of the Indian Central Committee, and Lady Ali Khan will embark at Marseilles tomorrow in the Viceroy of India for Bombay.

Sir John Campbell, late of the India Civil Service, and recently in charge of the settlement of Greek refugees in Macedonia has been appointed Economic and Financial Adviser in the Colonial office. This post was vacated on Sir George Schuster's departure to India to take up the appointment of Finance Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council. Sir John Campbell, who is 55, was educated at Glasgow University and Christ Church, Oxford, and entered the Indian Civil Service in 1897. He has served as Under-Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces and to the Government of India, as Chairman of the Cawnpore Municipality, Deputy-Commissioner of Kheri, and Director of Civil Supplies for the United Provinces. In 1922 he retired, but acted for four years as Vice-Chairman of the Greek Refugee Settlement Commission in Macedonia, and last October he went out to Baghdad as Financial Adviser to the Iraq Government.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Armistice Day.

Another Armistice Day has come and gone, and who shall say that the Silence, that incomparable mode of a nation's remembering, has lost its hold on us? To many, indeed, that interval between the first maroon and the Last Post—for millions, I suppose, can hear no more than that of services which are held all over the country—is the supreme spiritual moment of this year.

The Silence this year will perhaps be particularly memorable, because, in London, at any rate, just before it, rain-drops—so gentle that the wind almost blew them hither and thither—began to fall. Nature thus seemed to mourn with Man, who was already communing with the past.

Much is said on this occasion, often by those least fitted to say it. One feels somehow that all this pious talk of improving the world, admirable as it is, is a little out of focus. For Armistice Day is, supremely and solely, the Day of Remembrance. It takes us back to those we knew, and but too briefly, to those whose sacrificed personalities we cannot but recall and honour at this hallowed time. Hope and resolve, I think, scarcely come into our consciousness: the heart is too full of far-off things, but, during the Silence, almost stabbingly near.

Armistice Day is, in short, the nation at its most reverent and best, and will always be so until the War and those lost in it are forgotten. Self is submerged, and the mind—the soul, rather—reaches out to greater horizons.

Parliament.

It is generally recognised that the reputation of the present Government stands or falls in accordance with what it does for the domestic situation, by which is meant, primarily, the problem of unemployment. So far it must be confessed that the main strength of the Government lies in the weakness of its political opponents, most and the more honest of whom know well that the cure of unemployment does not lie with Governments. But the Labour Party is in the unhappy position of having promised to do something fundamental for unemployment, and now that it is called upon, in the person of Mr. Thomas, to "produce the goods," the answer is feeble.

Quite patently, Mr. Thomas's two hour speech last

week in the House was a general disappointment. Those in particular who expected vast changes or schemes went empty away. The truth is, as the Minister of Employment knows as well as any man, that Government action can but touch the surface of this national problem.

Yet though the Government is in indisputable difficulties—its conference on Coal, for instance, has been marked or marred by the absence of the coal owners and by the withdrawal of no less a person than the redoubtable Mr. Herbert Smith—its immediate or even distant downfall is not implied. To say that no Government could do better in these vital questions of Unemployment and Coal is probably true, but it means very little indeed. The course of events promises to be that the Conservatives, having failed radically to improve the country's situation, the Labour Party also must now taste the bitterness of failure. At present, at any rate, there is no sign of its having any trump card up its sleeve for these two most urgent problems.

Tolls.

How many tolls survive in Great Britain? Most of us know of a few, but it would, I think, surprise almost everybody to learn that, since the good old days of the turnpike (when over a thousand tolls existed), no fewer than eighty-eight bridges in England and Wales, and fifty-five roads have survived, on which the traveller has to pay toll.

The Sassenach will not express amazement that in Wales the iniquitous system reigns most freely, for there can be scarcely a motorist who has toured the Principality who does not admire the tenacity with which Welshmen cling to ancient tradition and privilege. In free Scotland, on the other hand, no actual toll roads exist, but the wily Caledonian has so arranged matters that you cannot get from Oban to Fort William and the north-west except via the short railway bridge at Connel Ferry, at which memorable spot the motorist is required to part with ten shillings. All this jolly state of affairs may soon be altered. For a private Bill (favoured by the Ministry of Transport) has just been introduced in the House of Commons to free all the highways and bridges of this country from tolls. Tolls really are an anachronism, like level-crossings, which presumably will have to go too.

Pylons and Beauty.

The argument raging over the proposed erection over the countryside of steel standards to bear cheap electricity to remote villages and power to factories is still hotly engaged. I have referred to it before.

The protagonist of the pylon generally uses the utilitarian argument, and does not worry to go beyond it. Whatever is useful is good; and there's an end on't. But recently he has, strangely enough, found support among artists, who are concerned to show the real beauty which can be found in engineering.

Are not the aqueducts of the Roman Campagna, such artists ask, eminently beautiful? And why cannot a magnificent line of pylons be made in England to rival these noble aqueducts? To which others reply that the question of beauty or ugliness is not really involved, but that it is one of suitability and association. The ingenious suggestion is made that links such as have been elsewhere designed between widely separated communities are entirely out of place in overworked England, and that, whereas in other countries such links gratefully remind one town of the existence of another, here in this island we go into the country to forget the existence of the towns!

It is a difficult subject on which to generalise. There are places—such as the barren moors of Cornwall—where the pylons do not offend; but one cannot see how they could be other than a hideous excrescence on, say, the softer downs of Sussex.

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Book Review

NATIONALISM IN THE EAST.

"A History of Nationalism in the East." By Hans Kohn. Translated by Margaret M. Green. (London: George Routledge. 25s.).

The time was ripe for a survey of the work accomplished during this century under the name of Nationalism in the East, for the explosive force of this conception, which spread over from Europe into Asia, has bewildered or excited many observers. Of these, the majority appear to leap to two general conclusions: that the East as a whole is in revolt against the West, and that the Westernisation of the East is an inevitable step in the progress of human affairs.

Now, Dr. Hans Kohn, who has seen at first hand many of the countries of which he writes, is not guiltless of taking refuge in such generalisations. Facts are stubborn things, but so great is his conviction in the correctness of his generalisations that their obstinacy sometimes succumbs on a Procrustean bed. It is, one would like to suggest, unscholarly to suggest that the whole of the so-called East, from Morocco to China, has a "common destiny," or, indeed, that there are to-day "three great fellowships of common destiny," viz., the European Continent, excluding Russia, that of the Anglo-Saxon peoples, and an Asiatic fellowship which is struggling against the two other Powers. Such over-simplification is plausible, even readable; but it belongs to the domain rather of journalism than of history.

Dr. Kohn's main concern is to interpret the march of events in the countries between Egypt and India. He naturally begins with a study of the reformation in Islam—the progress of such movements as Wahhabism and Babism, the Ahmadiya movement, and so on. It is a capable summary, though containing little that is new beyond the remark that the Wahhabis, in their first emergence over a hundred years ago, "had been the first to rebuild a great Arab State which embraced, besides Central Arabia, the Hijaz, Yemen, Oman, El Hassa, and the Bahrein Islands."

Explanations of the Pan-Islamic movement and the religious renaissance in India, during last century, are followed by what is perhaps the most important aspect of this work: the author's account of Great Britain's and of Bolshevik Russia's relations with the Orient. For he sees and expresses very clearly that two forces above all others have informed the history of Oriental Nationalism—England, and since 1917, Russia. The intervention of England in the East led inevitably to cultural and economic revolutions, upon which condition Bolshevik Russia superimposed the additional stimulus of national consciousness. This section of the book attains fairly well to the standard of "objectivity" which Dr. Kohn fain would reach. But "objectivity" is a *rara avis*, which, in more detailed chapters, occasionally takes wing and escapes from the author's clutches. This fact is evident in the sources, often of anti-British character, which he refers to or cites: it is instanced in such a sentence as this from the chapter on Egypt:—

Whenever the Eastern peoples have set about reforming their constitutional and social life by their own resolution and energy and so guarding the East from European interference, the European Powers (especially England) have prevented them and intervened in the name of law and order and the protection of the *status quo*.

It is perhaps obvious from the kind of mental attitude here indicated that its possessor would not shrink from generalisation on the future as on the past. But prophecy on the East is a rash pastime, as the closest observers well know. Is it so certain that the following, for example, is true:—

At the present time Arabia is an example of nationalism still partially in the primitive phase, but destined to advance to full self-realisation and to become completely permeated with the spirit of

modern, capitalist industry. Very similar is the state of the nationalist movement in Persia and Afghanistan.

The semi-Westernised Oriental might possibly agree, but the less excitable observer may reflect that that part of Arabia which is capable of material development is almost wholly agricultural, and that even such progress as is possible within this fact is largely dependent upon the lives of a few men. How many men, for instance, are prepared to trust the onward march of the Hijaz and Najd after Ibn Saoud is passed away? And why should Persia, whose selection of Western things is discreetly made and whose tendency is to stress the greatness of her pre-Islamic national past, inevitably "become completely permeated with the spirit of modern, capitalist industry?"

The mask of objectivity is, as has been already suggested, worn uneasily, and perhaps the guise is most quickly penetrated when Dr. Kohn uses somewhat glowing terms of the Jews in Palestine, although his whole sympathy elsewhere in the book lies with the native peoples of any particular country. His view of Palestine, by the way, is that the land will become "a community in which two peoples will live side by side, enjoying absolutely equal rights," which at least has the merit of being independent respectively of the official British and Zionist ideals.

In fine, it may be said that, though the work is undeniably a useful one and should lead readers to further research into the subject, it is not wholly reliable. Quite apart from the ordinary Continental's tendency to see logic in British policy in the East where, often enough, there was a sad lack of it, the author quite plainly has prejudices and has formed pre-judgments which leave some facts panting breathless in the rear of his occasionally dogmatic statements and others out of the race altogether. To the discerning reader, however, this caveat will be unnecessary; and to him, therefore, the book may be recommended.

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

We have received from the Director of the School of Oriental Studies in London the annual Report of the Governing Body and Statement of Accounts for the Year ending July 31, 1929.

In the Report it is stated that, in place of Sir Muhammad Rafique, who died on February 8, Dr. Raghunath Purushottam Paranjpye has become a member of the Governing Body; and in place of Sir Gregory Foster, who, as Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, became *ex-officio* a Governor, the University has appointed Mr. Sabonadière.

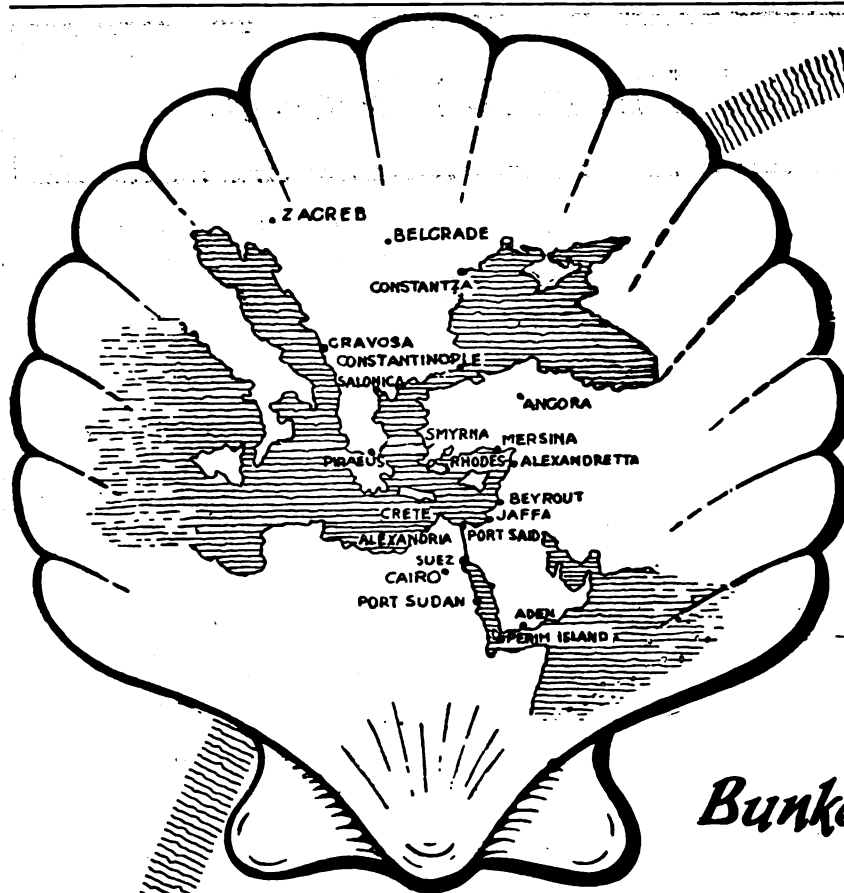
The number of students during the Session was 504, as compared with 611 in 1927-28. The latter figure, however, included 80 Probationers sent by the Colonial Office for a special vacation course.

Other interesting items refer to the fact that, through the initiative of Dr. Moli, funds for a lectureship in Iranian Studies have been provided for a period of five years by the Parsee community in Bombay—and it is worth noting that provision for this important branch of Oriental Studies is made nowhere else in Great Britain; to the work of the Director, Sir Denison Ross, in furthering the prestige of the School in his recent journeys in the Middle East; and to the fact that, apart from those attending the terminal Phonetic courses, the largest numbers of students of languages were, as usual, in the departments of Arabic, the Bantu languages, and Chinese—though there was a marked increase in those attending courses in History, Sanskrit, Hindustani, Indian Law, and Malay.

Quite obviously this institution in London is fulfilling a difficult work with increasing success, but it may be well to bear in mind the concluding words of the Report:—

"The financial result of the past year's working is not unsatisfactory, and it is gratifying to note a steady improvement in the matter of revenue from students' fees. On the other hand, without a further increased grant of £5,000 per annum from Government, it will be impossible to place the Teaching Staff on quite the same lines in the matter of remuneration as prevails in other Universities or Schools of the same standard in this country."

Albania has issued yet another commemorative stamp, this time in celebration of the 35th birthday of King Ahmed Zogu in the form of 5,000 sets of the stamps bearing his likeness originally issued in 1926, distinguished by the overprint, "Rroft Mbreti" (Long Live the King!), followed by the date, "8.x.1929." The imprint is in black on all values from 1 qindar to 2 franken, excepting the 50 q., which has it in red.



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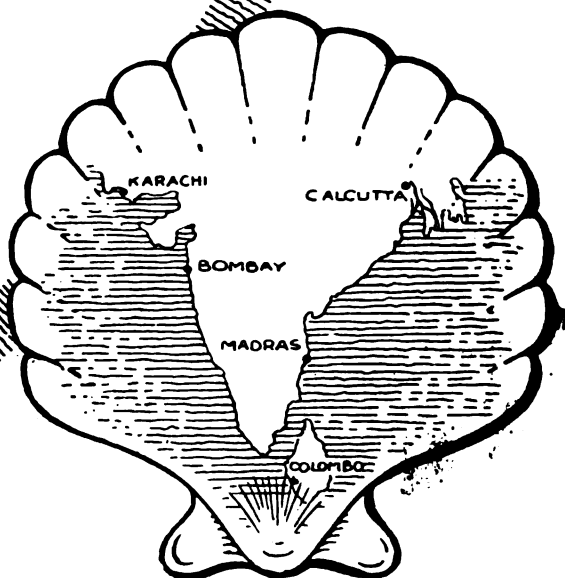
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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Egyptian Season.

That the coming season in Egypt will again be good goes almost without saying, for the attraction of Egypt for the tourist is supreme, and whatever the fate of other resorts, the Nile Valley is sure to draw its full quota of tourists. As a matter of fact, the development of the tourist traffic in recent years has been such as to strain the existing accommodation, and plans are now being carried out to cater for larger numbers of visitors. It is probable that this season, owing to financial developments in America, the number of tourists from that country may fall below expectations, but if the invasion of Americans is not of its usual magnitude, the other centres from which Egypt draws her clientele may go some way to making up any falling off in this direction.

Cotton Developments in the Sudan.

As the trade statistics show, cotton is assuming an ever greater importance in the economic life of the Sudan. In view of the great success which has attended the enterprise of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, it is only natural that the authorities should desire to further the work of cotton production, and at the meeting of the Syndicate the Chairman, Mr. MacIntyre, gave details of a new extension to the north of the Syndicate's existing concession which has been made possible by the decision of the Sudan Government to enlarge the Gezira main channel. The extension, which is to be managed by the Syndicate in return for a share of the crop based on a sliding scale, comprises an area of about 80,000 to 90,000 feddans, one-third of which will be under cotton. It is anticipated that 40,000 feddans will be prepared for cultivation in time for the next season, which will mean an extension of the area under cotton of about 13,000 feddans. Besides this extension the Syndicate has arranged to irrigate an area of about 1,500 feddans to the south, and has further acquired a freehold extension to its Zeidab property of 4,031 feddans. As regards the present season, the Syndicate has under cotton in the Gezira 158,585 feddans, and as the prospects are stated to be promising, this means that in all probability there will be a further substantial increase in production next year. A most encouraging factor to which Mr. MacIntyre referred is the keen appreciation by spinners, not only in the United Kingdom but also in other countries, of the quality and classification of Sudan cotton.

An Opening in Egypt.

In commenting on Mr. Turner's report last week I referred to the comparative neglect of the Egyptian market by our manufacturers. There are, as I have pointed out, numerous openings in the Egyptian market, just as there are in other Near Eastern outlets. One such is instanced in the current issue of the Monthly Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt. The value of Egypt's imports of wallpaper in 1928 was £E16,778, as against £E14,130 for 1927, and of these totals the British share was respectively £E989 and £E940. Of course, the trade is small, and as a matter of fact it is surprising, considering the prevailing customs in Egypt, that it is as large as it is. As the market is there, however, is there any reason why our manufacturers, who are unsurpassed in their production of wallpapers, should not obtain a larger proportion of it than they have? Our contemporary

suggests that they are satisfied with the home market, which is tantamount to saying that we are losing our old initiative. I believe the truth is that our manufacturers overlook these openings, and would be only too willing to take advantage of them if they thought it would be worth while.

Roumania and Grain Exports.

The outstanding importance of a good harvest in the Near Eastern countries may be vividly illustrated in the case of Roumania. Last year the harvest in that country was a failure, and there was an adverse trade balance throughout the year and up to and including last July. Then in August there was a favourable trade balance for the first time for many months, the value of the exports being 2,710 million lei, as against 2,524 million lei for imports. For the first eight months the adverse trade balance is 4,220 million lei, but this is certain now in view of the good harvest to be substantially reduced before the end of the year, and it might indeed be changed into a favourable balance if only grain prices took an upward turn.

Syria as a Tourist Resort.

One of the most striking features since the War has been the number of countries that have appeared as competitors for the annual tourist stream. Before the War Egypt, Greece, the Holy Land, and the Riviera largely monopolised the traffic, and while these regions, especially the first and last, hold their own, and, it may be added, so far as can be seen are certain to continue to do so, there are now many other Near Eastern centres which are taking a part of the stream which seems ever to tend to increase. As this new-born zest for the tourist is directly due to the adverse economic conditions resulting from the War, it is surprising that the number of tourists should be steadily increasing. Syria is among the latest countries to cater seriously for the tourist traffic, and plans are under way for the construction of new up-to-date hotels in the leading centres such as Damascus, Beyrout, Tripoli, and Aleppo. Syria possesses many centres of historical interest, and being next door to Palestine, is in a position to attract some of the increasing numbers of tourists who now include the Holy Land in their visit to Egypt.

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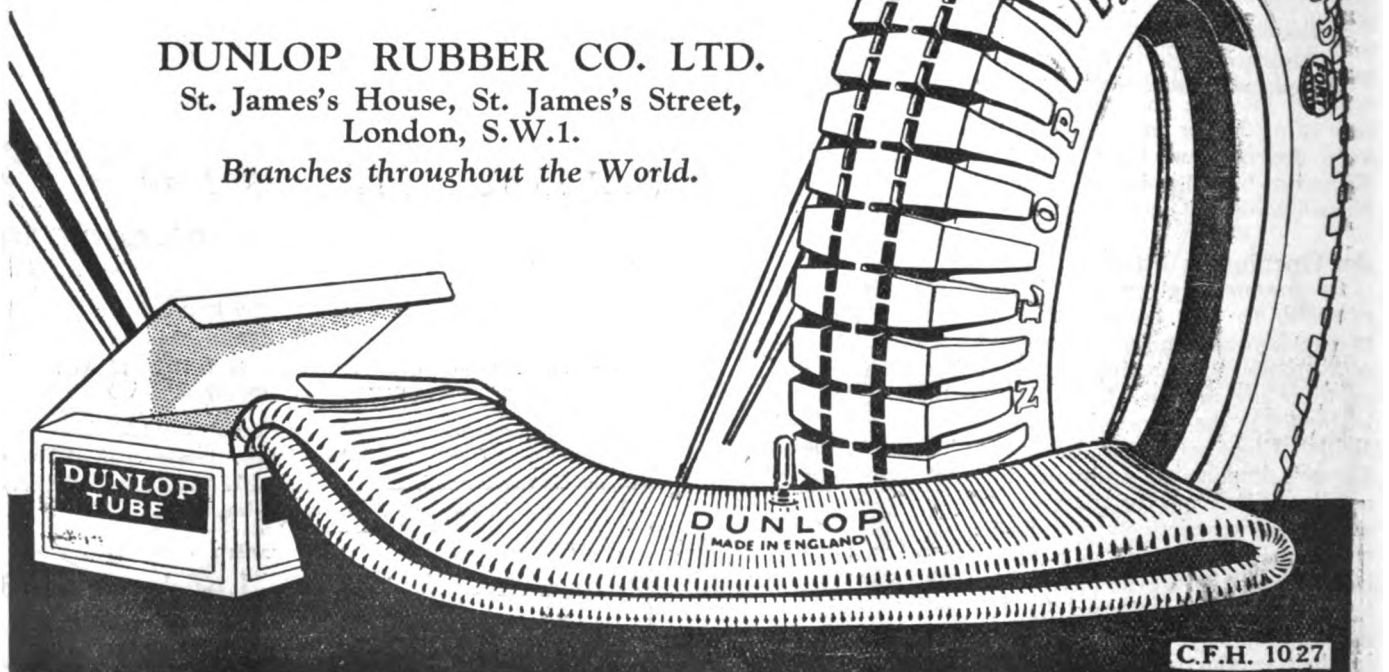
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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, November 12.

The announcement by the Treasury of the new 5 per Cent. Conversion Loan took the gilt-edged market of the Stock Exchange completely by surprise, and produced a decline in most long-dated Government securities of one or two points. There was a slight recovery later in the week, but 5 per Cent. War Loan remains below par. The resumption of heavy liquidation in New York and heavy selling from Paris and Amsterdam had their effect on the industrial and speculative markets, but apart from the international stocks, which fell still further, the result was heaviness rather than depression. Indeed, the manner in which the London Stock Exchange continues to absorb the stocks thrown on the market from other sources is a matter for congratulation. Whether bottom has yet been touched in Wall Street remains to be seen, but the rally shown at the end of this week would seem to indicate that the worst is over. No violent recovery is, however, to be expected nor desired.

Five per Cent. Conversion Loan.

More mature consideration has not in the slightest degree affected the coldness of the welcome accorded to the new Conversion offer in the City. Moreover, the Treasury is considered guilty of very bad tactics in its arrangements for ensuring the success of the issue. The allotment firm of £30 million to certain banks and brokers at 99½ is explained as being necessitated by the political uncertainties of the moment. This explanation is, however, regarded as no excuse. Since in some cases sales were at once effected at a profit of a quarter, the Loan actually stood at a quarter per cent. discount before it was publicly issued. The attractiveness of the offer would in any case have assured its success. More serious, however, is the fact that the Government has thought it necessary to offer investors a 5 per cent. security which is not redeemable for at least fifteen years. The unwieldy bulk of the 5 per cent. War Loan has been a considerable difficulty in the way of moving British credit from the 5 per cent. basis to which, owing to the exigencies of War finance, it had fallen. Any effort to deal with this Loan, it was hoped, would be in the direction of a 4½ per cent. basis. As it is, the effect of the new offer will be to retard the recovery which had been seen in British Government stocks and to maintain the 5 per cent. basis for an indefinite period.

Japanese Securities.

From the Report on Economic and Financial Conditions in Japan, issued by the Department of Overseas Trade this week, it is to be gathered that the year up to June, 1929, was one of recovery after the crisis of 1927. Since the War, stability has been a rare state of affairs in Japan, and to-day a return to what might be called normal conditions is slowly but surely taking place. Hindrances such as restrictions on credit can be easily removed, but not so the lack of confidence natural after a series of disasters in the various branches of national life. Nevertheless, progress is definitely being made. Statistics quoted by the *Economist's* Japanese correspondent show that the net profits of 1,200 industrial companies for the first half of 1929 were 14 million yen more than in the first half of 1928 and 28.5 million yen more than in the second half of last year. The largest increases are to be seen in electricity and gas, 7 million yen; textiles, 3 million yen; chemical and drugs, 3 million yen. All the major industries show steady improvements both in the volume and quality and the goods produced. It is thought by some authorities, in fact, that industrial progress has been remarkable and well sustained. Foreign trade, like industry, continues to improve, increases in imports being very largely of raw materials, which make up over 50 per cent. of the total imports at the present time. In

finance great strides towards readjustment have also been made, although after the number of failures in 1927, the convalescent period must in consequence be long. The backwardness of the financial organisation has naturally been a check on all economic life, but by far the worst effects in industry are felt by the smaller concerns. The general progress in all branches of the economic life of the nation may therefore be said to be steady, giving rise to bright hopes for the future. In view of the degree of insecurity, owing to the recurrence of earthquakes, Japanese securities give fairly high returns and have attractions for those who can afford to run these risks. The Government 4 per cent. stock, finally redeemable 1970, yields £6 3s. per cent. Yokohama 5 per cent. sterling loan, redeemable by 1945, returns £6 18s. per cent.

Commercial Motor Companies.

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Show now being held in London displays the products of one of Britain's most efficient industries. While much may be said against British private cars, compared with those of other countries, the British commercial vehicles offer a better comparison. Sales in this country are good. For the first seven months of this year 10,000 more commercial motor vehicles were registered than during the corresponding period last year, and the number of such vehicles owned is expected to be 330,000 by the end of the year. Both imports and exports have also increased. Imports come from America and Canada, with France a bad third. Exports have improved mainly as a result of sales "at our door," namely in the European market. In Europe conditions are similar to Great Britain, so British cars are very suitable, whereas in the Colonies and Dominions conditions are more like the U.S.A., and in those markets American cars are more popular. The industry has had its troubles in the past, but the future of the leading companies now seems to be fairly well assured. Morris Motors 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares can be bought to yield £7 10s. per cent. Among producers of heavier cars Dennis Brothers ordinary shares yield £6 6s. per cent.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal Company from October 25 to November 3 amounted to 24,720,000 francs.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha, President of Turkey, on November 8 received in Angora Count Volpi, formerly Italian Minister of Finance.

General Kerim Agha Khan Buzardjomehri has been appointed Minister of Public Works in Persia.

Roumanian workmen, specialised in the metallurgical and motor and aviation industries, are to be sent to work in France for one year.

In the course of a long speech at the end of last week before the Grand National Assembly at Angora, General Ismet Pasha, the Prime Minister, stated that a law providing for the creation of a State bank would shortly be submitted to the Assembly.

In reference to the Roumanian Four and a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1913, Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co. announce that, in accordance with instructions received from the Roumanian Government, amendments have been made to the list of numbers comprising the schedules to the agreement of July 4, 1928.

The new Olympia building on Hammersmith Road, London, which is to be used for the first time for the British Industries Fair next February, is to be called the Empire Hall. It is believed that the Empire Hall will be easily the biggest building in the Empire. It is to have four storeys and its dimensions will be: Length (Hammersmith Road frontage), 330 ft.; breadth, 220 ft.; height, 73 ft. Two floors and the whole of the front of the building will be ready for the coming Fair. The architect is Mr. Joseph Emberton, A.R.I.B.A.

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CYPRUS TRADE PROGRESS.

The report on Cyprus trade for September shows substantial increases in imports and exports. The former at £191,781 were £43,600 and the latter at £168,880 £37,800 over the five years' average. The totals for the nine months January to September, 1929 and 1928, were as follows:—

1929	...	£1,496,740	...	£1,251,797
1928	...	£1,306,218	...	£1,046,442
Increase	...	£190,522	...	£205,355

The rise in the value of imports was mainly due to cotton yarn, machinery, chemical manures and woollen goods. There were decreases in imports of the following: motor cars, edible oils, petrol and flour.

Among exports the chief increases were almonds (£2,545); barley (£11,283); wheat (£14,494); mules and oxen (£2,222); silk cocoons (£10,592); asbestos (£5,861); and pyrites (£5,294). The only appreciable decrease was in carobs (£5,840).

Shipping statistics are as follows: 27 steamers called at Larnaca, 30 at Limasol and 20 at Famagusta, against an average of 27, 28 and 20, respectively.

CYPRUS MARKET AND CROPS REPORT.

The report on Cyprus crops for October states:—

Prices of wheat are falling owing possibly to large purchases of seed wheat by dealers from Greece and Asia Minor.

Sowing of barley on dry lands has begun. A small quantity has been exported to the United Kingdom, Egypt, Syria, and Greece, but on the whole there is little trade, demand being poor, though offers are very good. Prices are 2s. to 2s. 3d. per bushel—falling.

The new crop of potatoes is now safe from *lila solanella* attacks, and is very promising. Offers are weak against a fair demand. Prices are £9 per ton.

The new cotton crop is satisfactory, and early planted cotton has been harvested. The late sown fields suffered slightly from the early rains this month.

A good orange crop is now in sight. A slight attack of Mediterranean fruit fly is reported from Famagusta. Damaged fruits are sold at £1 per 1,000.

The export of green lemons continues, the principal destinations being the United Kingdom and Turkey. The price is 10s. per 1,000.

There are good offers of tobacco, but a poor demand, and the stocks are heavy. The price is 1s. 9d. per oke for cigarette leaf, while 10d. per oke is quoted for Latakia smoked leaf.

The harvest of olives is in full progress. A heavy crop is certain, but various pests have attacked the fruit and the quality has to some extent deteriorated.

The sale of onion sets continues. Prices are 3d. to 4d. per oke. Offers are good.

There is a fair demand for onions and offers are heavy. Prices are 3d. to 1d. per oke.

The export of grapes to Egypt continues satisfactorily. The price is 2d. per oke. Raisin-making is over. The crop suffered heavily from the ravages of *eudemis botrana*.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

INDIA.

Copper Conductors.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of hard drawn, high conductivity, bare solid copper conductors for overhead power transmission, for the period January 15, 1930, to January 14, 1931. November 21. (D.O.T.)

GREECE.

Cargo Vessel.—The Acting British Consul-General at Salonika reports that a local concern desires to be put in touch with British shipbuilding firms likely to be interested in quoting for the construction of a cargo boat of 300 tons net. The firm would also consider the purchase of a suitable second-hand vessel. (D.O.T.)

EGYPT.

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of a complete plant for the supply of filtered and unfiltered water, including centrifugal or turbine type pumps, electric motors, filters, etc. January 6. (D.O.T.)

Electric Generating and Pumping Sets.—The Ministry of Public Works, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of electric generating and pumping sets for the Mankabad Barracks, Egypt. December 28. (D.O.T.)

Overhead Transmission Lines.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, Public Works Ministry, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of high tension 3-phase overhead transmission lines in Northern Delta, consisting of a main line of about 165 kms. and branch lines of about 150 kms., including all necessary materials for the lines and all accessories. February 27.

Incinerators.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of incinerators for disposition of garbage, refuse, waste dressings, etc., required for the year 1929-1930. December 9.

Diesel Engines.—The Ministry of Public Works, Mechanical and Electrical Department, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two Diesel engines and accessories. January 4. (D.O.T.)

THE SUDAN.

Stores.—The Inspector, Headquarters, Egyptian Irrigation Department in the Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of running stores for steamers and launches, chiefly oil, grease, ropes, iron bars, bolts and nuts, electric equipment, files, etc. December 14.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Glasgow, November 15); Manchester, November 19; Birkenhead, November 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 18); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Glasgow, November 18; Birkenhead, November 29).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 27).

British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 16); s.s. Mundra for Bombay (London, November 23).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bantria for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Mitylene, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if inducement (Glasgow, November 12; Swansea, November 14; Liverpool, November 16); s.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Algiers, Oran, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, November 23; Swansea, November 26).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, November 22); s.s. Perim for Calcutta (London, November 22).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 19); s.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 30).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Destro for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, November 21); s.s. Roumelian for Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, November 23; Swansea*, November 23); s.s. Maronian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Swansea, November 28); s.s. Lisbon for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Syra*, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 7); s.s. Manchurian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, and Shushak (Liverpool, December 7; Swansea, December 12). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports in Piræus or other convenient port.

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Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

Improvements.

Discussing the recent Motor Show with a number of prospective buyers of new models, the point was raised as to the limited scope which exists for manufacturers who seek to add improvements and incorporate new features in their production. The general idea seemed to be that everything that could be done in that direction had already been done, and that all there was left to do was to copy other people's ideas. It was admitted, however, that from the point of view of novelties, the Show this year was an improvement upon that for 1928, and some went so far as to suggest that a desire to introduce novelties into design had outweighed altogether the consideration as to whether those novelties were or were not of any real value.

The introduction of four wheel brakes was a revolution, the effect of which was entirely to the good. So was the effect of the almost equally sweeping revolution of balloon tyres; the front wheel drive introduced was a good thing, although it has, perhaps, too many disadvantages to come into general use. But can the same praise be given to the new idea of putting the gear-box on the back axle? M. Bugatti is, of course, a clever man and an expert designer of cars, but the question does arise in the mind as to whether he actually does think there is or can be any advantage derived from putting the gear-box of his new "straight eight" in that position. Anyway, I don't suppose any of the leading British designers will follow the Bugatti lead.

Central Lubrication.

Of all the novelties, if one can class this as a novelty, at the Show, perhaps the most useful and altogether commendable, was the centralised lubrication. Of course, the Mercedes people had this system at work on their cars as far back as 1910—they showed a 6-cylinder model in that year which had central chassis lubrication, but the idea was ahead of its time—and so the fairly general use of the system this year may be said to have been anticipated.

The idea is so good that in all probability we shall have it on even the smallest cars before the next Olympia Show. The general lines that will be followed for small cars will probably be those already introduced on the Nash car. The outfit, which is an American idea, is a small drum of oil carried on the dashboard, inside which there is a small plunger pump operated by the vibration of the car. The oil is pumped to every part of the chassis where lubrication is desired, and the idea is that if the car is running on a smooth road, the minimum amount of oil that is necessary is used, but if the road gets rougher the pump works more energetically, and an extra quantity of oil, proportionate to the extra vibration, is sent along the ducts. The plunger fits a bore of very small diameter, and so the weight of the vibrator which operates it is sufficient to give a substantial pressure to the oil. There is no doubt that the system works perfectly, but one cannot help wondering what happens should the oiling system develop anything akin to the phlebitis which troubles some of us poor mortals at times. A clot in an automatic central oiling system might have serious results.

A New Austin.

The 1930 model Austin "sixteen" is, in my opinion, very much superior to its predecessors. The model has always been popular amongst discriminating car users, as the power of the engine, the springing, and all the adjuncts which go to make up driving comfort were all that the average driver needed. The new model is, in my opinion, fitted with a more flexible engine; at any rate, the power seems increased in some way. We also have chromium plating, Triplex glass, a decently sized cubby hole, and an intelligent arrangement of the instruments immediately in front of the driver. Whilst running at all speeds, from dead slow to maximum revs., the engine is singularly free from vibration and it pulls well under all conditions. It is capable of a high road speed—60 m.p.h. can be easily attained—and the car is so well sprung and balanced that it holds the road perfectly at that high speed and does not vibrate.

Curiosity, induced by this lack of vibration, led me to inspect the springing, and I found that each leaf was interleaved with a zinc insertion. Zinc is a metal which has certain lubricating and also certain deadening properties, and it is due to these inserts that the spring action is so steady and gentle. Austin springs do not need gaiters, and in use require very little attention. I tried the car in question over a piece of really badly surfaced road, with ruts and deep pot holes, but found that the car floated over them in an ideal manner.

British Light Cars in India.

A correspondent writes from Quetta regarding the importation of British light cars, and says:—In India one never travels without a bearer and one's bedding roll; these twain, together with a suit-case, fill the dickey seat of a British light car and fill it admirably. A friend and his kit will complete the load. The larger and heavier four-seater car provides extra space for the family man, and he dwells somewhat heavily on the amount of luggage and other impedimenta which have to be carried (dogs under the front seats with tails in the pedals, parrot in the boot, bedding on the running boards, wife and children, with maid, packed somewhere or other). Altogether, he seems to consider that a car should have a fairly large body. As to whether that body should be open or closed, he says: Except in the winter, and sometimes even then the hood is always erected to protect the occupants of the car from the sun. Provided that a saloon car is not left out in the full sun with windows closed, it is cooler to ride in than an open car. But the journey is likely to be

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& Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn
& Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E.
Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson.
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long (which means that with cars for country as distinct from town work) he says the open car with fabric hood wins every time. A white top to a saloon will help matters, but even then, after a halt a car so fitted will resemble an oven. For cantonment work, he continues, a saloon car such as the Morris Minor or the Austin Seven should prove ideal; if there is a lack of shade, the standard open models are excellent. "Very definitely, these little cars are capable of tackling tracks and situations undreamt of in England; but they have not the capacity required of a car to be used further afield." He adds that in India the large cars are most American, for many reasons. It appears that one of these is that it is heart-breaking to take a really good British car over terrible roads. It will stand up to it for years longer than the American car, but it costs considerably more to knock about and damage it than it does the American product. Prices are still a consideration in India.

The Commercial Motor Exhibition.

In the two years since the last Commercial Motors Exhibition was held at Olympia, much has been accomplished in the way of improvements and innovations, and the results are to be seen at the Exhibition at Olympia, which from every point of view is quite the most interesting that has yet been held. I noted with interest the predominance of the six-wheeler; numerous firms were showing the chassis of these vehicles, and in some cases they were so large that one could not help wondering how they would fare in a town or going round a corner anywhere. Motor buses are, of course, very much to the fore, and it is to be hoped that the display of them is an indication that the foreign markets for these vehicles will receive due attention. An announcement at the stand of a firm that catalogues are printed in Roumanian, Bulgarian, Yugoslavian, Greek and other languages conveys a very pointed moral to other manufacturers, which, it may be hoped, they will appreciate. It is that if you contemplate entering a foreign market it is essential that the task should be thoroughly undertaken. Many failures hitherto have been largely due to the haphazard, casual methods which have so often been adopted.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

[The following notes are taken from the bulletin of the British Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce of Sofia, dated October 31.]

General Situation.

The situation of the market has not improved during October. On the contrary, statistics are showing a considerable increase of bankruptcies especially in the leather, textile, and hardware trades. Curtailment of credits has been pursued in a drastic manner on the part of most local and foreign banks. Owing to difficult sales, both wholesale and retail dealers in imported goods are becoming more and more tied up and their payments are effected with increasing difficulty. The credit position may be described as serious, and there is much probability of further suspension of payments.

Foreign trade continues to show a large deficiency. According to preliminary data, the debit balance amounted in round figures to 2,000,000,000 leva at the end of September, which is practically a record figure since the

War. This situation is accounted for by a heavy increase of imports, in spite of semi-official measures intended to reduce the ordering of goods abroad. Exports have also been more active than last year, and are likely to increase up to the end of the year, but there is little chance of their substantially reducing the gap.

The difficulties of the existing legislation with respect to bankruptcy, moratorium procedure, and suspensions of payments have become particularly apparent during the present crisis. According to information from official sources, important legislative reforms are to be voted in Parliament in this connexion. It is generally admitted that better protection of foreign and local creditors will be practically secured in this way.

Aviation.

With a view to arousing interest in aviation and its future possibilities, especially amongst the students and schools, the Bulgarian Aero Club has arranged a series of lectures, and is forming branches of the club in different parts of the country. The first series of lectures have been a decided success and keen interest has been taken by the population. Propaganda work has been carried on by flights and the dropping of aviation literature over the towns. The movement has the support of the Ministry of Public Instruction who circulated all the schools in the Kingdom, with the result that the senior students of the boys' schools are taking a very keen interest in this new branch of science.

Miscellaneous.

Receipts of the State Treasury for September show a decrease as compared with the figures for August, due mainly to the non-payment of municipal contributions towards teachers' emoluments. In September ordinary receipts amounted to 497,003,426 leva and in August to 549,730,774 leva, while in July they were 596,134,000 leva.

The wholesale commodity index number (on the basis of 1914 equals 100) for September was 3,111, as compared with 3,141 for August, and 3,200 for July, and 3,051 for September, 1928. The general level of wholesale prices has thus decreased by 1 per cent. as against August, while an increase of 2 per cent. is shown as compared with September, 1928.

The trade balance during the month of September is again down by 219,954,431 leva, while during August it amounted to 310,864,985 leva. Imports during September totalled 50,204 tons for 685,116,399 leva and exports amounted to 29,001 tons for 465,161,968 leva, while in August imports amounted to 45,012 tons for 364,971,001 leva, and exports totalled 18,049 tons for 364,971,026 leva.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Labour has published a further list of raw and half-finished materials which are allowed to enter free of duty for industrialists enjoying the privileges provided for by the Law for Encouragement of Local Industry.

The quantity of notes in circulation from September 23 to October 23 again shows a steady level. On September 23 the notes in circulation amounted to 4,129,942,000 leva, on September 30 to 4,222,422,000 leva, on October 7 to 4,319,655,000 leva, on October 15 to 4,396,697,000 leva and on October 23 to 4,370,533,000 leva.

According to official data furnished by the Labour Section of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour the number of employees in industrial undertakings during October was 85,731 against 86,743 in September and 77,103 in October 1928.

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A novel test was recently carried out by a bicycle firm, when they "borrowed" two elephants, each weighing 2½ tons, from a neighbouring circus, and gave them a cycle to play with. The animals seized it, pulled it in opposite directions, and one of them even planted a heavy foot on the Dunlop saddle, but despite their efforts the bicycle suffered no damage at all, and a mechanic rode away on it after the test.

Company Meetings.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

Substantial Increase in Profits.

New Areas Under Irrigation.

Cultivation Programme.

Current Season's Favourable Prospects.

Speeches by Mr. Alexander MacIntyre and Sir F. Eckstein.

The twenty-second ordinary general meeting of The Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited, was held on November 6 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Mr. Alexander MacIntyre (the chairman and managing director of the company) presided.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—The directors' report and the statement of accounts have been in your hands for some time. I propose, therefore, with your permission to take them as read.

You will have heard with regret of the death of Mr. D. M. Hannay, which occurred on November 24, 1928. He was a director of this syndicate for over 20 years, and his absence from among us is deeply felt by my colleagues and myself. I am sure that I am expressing the feelings of all present in tendering our sincere sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement. (Hear, hear.)

You will all be glad to see Lord Lovat amongst us once again. (Hear, hear.) I feel sure that you will all share the great pleasure that we, his colleagues, feel in welcoming him back as a member of our board. Lord Lovat has always been a great believer in our future in the Sudan, and his help at all times has been invaluable.

I take this opportunity of congratulating Sir Frederick Eckstein on the great honour conferred on him by his being created a baronet—(cheers)—in recognition of his services to the Sudan and to the Empire. I know that I only express all your sentiments when I say that the honour conferred upon him was well deserved by his great achievements, and that we wish him health and a long life to enjoy the distinction. (Cheers.)

The Additional Areas: Terms Explained.

We have promised in the report to give you particulars of the extension of our area.

The decision by Government to enlarge the Gezira main canal made it possible to consider the immediate development of areas alongside the Sudan Government Railway to the north of our existing concession area. The proposed extension will consist of an area of about 80,000 to 90,000 feddans. In our opinion, this land is not as good as the average quality of our existing concession area, but it may have some compensating features owing to its being situated further north and in a drier zone.

I am pleased to tell you that after lengthy negotiations the Sudan Government have entrusted us with this extension on terms which we believe will compensate us should the cotton yield turn out to be below the average of that obtained on our existing concession.

On this Northern extension our share of the cotton crop is to be

on a sliding scale, the tenant receiving his usual 40 per cent., the Government 37½ per cent., and the syndicate 22½ per cent. of the net proceeds of the cotton crop. But if in any year the average net proceeds per feddan of cotton grown in the Northern extension fall to £E12 or less, then the syndicate is to receive 25 per cent. thereof, and if such average net proceeds are more than £E12 the syndicate is to receive a sum equivalent to 25 per cent. of £E12 per feddan of cotton, or 22½ per cent. of the actual net proceeds, whichever is the greater. If such average net proceeds rise to £E20 or more, then the syndicate is to receive a sum equivalent to 22½ per cent. of £E20 per feddan of cotton, or 20 per cent. of the actual net proceeds, whichever is the greater.

Any increase in the syndicate's share pursuant to these provisions is to be deducted from the Government's share, and any decrease in the syndicate's share is to be added to the Government's share.

"An Equitable Arrangement."

Briefly, what this means is that if we get a bumper crop our share will be 20 per cent., and if we get a medium crop our share will be 22½ per cent., and if we get a poor crop our share will be 25 per cent.

We consider that, taking all the circumstances into consideration, this is an equitable arrangement.

At Zeidab we have acquired from Government as freehold an extension of our Zeidab property, comprising the whole of the Timerab area, amounting to 4,031 feddans. This area was formerly irrigated by us, but it was not our own property.

In addition to this, in agreement with Government, we have arranged to irrigate a new area of about 1,500 feddans of land to the south of our own property. This land is on a higher level than our own, and we have erected a small pumping station for the purpose of irrigating it. In future years it should give us an area of about 500 feddans of cotton each year. As a matter of fact, we have at this moment a crop of 400 feddans of cotton planted on this area, which is looking well.

The Accounts.

I will now deal with the accounts. The form in which these have been presented to you in past years has been such that only slight alterations have been necessary in order to present them, as we do now, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the new Companies Act, which came into force on November 1, 1919. It is my duty to direct your attention to several changes which have taken place during the past year.

We have added £25,000 to the Gezira reserve account, bringing it up to a total of £225,000.

The various sinking funds now amount to £141,000, which is £41,000 more than last year.

London creditors are £100,000 less than last year, while Sudan creditors are £1,521,000, against £1,034,000 the previous year. This figure has been reduced considerably by payments since made.

On the credit side you will find our Zeidab property at about the same figure as last year. This property continues to be a very good investment.

The Gezira areas, in consequence of our extended programme, show considerable increases all round, and figure at £1,856,700, compared with £1,625,800 in the previous year.

Stock of cotton this year is £2,512,000, against £1,712,000. In arriving at the former amount, we have taken into account, as we do every year, the full sale price of cotton disposed of since July 1 up to about a month ago. As usual the unsold balance has been valued by the Board at what we consider a conservative figure.

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Our holdings in other companies are unchanged, except that we have taken an interest in Sudan Salt, Ltd., a newly formed concern which we think should have a profitable future.

The Kassala Cotton Company has on its new area in the Gezira 15,548 feddans under cotton, and consequently will produce its first crop during the coming season.

The Brazil Plantations Syndicate has been taken over on a share for share basis by Parana Plantations, Ltd. The construction of a railway from Cambara to the Tibagy River, which is in close proximity to the boundary of its land, is proceeding satisfactorily. I have no hesitation in saying that we value this investment very highly, although a little patience must be exercised.

We hold £1,346,000 of British Government securities, or £150,000 less than last year, and in cash we have £750,000, against £1,142,000 in the previous year.

Increase in Profit.

Turning to the profit and loss account, our gross profit is £933,000, exactly £100,000 more than last year. From this we have to deduct general expenses, bonus to staff, sums put to reserve, and the usual writing off, leaving a net profit of £656,000, which is £69,000 more than last year.

Out of this amount we paid you our usual interim dividend of 10 per cent. in July, and we now propose to declare a final dividend of 15 per cent., making in all 25 per cent. for the year.

The payment of this latter instalment we propose to postpone until January 5. We have so far done quite well in disposing of our cotton, but we were anxious to reduce our stocks still further before making this payment. Also a good deal of money outstanding on account of cotton sales will mature before that date.

The dividend will absorb £562,500, which enables us to add a considerable sum to our carry forward, which now amounts to £497,490.

Field Work.

Reviewing our field work for the past year, we had at Zeidab a good crop, having picked 19,015 kantars, which are all sold.

Cotton was planted on about 5,100 feddans, and we shipped 3,855 bales, against 3,330 bales last year.

In the Gezira we had under cotton 131,351 feddans, against 105,587 feddans the previous year; under dura 65,651 feddans, against 52,901; and under lubia 54,580 feddans, against 55,331. These crops, with the exception of lubia, show considerable and satisfactory increases.

The cotton crop amounted to 466,169 kantars, compared with 347,402 kantars.

The average per feddan was 3.54 kantars, against an average of 3.29 kantars for the previous year.

As usual the whole of this crop was shipped to England, and the quality and classification of our cotton is highly approved of not only by the spinners in Lancashire, but likewise by spinners in France, Switzerland, and the United States.

It is again my privilege to acknowledge the Board's gratitude to the British Cotton Growing Association, and especially to its managing director, Sir William Himbury, for the great help and assistance given to us in the disposal of our cotton.

New Season's Crops.

Coming now to the present, or rather the coming season's crop, we have at Zeidab about 5,400 feddans under cotton, and the crop promises to be a satisfactory one. We have picked nearly 15,000 kantars, and what we must now hope for is that the prices for long staple American cotton, which we grow at this station, will remain at a steady level.

In the Gezira we have:—

Under cotton	...	...	...	158,585 feddans.
Under dura	...	...	...	68,471 "
Under lubia	...	...	...	88,000 "

The extraordinarily heavy rains, which lasted right into October, have made this season's planting a very difficult one, as much resowing had to be done repeatedly. This means a late crop, but the latest reports received from headquarters indicate that, granted normal winter weather, prospects are quite promising.

With regard to the new northern extension referred to at the beginning of my speech, we have already commenced the development and canalisation, and orders have been placed for ploughing machinery, irrigation pipes and the necessary building material, so that no time shall be lost in getting on with the work.

We hope to complete before July, 1931, the development of about

40,000 feddans, which will add during the 1930-31 season a further 13,000 feddans to our present area under cotton, and in anticipation of this we have ordered the machinery and material necessary for a further ginning factory containing 80 gins, at Hassa Heissa, together with the additional workshops and houses required in connexion with this installation.

Work has already commenced on the foundations for the ginning factory.

Warm Tribute to Staff.

I should like at this point to express to our entire staff in the Sudan and in London our great appreciation of the loyal and efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties, and our recognition of the good work which has been done in the Sudan against many obstacles and in a trying climate. That they should have succeeded in producing such good crops from the old areas, and at the same time have completed well ahead of programme the whole of our western extension, amounting to 150,000 feddans, is no mean achievement, and one which I think you will agree reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. (Applause.)

From our profit and loss account you will have seen that we have set aside a sum of £16,000 as a bonus to the staff, which I feel sure you will cordially approve.

Great credit is also due to the Sudan Government irrigation service for their having completed the main canal system on this area in good time.

I also wish to thank our shippers, Messrs. Contomichalos Darke and Co. and Gellatly Hankey and Co., for the efficient manner in which they have handled our export and shipping business, and also the Sudan Government Railways for the prompt manner in which they have handled the crop from our ginning factories to Port Sudan.

Nile Water Agreement.

I will call upon Sir Frederick Eckstein to second the motion.

Sir Frederick Eckstein, Bt. (deputy-chairman), who was enthusiastically received, said: Ladies and gentlemen,—After the Chairman's full and lucid account of the syndicate's progress during the past financial year, there is little that I can add in seconding the resolution just moved by him.

I must, however, thank him for his kind reference to the honour conferred on me during the early part of this year, and I must thank you ladies and gentlemen for your cordial reception of his remarks.

The outstanding event in the history of our syndicate this year has been the agreement arrived at by the British Government and the Egyptian Government regarding the use and the distribution of the waters of the Nile. This agreement provides for the amount of water to be allocated to the Sudan until 1936, when no doubt further arrangements will be made, as by that time the Egyptian Government expects to have completed the large works they are contemplating for increased preservation of the flood water of the Nile.

Meanwhile, as the Chairman has told you, this arrangement enables that well-governed and well-administered country—the Sudan—to bring under irrigation further areas of which we have been asked to undertake the development and management.

The full extent of these areas cannot be ascertained at this moment, but one thing is tolerably certain, that the quality of the soil is not quite up to the average of our present concession area. Our Chairman has strong views on this subject, with which I fully concur, and I do so from personal knowledge, having travelled over these areas repeatedly.

For this reason the Sudan Government has given us on this new northern extension a slightly higher percentage of the proceeds of the crop than we receive on our old concession area. We tried hard to get better terms, but we were unsuccessful, so we must do the best we can to make the cultivation of this area profitable.

We have, however, some advantages.

Our agricultural risks are spread over a larger area, also we can undertake this work with our present resources, and are, therefore, not compelled to ask you to furnish us with additional working capital. This is unquestionably a gain to the syndicate.

In addition to this we have a further advantage—I would call it a great asset—and this is, that we have in our Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. MacIntyre, and in our manager, Mr. Poyntz-Wright, and his assistant manager, Mr. Archdale, and the whole headquarters staff at Barakat men who understand their work from A to Z, and

who are able and competent to deal successfully with any difficulties that may arise. (Applause.)

This asset does not figure in our balance-sheet, but it is nevertheless of immense value. (Hear, hear.)

I want to associate myself with the tribute paid by our Chairman to the staff here and in the Sudan. The striking proof of the excellent work they are doing is the regular and steady dividends we have been able to pay you year after year.

Our immediate prospects are bright, and I look forward without apprehension to the future. (Applause.)

Shareholders' questions having been replied to, the motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That a final dividend of 3s. per share (equal to 15 per cent.), less Sudan business profits tax at the rate of 1s. 5½d. in the £, and British income-tax at the rate of 2s. 6½d. in the £, be declared for the year ended June 30, 1929, payable on January 15, 1930, to shareholders registered at the close of business on December 31, 1929."

Capt. Bernard Eckstein seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors were re-elected, and, the auditors having been reappointed, a vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY.

Another Good Year.

The thirty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company, Ltd., was held on November 12 at the offices of the company, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Robert Miller (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report to the stockholders,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The gross earnings from the railway aggregate Rs.25.32 lakhs, as compared with Rs.25.12 lakhs for the previous year, an increase of Rs. 20,489. This is not a large improvement, but I must remind you that the previous year established a record in the history of the company. The working expenses were Rs.12.62 lakhs (or 49.85 per cent. of gross earnings), a decrease of Rs.36,048, resulting in a balance of net earnings of Rs.12.70 lakhs, an increase of Rs.56,537 as compared with the year ended March, 1928.

I think it hardly necessary to go into details of the fluctuations in receipts and expenditure generally beyond mentioning that "coaching traffic" showed an improvement, and that the decrease in "goods traffic" was entirely attributable to the falling off in coal carried for the public, due to smaller imports by the tea gardens, which decrease more than off-set the improvement in other articles of general merchandise carried. In regard to working expenses, the substantial decrease shown under "renewals and replacements" is principally for the reason that in the previous year's accounts with which this compares, heavier expenditure was incurred on the chord line and a diversion at Barnes Junction, necessitated by flood damage.

Our capital expenditure for the year under review aggregated in sterling £22,658, and, as mentioned in my remarks at the last general meeting, we have proceeded with the supply of further passenger carriages and two new engines have been sent out. This increase in our rolling stock, as I then explained, had become necessary in order efficiently to cope with the heavy increase in traffics.

I am pleased to be able to report that the steps which have been taken to protect the railway from floods and flood damage have been fully justified by results. Very heavy rains were experienced during the monsoon, and in July last the Teesta River was reported as being in high flood, the full force of the river then attacking the protective spur recently constructed at Barnes Junction. This position caused us considerable anxiety, but, thanks to the very excellent judgment and engineering work of our manager and engineer-in-chief, Mr. J. A. Polwhele, and his staff, the protective work successfully withstood the strain, and I am glad to say that we have this year been practically immune from flood damage.

A great deal of thought has been given to the problem of coping with this periodical menace, and we, your Directors, are convinced that everything possible, within our power, towards the protection of our property is being done by Mr. Polwhele. I must, however, impress upon you that although we have, over a period of many years, been to a large extent successful in controlling the immense flow of water by diverting it into other and safer channels, the danger

of a break through is always before us, and for that reason it is imperative we should set aside each year substantial reserves to meet such an emergency should it arise.

Now with regard to the net revenues. Account No. 9 shows that the net earnings for the year amounted to Rs.12.70 lakhs (a small increase of Rs.56,000 over the previous year), of which, after deduction of Indian income tax, there remains Rs.11.49 lakhs, which at the rate of exchange of 1s. 6d. equals £86,216. This, with interest earned and the balance brought into the account from the previous year, gives a total of £137,958. Of this sum the payment of the dividend on the Preference stock absorbed £14,000, reserve for payment of income tax £3,000, and loss on exchange on remittances £119, leaving £120,439. The Directors deemed it advisable, and so informed the stockholders in their interim report dated March 25, to transfer at that date £20,000 to reserve, which reduced the figure I have just quoted to £100,439. From this an interim dividend of 4 per cent. was paid on the Ordinary stock on April 24, absorbing £16,000, and a further £10,000 has been carried to reserve, leaving a balance of £74,439 to be dealt with.

Before I proceed with the question of the final dividend on the Ordinary stock, I would like to say a few words about the current year's business. It is satisfactory to note that our traffic returns still show improvement. For the period April 1 to October 19 the aggregate receipts for goods and coaching traffic have increased by Rs.33,857. Reports received from India are optimistic, and it is thought that these improvements in traffic will be maintained, so that the prospects for the remainder of the current year are considered to be good.

Now, gentlemen, with regard to the payment of dividend on the Ordinary stock, we have, in the light of our financial position, of works on hand and contemplated, and the ever-present possibility of heavy expenditure through flood damage, given this subject most careful consideration from all points of view and have in all the circumstances decided to recommend the payment of a final dividend of 4 per cent. and a bonus of 3 per cent., making, with the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid on April 24, a total distribution of 11 per cent. for the year, thus maintaining the increase of 1 per cent. in the bonus distribution paid for the previous year. This will leave a balance of £46,439 12s. to be carried forward into the new year, as compared with £49,342 11s. 10d. brought in from the previous year.

Sir A. K. Muir, Bart., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

NEW MESSAGERIES MARITIMES MOTOR SHIP.

The Messageries Maritimes new liner Jean Laborde has just been launched at the La Giotat works. She is a motor ship of 14,450 tons displacement, and will be capable of a speed of 15½ knots. The vessel is destined for service on the Indian line, and she will accommodate 132 passengers in the first class, 90 in the second class, and 72 in the third class, as well as having de luxe cabins for nine persons. Each de luxe and demi-luxe cabin will possess a private bathroom, and a dressing-room will also be attached to the double rooms. These special arrangements have been designed to permit families to live as in private suites, and it has been possible to achieve this by the construction of communicating doors inside the suites, so permitting intercourse between the cabins.

JAFFA ORANGE CROP PROSPECTS.

The Empire Marketing Board's correspondent at Jaffa reports under date October 25 that the orange crop promises well and that shipments to the United Kingdom are likely to be larger than last year, in spite of an increasing Continental demand. Owing to the fall of early fruit in June of last year, there was a high percentage of large fruit, but the weather during the summer this year was favourable and sizes should be much more normal.

The death occurred on November 9 of Sir Henry Kirk, who played a great part in developing telephonic communication between Great Britain and India, and in India itself. He was appointed Director of Telegraphs in 1900, and in 1920 became Director-in-Chief of Indo-European Telegraphs—a post he held for ten years. A particularly notable piece of work accomplished by him was the opening up of a land-line connexion, in 1907, between Teheran and Karachi, by way of Kerman, Central Persia, and Baluchistan. Direct working was established between London and Calcutta in 1909.

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Capital Paid up	-	-	-	£600,000
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	£250,000
Total Assets	-	-	-	£6,028,832

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C. De CERJAT, Esq.

SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.

General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.

Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital ...	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund ...	£3,000,000

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Aden	Calcutta	Colembé	Labore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony	Entebbe
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu	(Brit. E. Africa)	Jinja
Alexandria	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru		Uganda

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The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day. The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon. Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches. The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

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Head Office — **SOFIA** — Founded in 1865

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97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives. The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

THE ROUMANIAN MARKET.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended November 2:—

Grain.—There is no change to report in the situation, shippers concentrating their activities on fulfilling old sales. As these, however, are fairly large, a corresponding movement is noticeable on the local market. Maize continues to arrive in small quantities, but larger arrivals are expected shortly. The main buyer so far has been Rotterdam, but negotiations are being carried on for U.K. destinations and appreciable quantities have already been sold in that direction. Although the daily arrivals have been reduced somewhat owing to the recent military manoeuvres, stocks are still ample, and in view of the approach of the possible closing of navigation and the inconvenience and expense of keeping grain in lighters over the winter, it is to be expected that grainholders will be compelled to realise their stocks irrespective of the state of consuming markets. Owing to the rise in the water level at the upriver stations, due to the general rainfalls experienced, practically all the lighters which were held up above the Iron Gates have been released. The lull in chartering continues, and, owing to the depressed state of markets abroad and the considerable volume of tonnage still due to arrive during the present month, it is hardly likely that any further chartering will be done before the close of navigation. Freight rates have been maintained at 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d. for Continental destinations, although some parcels have been closed at below these rates in order to complete ships. At Constantza the supply of tonnage has proved far beyond the demand, with the result that besides the delay suffered by the ships, lower rates have had to be accepted.

Timber.—Business for Greece and the Near East is still very slack for the advanced time of the season, but continued transactions are being effected for Italy and Syria, for which destinations freights are firm. A small ship of about 130 waggons was reported as having been fixed for Syrian ports at £1 per waggon, and this rate is being quoted by others for the same destination. For Italy rates are about £10 10s./£11. For Alexandria three vessels of about 360 to 380 waggons has been taken for Basrah at £17 per waggon. The fixture is also reported of a 3,700 tonner on deadweight basis for two ports South France at 16s. 6d. per ton. The rate for Greece is nominally £8 5s.

Weather and Crops.—Light rains again fell intermittently during the week and the weather has been generally overcast, moist, and mild. There has been bright sunshine here from midday to-day and the temperature was 70 deg. Fahr. in the shade. An official report dated October 30 confirms that the rains between October 22 and 26 were sufficient to enable autumn cultivation to be carried on intensively nearly everywhere. In many parts the young seedlings are already well above ground and are establishing themselves vigorously, under favourable conditions. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Government, who are supplying a certain amount of machinery at 75 per cent. of cost and on easy terms, and are urging the peasants to sow as much winter wheat, etc., as possible, it is still feared that the area of autumn sowings may not reach last year's figure. The new Radio Lighthouse recently completed at Cape Caliacra was struck by lightning during a storm on October 29, the installation and building being damaged. An earthquake shock of considerable duration and severity was experienced here yesterday at 9 a.m. and is reported to have been felt throughout Roumania. Damage to buildings, though widespread, appears to have been slight; only one fatality has so far been reported.

Sulina.—Bar, 24 feet, unchanged. River depth has been improved to 23 feet.

Constantza.—This week about 8,500 tons of grain arrived from the interior and about 9,000 tons were exported, 8,000 tons going to the Weser and Hamburg, and 1,000 to London, whilst 100 tons oilcake were shipped to Liverpool. Six vessels are waiting for berth at time of writing and six others are expected shortly to load grain. Twelve ships loaded nearly 42,000 tons petroleum products, and six took oil fuel for bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, October 26.—Owing to the weak grain prices abroad grainholders are doing only hand-to-mouth business, hoping for an improvement, and consequently arrivals have been reduced the last few days. Nevertheless, the rate of 11s. per unit has been maintained for Antwerp/Rotterdam/Hamburg, and about 2,000 tons have been booked at this rate for prompt shipment to these ports. There are about 3,000 tons under shipment by liners for Mediterranean destinations. It was fine and warm until October 24, when light warm rains were reported in most parts of the country.

FUR PRICES LOWER.

The official report of the London Fur Trade Association (inc.) on the October raw fur skin sales states that the auctions were well attended, although there were not as many foreign buyers present as usual. Owing to the general slowing up of business during the summer months, and to credit stringency in Continental centres, there was a general weakening in prices, which was more pronounced in regard to staple lines than in the case of the finer furs. It is satisfactory to note that supplies of Russian skins, prices of which had been artificially maintained, were obtainable with good competition at values that accord more nearly with the laws of supply and demand. It is anticipated that the adjustment in values will stimulate trade, and it is probable that, so far as the better class furs are concerned, values will be maintained.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 6:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—In contrast to the strong reactionary tendency just prior to our last report this market has shown an easy undertone during the majority of sessions under review and values have been marked down 14 to 21 points for near and 12 to 27 for distant positions on the week. Trading in contracts continues to be on a fairly active scale, but with outside conditions still of an unsettling character, and a tendency on the part of consumers to restrict commitments as much as possible, liquidation of cotton bought higher up and periodical selling against "actual" have jointly forced values down to their present level. For some little time there have been rumours of Government intervention, and earlier in the week an official announcement to the effect that they would accept tenders on the basis of 27 dollars was not unexpected. Details of the scheme to stabilise values at the above figures have not yet been received; in any case the stated basis is some little way below current prices, but there is no doubt that its initial effect has been to check "bearish" activities and to relieve the market from sustained hedge pressure for the time being. We have now reached a period when fairly accurate ideas of the yield can be formulated, and it appears probable that the crop will approximate 2,750,000 kantars; this, plus the carry-over and prospective supplies from the Sudan, should give a wide margin over requirements. Turning to the consumption side, indications of an increase are hardly apparent at the moment, conditions on the Continent are not very satisfactory, and the after-effects of the recent financial crisis in the U.S.A. have yet to be determined. One point that may lead to an increased offtake is the fact that Sakel differences have closed in to the extent that the use of stapled outsiders for mixing or substitution purposes will probably now be discontinued.

Upper contract.—Quiet markets with little trade or speculative interest in evidence have been the general rule during the past week. Values have been held in check somewhat by the Egyptian Government's declaration that they were prepared to take up tenders should the near position fall to 19 dollars; thus values have widened somewhat with the American contract, but show a decline on the week of 8 to 15 points for near and 9 to 11 points for distant months. The Alexandria Produce Association estimate the Egyptian crop at 8,000,000 kantars, of which the Upper varieties will probably total about 4,400,000 kantars.

Egyptian Spot.

Except in one particular section the spot demand has been further restricted by the constant sagging in values, and buyers for the time being appear to have lost heart. As we have maintained for some time now, cotton is cheap enough, and what is required is some assurance that it will not become any cheaper in the immediate future. Sakel has been very much neglected except for the lower qualities at approximately from 9½d. to 10½d.

Uppers.—These have provided the main interest, as usual, but this week an additional attraction has appeared in the shape of a quantity of "distress" cotton, which in some cases was disposed of at tempting rates. The pick of this cotton was eagerly snapped up, and the daily sales have been augmented considerably in consequence of this unusual turnover. For the rest, the usual steady inquiry at from 10 to 25 on has been in evidence, and a fair amount of interest has been shown in the better cotton at from 60 to 90 on (November contracts).

Pilon has been in fair request for the "Best."

Nahda.—There has been more inquiry, but in the majority of cases sellers have been unable to meet buyers as regards price.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam.....	Florins to £	12.107	12.08½
Athens.....	Drachmæ to £	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275½—276
Berlin.....	Marks to £	20.43	20.39½
Berne.....	Francs to £.....	25.32½	25.16½
Bombay.....	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17.27.32—½
Brussels.....	Belga to £.....	35	34.86½
Bucharest.....	Lei to £	813.6	816
Budapest.....	Pen to £	27.82	27.91
Calcutta.....	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—29/32
Constantinople.....	Piastres to £	110	1.032½
New York.....	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.87½—13/16
Paris.....	Francs to £.....	124.21	123.87
Prague.....	Kronen to £.....	164.25	164 11/16
Rome.....	Lire to £	92.46	93.14½
Sofia.....	Leva to £	673.659	675½
Teheran.....	Krans to £	48	61
Vienna.....	Sch to £	24.58½	24.69
Warsaw.....	Zlotv to £	43.38	43 7/16—9/16

White, Maarad, etc.—Slightly more inquiry, but with meagre, if any, results.

Tokar Sakel.—Entirely neglected.

C.i.f. business has been quiet. Forwardings to the trade last week were returned as 5,062 bales Egyptian and 2,761 bales Sudan.

Spot Sales.—These have been estimated at 3,000 bales Egyptian and 750 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel have been reduced 35 points. Uppers are 11 to 19, and Pilon 15 points lower on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 14.90d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.51d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 11.45d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company report as follows for the week ended October 31:—Since our last report the futures market has been slightly less active, with the tendency again weak. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 27.80 dollars, 0.87 dollars down; January, 28.75 dollars, 0.65 dollars down; March, 29.40 dollars, 0.64 dollars down; May, 30.05 dollars, 0.47 dollars down. Ashmouni: December, 19.68 dollars, 0.18 dollars down; February, 20.15 dollars, 0.13 dollars down; April, 20.63 dollars, 0.10 dollars down; June, 21.00 dollars, 0.14 dollars down.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for October was 78,320 tons.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at August 31, 1929, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes:—Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £2,925,000; reserve fund: statutory reserve, £1,462,500; special reserve, £1,340,625; current, deposit, and other accounts, £13,949,391; Egyptian Government, £15,265,228; Sudan Government, £101,248; Mixed Tribunals, £1,970,012; bankers' accounts, £349,465; cheques and bills payable, £195,996; sundry other accounts, £1,886,633—£39,446,098. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £22,242,589; sundry securities, £1,747,747; advances on merchandise, £1,637,936; advances on securities, £4,007,687; advances otherwise secured, £1,359,052; sundry other advances, £1,292,615; bills of exchange, £2,289,315; local bills discounted, £716,114; buildings and furniture, £225,839; money at call and at short notice, £1,174,875; bankers' accounts, £357,827; sundry other accounts, £1,159,008. Cash: Notes, £1,405,736; gold, £348,242; silver, nickel, etc., £314,416—£2,068,394—£39,446,098. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £22,600,000—£22,600,000. Gold, £3,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, £7,960,430—£11,300,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, and British War Loan, £9,800,000—£11,300,000—£22,600,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Nov. 11
Government Stocks.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ..	79½	
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ..	88½	
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ..	82½	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ..	78½	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ..	28½	
Do. 7 p.c. ..	78½	
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ..	68	
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ..	68	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ..	54½	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ..	68	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ..	68	
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ..	56	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ..	56	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Loan issue) ..	71½	
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ..	96½	
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ..	82½	
Palestine 5 p.c. ..	100	
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ..	83½	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ..	68½	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ..	43½	
Do. 7 p.c. ..	79½	
Sudan 4½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ..	106½	
India 3½ p.c. ..	64½	
Do. 3 p.c. ..	64½	
Do. 3½ p.c. ..	100½	
Do. 4½ p.c. ..	85½	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ..	20½	
Banks.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt ..	7½	
Bank of British West Africa ..	41½	
Bank of Roumania ..	80½	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl. ..	28½	
Chartered Bank of India ..	18 15½	
Eastern ..	64	
Hambros ..	9 31½	
Ionian Bank ..	61½	
Imperial Bank of Persia ..	10½	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ..	16	
Lloyds ..	60½	
Mercantile Bank of India A ..	30½	
Do. B ..	33	
National Bank of Egypt ..	32½	
National Bank of India ..	48	
Ottoman Bank ..	11½	
P. and O. Bank Corporation ..	77½	
Westminster ..	76½	
Land.		
Kasala Cotton ..	8½	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ..	5½	
Sudan Plantations ..	3½	
Mines.		
Salaghat Gold Mining ..	4½	
Burma Corp. ..	16½	
Champion Reef Gold ..	9½	
Mysore ..	13½	
Nundydroog ..	16½	
Oreogum Gold Mining Ord. ..	8½	
Oil.		
Anglo-Egyptian B ..	27½	
Anglo-Persian Ord. ..	49½	
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ..	25½	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ..	28½	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ..	97½	
Brit. Burmah ..	73	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ..	43½	
Do. 8½ Cum. Pref. ..	26½	
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ..	-3	
Phoenix Oil and Transport (p.) ..	10½	
Do. (l.) ..	7½	
Shell Transport ..	4½	
Steaua Romana ..	10½	
Railways.		
Assam-Bengal ..	93½	
Bengal Doonars ..	182½	
Bengal Nagpur ..	90½	
Egypt Delta Light Rly. ..	4	
Nizams Gtd. ..	259½	
Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ..	42½	
Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ..	64½	
Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ..	55	
Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ..	62	
Southern Punjab ..	190½	
South Indian ..	116½	
Rubber.		
Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ..	6½	
Doolkalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	19½	
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ..	1	
Hewagum Rubber Co. ..	15½	
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ..	1½	
Malayalam Rub. and Produce ..	27½	
Shipping.		
Anchor 3½ p.c. Prf. ..	8½	
Cunard ..	22½	
Furness Withy ..	35½	
Khedivial Mail Ord. ..	52½	
P. and O. Deferred ..	52½	
Tea.		
Assam Co. ..	121½	
Bengal United Tea Ord. ..	15½	
Bramapootra ..	31	
British Indian Tea Ord. ..	29½	
Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord.	13½	
Carolina ..	34½	
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	415 16½	
Consolidated Estates ..	31½	
Darjeeling Co. ..	215½	
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	29½	
Doonars Tea Ord. ..	29½	
Doolooram Tea ..	29½	
Doom Dooma ..	39½	
East Assam ..	21	
Empire of Ind. ..	19½	
Halem Tea ..	115½	
Imperial Ind. ..	25½	
Jhazie Tea Association ..	39½	
Jekai (Assam) Tea Ord. ..	31	
Jorehaut ..	15½	
Lanka Plantations Ord. ..	65½	
Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ..	57½	
New Dimbula ..	23½	
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	31	
Nedeeem ..	31	
Ouvah ..	51½	
Pabbojan ..	125½	
Standard ..	311½	
Scottish Assam ..	25½	
Scottish Tea and Lands ..	25½	
Upper Assam ..	25½	
Insurance.		
General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £1½ paid) ..	144	
London & Lancs (£5, £1½ paid) ..	27½	
Royal Exchange (£1) ..	31	
Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ..	38½	
Miscellaneous.		
Alexandria Water Co. ..	14	
Associated Cotton Ginners ..	14½	
Dunlop Rubber ..	64	
Egyptian Hotels ..	24½	
Do. Markets Ord. ..	36½	
Do. Salt and Soda ..	84	
Montague Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ..	60	
Oriental Telephone ..	14½	
Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord. ..	24½	
Waring & Gallow ..	24½	
INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Oct. 23.
Government Loans.		Rs.
3½% Government Paper ..	68 1/16	
Banks.		
Imperial Bank of India ..	1.378	
Bank of India ..	98½	
Central Bank of India ..	18	
Coal.		
Baraboni ..	6 1/2	
Bengal ..	192½	
Burrakur ..	27	
East Indian ..	25½	
Equitable ..	39½	
Pench Valley ..	44½	
Raneegunge ..	61½	
Standard ..	38½	
Cotton.		
Bengal Nagpur ..	786	
Bombay Dyeing, etc. ..	192	
Bowrah ..	175	
Buckingham and Carnatic ..	2	
Cawnpore Textiles ..	333	
Century ..	482	
Central India ..	91	
Elgin ..	90	
Khatau Makanji ..	137	
Muir ..	161	
New Ring ..	321	
Phoenix ..	418	
Swadeshi ..	418	
Jute.		
Alliance ..	515	
Barnagore ..	252	
Budge Budge ..	547	
Clive ..	88 1/16	
Dalhousie ..	539	
Delta ..	578	
Fort Gloster ..	9½	
Gouropore ..	450	
Howrah ..	567 1/16	
Kamarhaty ..	618	
Kanknarrab ..	533	
Khardah ..	653½	
Kinison ..	1,063½	
National ..	30	
Standard ..	454	
Union ..	704	
Miscellaneous.		
British India Corporation ..	21½	
Bengal Paper Mills ..	40	
Bengal Timber Trading ..	213½	
Burns and Co. ..	374	
Cawnpore Sugar ..	374	
Champaran Sugar ..	121	
Hewrah Oil Mills ..	114	
ALEXANDRIA		
Prices on Nov. 1, supplied by G.L. Mortera, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Agricultural Bank of Egypt ..	£74	
Do. Fond. ..	£730	
Alexandria Water Co. ..	£143	
Assoc. Cotton Ginners ..	£23 3/2	
Behera Ord. ..	£219½	
Ciments d'Egypte ..	Fra. 123	
Div. ..	164	
Credit Foncier Egyptien ..	Fra. 848	
Fondateur ..	£2,400	
Crown Brewery Priv. ..	Fra. 133	
Filature Nationale d'Egypte ..	£3 1/16	
Frigorifique d'Egypte ..	£6 7/16	
Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ..	£144	
Land Bank of Egypt Actions ..	£16 3/16	
Parts de Fond ..	£210	
Monzaieh Canal Navigation ..	Pt. 190	
New Egyptian ..	Sh32 1/4	

THE NEAR EAST

and INDIA

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	557	INDIAN NOTES ...	558	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Notes and News ...	573
The Problem of Cyprus ...	559	Cyprus and Great Britain ...	566	The Economic Recovery of Yugoslavia ...	575
SPECIAL LETTERS—		BOOK REVIEWS ...	571	Forthcoming Sailings ...	576
Egypt ...	560	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	569	The Week's Finance ...	577
Turkey ...	561	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	570	Engineering Topics ...	579
Cyprus ...	562			The Near East Markets ...	581
Calcutta ...	563			Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	583

Notes of the Week.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

With the opening this week of a further conference between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria to settle the vexed question of properties owned by their respective nationals on the opposite side of the frontier there would seem to be at last some chance of a final settlement's being reached of the frontier problem. Bulgaria, it will be recalled, at first met the Yugoslav suggestion of compulsory expropriation with an emphatic refusal, mainly on the ground that the number of properties involved made the proposal impracticable. Yet as far as is known the Yugoslav Government has not withdrawn this suggestion, but maintains that it offers the only satisfactory solution. That Bulgaria should now be willing to discuss the proposal may imply that the number of property-holders involved is not as great as was imagined, or—more happily—it may mean that the proposal takes on a different complexion, given good will on each side. One result of the existence of the present régime in Yugoslavia is to inspire confidence in the good intentions of the Belgrade authorities. It would seem as if there had now been time for these good intentions to take effect on the Yugoslav side of the Bulgarian frontier, where "regrettable incidents" have been in abeyance for many weeks, if not for some months. A great opportunity presents itself to the Belgrade Government to clinch the matter by rounding up the band of brigands under the Bulgarian Ouzounoff, who have recently committed a series of dastardly outrages in Bulgaria, if it be true that they have returned to Yugoslav territory, from which they are said to have set out. Co-operation between the two Governments should soon result in the capture or extermination of this band, and nothing would be better calculated to inaugurate correct relations between the two countries and to disarm suspicion of the sincerity of Yugoslav policy.

Bulgarian Reparations.

The refusal of the Bulgarian Government to agree to the amount fixed by the Paris Committee on Non-German Reparations for Bulgaria's new scale of reparations is bound to evoke considerable indignation among her neighbours and will be cited by them as further evidence of original sin on the part of the "Black Sheep of the

Balkans." There is no reason, however, why the matter should be utilised for creating fresh bitterness among these States. Every country in a similar situation can be relied upon to protest its inability to pay, and in the last resort the decision of impartial adjudicators must be final, and the recalcitrant debtor will have to make a virtue of necessity by agreeing to pay the penalty imposed upon it. The trouble in Bulgaria's case is for the disinterested onlooker to decide whether any given sum fixed for reparations has been determined on sound economic principles, or whether political considerations, including a desire to cripple a defeated adversary, have been allowed to play their part. Probably no one outside the Reparations Commission can decide this point. It will be noted that the amount fixed for Bulgarian reparations has already been reduced once, at the instance of Great Britain. This circumstance suggests that other than strictly economic principles have been at work in Paris. As an instance of confused thought, which, it is to be hoped, has not penetrated into the Commission, may be cited the argument of a semi-official organ of the Greek Press which seeks to point the moral between a Greece that devotes a third of her annual Budget to the service of her Public Debt and a Bulgaria that is for ever seeking to obtain reductions in the amount that she has to pay. The comparison is, of course, vitiated by the fact that one country is merely paying interest on money received, while the other is protesting against the imposition of a burden which, it is claimed, must necessarily prevent, or delay, the economic reconstruction that is in the interest of the Continent as a whole. It would be well if the question of Bulgarian reparations could be settled definitely without further loss of time, as the maintenance of this open sore helps to keep alive a bitterness between the Balkan States which is prejudicial to all alike.

Turkey at Work.

In spite of the comprehensive nature of the address delivered by the President of the Turkish Republic at the opening of the Gand National Assembly, the Prime Minister, Ismet Pasha, found plenty of material for his own speech, in which he was able to enter into greater detail than was suitable for the Ghazi's remarks. The

Angora Government continues to stress the importance of agriculture for Turkey, and much of its attention is devoted to this subject. A start has been made with agrarian reform, and already over twenty-five thousand acres of land have been distributed among landless peasants in the eastern vilayets. The terms on which these grants have been made were not stated, but Ismet Pasha was careful to point out that there was no intention of creating competition between peasants and the owners of larger properties. An effort is being made to improve the quality of seed grain and to distribute better seed in districts where the existing quality is poor. Official encouragement has been given to the establishment of co-operative societies, and within three months the formation of a hundred of these was reported. Very wisely a voice of warning was raised in expert quarters against this rate of procedure. The Agricultural Bank had started a few co-operative societies and was apparently prepared to keep an eye on these and to nurse them into a healthy independence. It was obvious, however, that the promiscuous formation of co-operative societies without knowledge of the scientific principles on which they ought to be based would be only prejudicial to the movement. The Prime Minister delivered a spirited defence of the new Turkish tariff, which he declared, did not exceed the limits of a "simple minor Customs measure." One object had been to protect home-grown wheat, and this end he was confident would be attained, with corresponding advantage to the country. Turkey was obliged to think of her cultivators, who formed seventy-five per cent. of her population, but did not intend to do prejudice to other sections of the people.

A Tragedy in Iraq.

The tragic circumstances attending the death of Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Saadun, Prime Minister of Iraq, will have smitten with sorrow all, Iraqis and British alike, who knew him. This is not the place, nor have we the inclination, to appraise his position in the history of Iraq, but it is as certain as anything can be that his will be a most honoured niche when the history of the young Arab State comes to be written. There are certain obscurities in the poignant letter which he wrote, just before his death, to his son Ali, that make an immediate commentary upon his passing difficult, if not impossible. This much, however, at least may be said: that both Iraqis and British have lost in Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg an upright gentleman, a disinterested patriot, and a loyal friend. That he had political enemies is true: nor was opposition to his administration necessarily an unhealthy sign in Iraq. The occupa-

tion of a Cabinet post in Iraq is no sinecure. Whether he could have been more staunchly supported by the British Government in his policy of co-operation with Iraq's Ally, Great Britain, is a matter on which much could be said, but to suppose that he was, as was sometimes said of him, a tool of the British, was grotesquely untrue. He had his own ideals for his country, which he served long and well; and it is certain that, now that he lies buried in the Gailani Mosque, those ideals will not be forgotten, least of all by those hundred and fifty thousand Iraqis who watched the funeral procession. If this infinitely sad and rare event may have opened official eyes to the human forces at play beneath the stern business of governance, if it helps to emphasise the fact that the fate of Iraq represents not merely a policy but also the destinies of human beings, then, as King Faisal said, though in another sense, "we may find consolation in this tragedy."

The King's Speech at the Majliss.

This tragedy will have thrown a heavy cloud over the Iraq Parliament, which opened on November 2, but its onerous tasks will have to be carried out. How great a task the Administration of the late Prime Minister had set itself is to be seen from the King's Speech from the Throne, in which, after references had been made to the generally satisfactory condition of Iraq's foreign relations, to the scheme for the liquidation of the Ottoman Public Debt, and to the new Treaty which is to signalise Iraq's complete independence, a forecast of various Bills was made. King Faisal said that his Government was preparing draft laws for the regulation of the rights and duties of cultivators and for the protection and encouragement of local products, and he added that a National Defence draft law would be submitted—"so that the Government may be in a position to cope with the responsibility they have undertaken to defend the country against foreign aggression and maintain internal order." Other draft laws related to the Civil Service, Civil Pensions, and the Penal Code; and among the schemes which were engaging the Government's attention were the building of the Habbaniyah Dam, the establishment of an Agricultural Bank and a National Bank, the creation of an Iraqi coinage, the reduction of certain duties, and the increase of education and of health establishments. The Governmental programme lacks nothing, therefore, in ambition.

INDIA.

An Unconvincing Reply.

The somewhat belated rejoinder by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce to the circular issued last summer by the Associated Chambers of Commerce, concerning the menace of discriminatory legislation is not a very convincing document. The literature on the subject is already voluminous, although the issues involved are simple enough. And those who are still unconvinced of the equity or of the expediency of the case as put forward by his many predecessors in that rôle are not likely to be any more impressed by the more direct and forceful advocacy of Mr. G. D. Birla. On the contrary we are inclined to share the opinion of an Anglo-Indian weekly contemporary, by no means inimical to Indian aspirations, either economic or political, that the result may be very different from that contemplated by the Federation, for the point of the whole argument certainly amounts to little more than "that the British commercial community in India should offer themselves, and all their goods and chattels, as a voluntary sacrifice at the altar of Indian Nationalism." In the first instance it should be pointed out that there is not, and never has been, so far as we know, any intention on the part of the Associated Chambers or any other spokesmen of European commercial interests in India, "to influence public opinion in England against India's right to adapt her economic policy to her own

(Continued on page 565.)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1929.

THE PROBLEM OF CYPRUS.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish a Memorandum forwarded by the Cyprus Delegation, which has come to London to lay before His Majesty's Government the claims of the Greek-speaking population of the Island. This Memorandum is not the document that has been presented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but reproduces in abbreviated form the Memorial that was drawn up by the Greek-speaking members of the Legislative Council for submission to the Government by the Delegation. In the interval that has elapsed since the preparation of the Memorial and the compilation of the Memorandum the Cyprus Delegation has been received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and has been told that the British Government can hold out no hope of meeting its request for the union of Cyprus with Greece. It may be inferred, therefore, that the Memorandum lays much less stress than the original Memorial on the subject of union. Very wisely the Delegation, which, when it left Cyprus, was concerned mainly, if not solely, with the cause of union, has realised that the rejection of its claim by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Government in language as emphatic as that used by any of its predecessors renders the possibility of union with Greece out of the question in the near future. In order, therefore, not to return empty-handed to the Island, it has supplemented the demand for union by the more reasonable request that present conditions in Cyprus should form the subject of an inquiry by a Commission. In support of this request the Memorandum refers to a number of factors that render the situation, in the opinion of the Greek-speaking population, "far from satisfactory." The proposals regarding constitutional changes and administrative reforms are now being considered by His Majesty's Government, and an answer given to a question in the House of Commons last week stated that no final decision had at that time been taken on the subject. The purpose of the Memorandum now issued is to direct "sympathetic attention" to the case of Cyprus and to insure that as wide a body as possible of public opinion in Great Britain is acquainted with conditions on the Island.

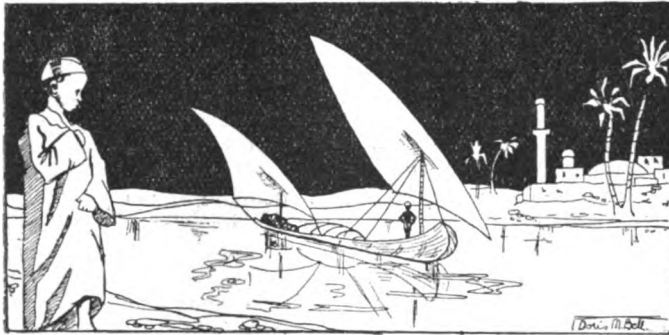
No one with first-hand knowledge of Cypriot affairs can contend that British administration has done all that it might have been expected to do for Cyprus. At the same time it has to be recognised that the obstacles in the way of the Island's progress have not been due solely to the shortcomings of successive Governments. Cyprus is a poor country, and much of the inaction of which Administrations in the past can be accused has been imposed upon them by the need of rigid economy. The history of the Tribute carries with it, if not its own condemnation, at least a strong argument for a more generous attitude towards the Island in the first instance. On the other hand the Cypriots themselves have a large measure of responsibility for their own lack of progress. Not only have the innate conservatism and the inertia of the inhabitants prevented them from making the most of their opportunities, but they have also imposed upon the Government the necessity of a cautious policy. In this way the Island has condemned itself to a vicious circle. The people have been too prone to look to Government for help, instead of helping themselves, and the Government has been deterred from launching ambitious schemes

by the backwardness of the people and their hesitation to abandon primitive ideas and methods. Until recently the Greeks in Greece itself, however ready to form political organisations and to discuss politics among themselves, have shown a strong individualistic tendency in matters of commerce and industry. The same lack of co-operation for economic ends has manifested itself among Greek-speaking Cypriots. Since the War, when Great Britain has come to appreciate the fact that more might have been done for Cyprus, the situation has been complicated by the insistence of the leaders of the Greek-speaking community that the demand for union with Greece should override all other considerations. It is not correct to say that Cyprus has stood still under British administration; progress there has been in many directions, and of recent years much leeway has been made up; but it goes without saying that with closer co-operation between the people of the Island and the Government the rate of advance might have been greatly accelerated.

A new era will have been inaugurated in the history of Cyprus, if, as a result of the visit of the Delegation now in London, the Greek-speaking population accepts, albeit with disappointment, the decision of the British Government that no hope can be held out for the cause of union with Greece, and sets to work loyally with the Administration in the interests of the Island as a whole. The constitutional change for which the Memorial asks bespeaks more responsibility for the Greek-speaking community and a more direct share in the administration. It will be evident to every man of intelligence that there can be little inducement to any British Government to meet such a demand, unless it can be assured that effect will be given to the new régime by the Cypriots themselves in complete loyalty and sincerity. Rightly or wrongly, the British Government has decided, in its capacity of trustee of Imperial interests, that Cyprus cannot at this time be ceded to Greece. Can the same Government reasonably be asked to run the risk, by handing over control of the Island's legislature to the Greek-speaking community, of having the whole administrative machinery brought to a standstill because the demand for union with Greece which has been refused is still to be pressed in season and out of season? All uncertainty on this point could be removed, if the Greek-speaking Cypriots pledged themselves to abandon the union-movement for a period of, say, twenty years, during which a whole-hearted attempt to promote the material development of the Island on agreed lines would be made in co-operation with the authorities. Never in the history of Cyprus has a more favourable opportunity presented itself for a straightforward effort on the part of elements hitherto mainly at variance to understand one another and to work together in the real interests of the Island. There is a general desire to remove from Cyprus the reproach of having been the Cinderella of the Empire; no Government in Great Britain is likely to lend a more sympathetic ear than the present one to the requests of Greek-speaking Cypriots, and in the present Governor the latter have an administrator of broad views, of ready sympathy, with a shrewd and practical mind. The attitude of the Delegation in London gives rise to the supposition that the other leaders of the union-movement also realise that they have done their duty to their compatriots by pressing home their request as long as there was the least hope of success, and that now statesmanship and common sense alike require that personal considerations should be subordinated to the interests of the Island. Every point that the Memorandum makes calls for specific action on the part of the Cyprus or the British Government; it is against the dictates of reason that concessions should be granted to people who may be liable to stultify them by an attitude of non-co-operation. When once this danger has been eliminated by a self-denying ordinance of the Greek-speaking community, the case for a constitutional change and administrative reforms in Cyprus becomes overwhelming.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, November 9.

The Residency at Cairo.

The High Commissioner to-day officially took up his residence in Cairo, and as it was his first official arrival here there was a reception at the station. Prior to their departure from Alexandria, Sir Percy and Lady Loraine were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Carver at their residence at Ramleh, "The Oasis," where they were introduced to the British community, practically all the members of which had been invited to meet them. The High Commissioner came up by the usual special train, and was greeted on arrival here by Midhat Yeghen Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Governor of Cairo, and Sir Peter and Lady Strickland. The Guard of Honour was furnished by the Gloucestershire Regiment, and, after inspecting it, Sir Percy Loraine passed down the platform and was introduced to, and shook hands with, some of those present.

There would undoubtedly have been a bigger muster of British residents had it not been a Saturday, which is the business community's half-holiday, and had the arrival not been unfortunately timed to coincide with the first race meeting of the season at Gezira. Altogether one cannot congratulate those who were responsible for the arrangements, which in the matter of smooth and orderly working contrasted strikingly with what took place when the previous High Commissioner arrived in Cairo. The innovation of introductions on the platform was not altogether happy, since in the process it necessarily gave preference to the official element and overlooked a number of the leading members of the community.

The Cotton Question.

The Government has again intervened on the cotton contract market in order to stop the "bear" manœuvres which, according to the cotton-growers, are unduly depressing the prices. So far the market has maintained itself above the Government's limits, in spite of the fall in the American market, but there is little doubt that it is a mistake to interfere with the play of supply and demand like this, even if speculators are playing with the market. After all, before the War, there was never any question of Government's intervening on the cotton market; yet "bear" manœuvres operated then just as

they do now. Far wiser has been the Government's decision to raise the limits within which it is prepared to advance on the crop so as to assist the producer to meet his obligations while waiting for a better market.

Gebel Aulia.

For the fifth time since 1913 work has again been suspended on Gebel Aulia. Every time with the exception of the first, which was due to the outbreak of War, the real cause, in spite of what has been officially said, has been political, and it looks as if once more politics were going to interfere with the completion of a work which is a vital link in the chain of works Egypt must carry out from the Mediterranean to the Lakes to ensure her future summer water supply. The question will have to come before Parliament, on account of the need for money to carry on the work, and recollecting the controversy that went on before, one wonders when, indeed, it will be possible to go full steam ahead. As it is, valuable time has been lost through the interference of politicians, encouraged by irrigation engineers, who have pitted themselves against the opinion of the world-wide experts who have reported on the scheme, and it is estimated that the loss to the country runs already into several millions.

Sir Valentine Chirol.

Nowhere outside England has the death of Sir Valentine Chirol been more regretted than in Egypt, where, together with Mr. Alfred Spender, he was probably the best-known British journalist of the past half century. His connexion with the country dated back to the days of Ismail Pasha, and, as was indicated in his book, "The Egyptian Problem," written in 1920 after the visit of the Milner Mission, whose recommendations owed much to Sir Valentine's inspiration, he had been associated with practically every phase of the Egyptian situation from the beginning of the Occupation.

Albeit by no means a Defeatist, by which is meant out here one who in every instance advocates a policy of ceding to Egyptian requests whether reasonable or not, he had gained the complete confidence of the Egyptians, and his opinion on the situation was always eagerly canvassed and listened to. It was, perhaps, his great gift of human understanding and sympathy with his fellow-men which gave him this hold on the people of this country. A contributory factor in the affection and respect in which he was held, was the habit he had of mixing freely with all and sundry. He loved to wander about the place, stopping Egyptian passers-by to inquire, and carrying on conversations, which, leading up to questions of the hour, gave him a good insight into what the public thought or felt. Many Egyptians recall with admiration the courage he displayed even during the 1919-1920 events when, already an old man, he went out into the streets unattended as of old, indifferent to what trouble might be abroad, and investigated for himself what was going on and how it was affecting the people in general.

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TURKEY.

Stamboul, November 6.

Reopening of the National Schools.

As the utilisation of bells would constitute an infraction of the tenets of Muslim Canon Law, drums usually take their place, although ships' bells are now used in both the Turkish Navy and the mercantile marine. To the sound of drumming in every quarter of Constantinople, the gentlemen who in England, usually garbed in red frock-coats, utilise a hand bell and preface their remarks with "Oyez, Oyez," announced to the populace that the "popular schools" would reopen on November 1, and that anyone who had failed to pass the test for a certificate at the close of last term must re-enter and take up the courses *ab initio*. As the curriculum as at present framed covers a period of no more than four months' duration, the obligation in itself can scarcely be said to constitute a great hardship. Non-attendance and failure to obtain the prescribed certificate of proficiency by May 1 next are punishable offences, however, in addition to debarring delinquents from obtaining employment under Government, *esto perpetua*.

The "popular schools" established throughout the country exceed 8,000 in number, of which about 700 in Constantinople are attended by 30,000 persons. There are no mixed classes, women attending on certain days and men on others, whilst evening classes are open to those who are tied down to office, shop or factory during the day. Attendance is compulsory for all persons of both sexes between the ages of 16 and 45, instruction being given by primary school-teachers.

Pupils fall into two divisions, denominated A and B. The A's are the illiterates, those who are ignorant of both Arabic and neo-Turkish characters; the B's, at least those among them who obtained a certificate of proficiency last term, can now proceed to the three R's and simple object-lessons. It is hoped that, by building on this foundation and with this educational make-up, graduates will be sufficiently equipped to continue their studies by themselves when the instructional period has been completed in the classes.

That the threatened imposition of pecuniary penalties is being taken seriously is apparent from the signs of application which one may observe in the streets, shops, coffee-houses and public vehicles, where simple primers are brought out of cummerband, pocket or satchel and pencils begin to travel across copy-books. It is no uncommon sight to see the more advanced helping along the backward, like lame dogs over stiles, with precept and example.

The Eternal Hat Problem.

Some few days ago, worshippers in one of the larger mosques at Smyrna were astonished to hear a voice loudly proclaiming, amidst general silence, that the modern hat was a contrivance of the cloven-footed one and that it was high time that the nuisance was done away with, once and for all. "I myself," went on the speaker, "am about to offer myself up as a sacrifice on the altar of patriotism." Suiting his action to his words, the individual threw away his hat and donned a fez which he took from his pocket.

The matter having been taken up by the police, the offender, who turned out to be a postal and telegraph clerk of the name of Nadir Effendi, was declared to be *non compos mentis*. Nadir Effendi has since his little escapade been placed under restraint in an establishment where he will, no doubt, enjoy ample opportunities of meditating upon the serious drawbacks which attend the doffing of hats and donning of fezzes in places of public worship.

Turkish Women's Union.

One cannot but applaud the persistence and valour with which the Turkish Women's Union have stood by their guns, until at last victory now appears to smile on them. The acting-Governor of the city has informed the ladies, at all events, that the Government have accepted the principle of women's votes at all municipal elections and that, moreover, the Ministry is in entire sympathy with the projected creation of a force of women police. A Madame Ade, reputed to be an expert in such matters, has been invited by the Union to visit Constantinople with a view to explaining the organisation of similar bodies in other countries.

That Turkish women police will have their hands full is certain, if the skeleton programme of duties drawn up by the Union is ever put into force. They are to inspect and control picture-theatres, dancing halls, night clubs, bars, restaurants, public parks, every habitat, in fact, where the *genus* "flapper" is accustomed to disport itself and take its pleasures.

In addition to the foregoing, however, the lady police are to take every opportunity of placing a check on a certain class of traffic which has recently formed the subject of very painstaking investigations by a body appointed by the League of Nations. Without wishing to say that the moral atmosphere of modern Constantinople is any worse than that of most large Continental cities, and without desiring to cast a slur on the standard of

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morals of the younger members of the distaff side of the population as a whole, one must admit that there is much leeway to be made up and much room for improvement in many respects.

Public Holidays.

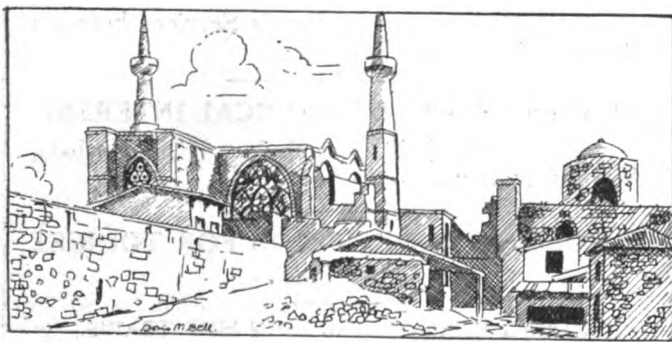
As it has been found in practice that the reviews, receptions and other ceremonies which take place on public holidays in Constantinople are generally scratch affairs lacking organisation, a Commission has been going into the matter for the past week and the opportunity has been taken of drawing up the official list of such holidays, which in future will be the following:—

January 17, Commemoration of flying personnel killed in the course of their duties; April 23, Children's Day; July 23, Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Constitution; August (date variable) Pilgrimage to War Graves at the Dardanelles; August 30, Victory Day and Aviation Day; October 6, Reoccupation of Stamboul; October 29, Feast of the Republic; November 1, Anniversary of the Opening of National Popular Schools; December 12, National Sovereignty.

Visit of Count Volpi.

Count Volpi, a former Italian Minister of Finance, has just passed through Constantinople on his way to Angora, where he will spend a few days as the guest of the Minister of Finance. The Turkish papers publish an interesting biography of the former statesman, who is now engaged in industrial enterprises, but the comments of the news-sheets as to the object of his visit are somewhat conflicting. The *Milliet* inclines to the view that the presence of Count Volpi at Angora is connected with the Trade Agreement which is shortly to be concluded between the Turkish and Italian Governments. The *Djumhouriet* and the *Vakit*, on the other hand, are disposed to explain the visit as being related to a vast scheme of economic and financial enterprises to be undertaken by Count Volpi's group in Anatolia.

As the one cannot go without the other and as Italian shipyards lately carried off a fairly important order for war vessels destined for the Turkish Navy on very accommodating financial terms, one is inclined to believe that the remarks of the *Djumhouriet* and *Vakit* are nearer the mark than those of the *Milliet*.



CYPRUS.

Nicosia, November 6.

Armistice Day.

In accordance with a notification by Sir Ronald Storrs, the Governor, in the official *Gazette*, Armistice Day is to be duly observed on November 11. A special service will be held in St. Paul's Church, Nicosia, at 10.30 a.m., and a gun fired at 11 o'clock, at the Police Headquarters, as a signal for a two minutes' Silence.

The Greek Deputation to London.

On October 25 the Colonial Secretary communicated to the Press a telegram which had been received that day by Sir Ronald Storrs from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In this it was stated that the Minister had

received the Cypriot Deputation, and had heard their representations. In reply he had informed them that he could not hold out any hope that the Government of His Majesty could give a favourable hearing to their petition for the union of Cyprus with Greece. In regard to other questions which were raised in the memorial of the elected Greek members of the Legislative Council submitted by the delegates, he had informed them that a considered reply would be sent as soon as possible.

On October 26 the Greek Archbishop received a telegram from the deputation in London giving the same information. The delegates in their interview with the Secretary of State, in accordance with their instructions, confined themselves almost exclusively to the petition for union; but they referred incidentally to the internal state of the Island, which they describe as anomalous and unsatisfactory.

Comments in the local Press indicate that in the view of those concerned there should be no despondency. The reply, it is said, expresses the individual opinion of the Minister. A more favourable view may be taken by the Prime Minister and by Parliament. But, in any case, the hopes of ultimate success should not be damped. There should be no flagging in the effort in Cyprus, where the struggle must be maintained, and where there is full confidence that the legitimate aspirations of five-sixths of the people will be ultimately satisfied.

The Agricultural College.

Among the institutions which have been established in Cyprus, that of the Agricultural College, at Nicosia, has attained great popularity during the nineteen years of its existence. This is shown by the keen competition that now takes place for admission. At the entrance examination for the present year there were 75 Greek candidates for seven vacancies, and 25 Turkish for two vacancies.

Water Supply of Nicosia.

The capital of Cyprus, although it has been much improved in various respects, especially in its general setting, still falls far short of what should be accomplished during fifty years. A contemplated loan of £20,000 by the Municipality, sanctioned by the Governments, should go a good way towards carrying out some of the more pressing needs for improvement. There seems to be quite rightly a general desire that an increase of the water supply, which is inadequate, and badly felt during a dry summer, should take precedence of all other projects, and should then be under the administration of a new and strengthened Board.

The Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council will not meet until December, unless anything unforeseen should occur to render convocation desirable.

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY IN IRAQ.

The amount so far received on behalf of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) by the Hon. Secretary, Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, is, in cash and promises, about £6,700. Some of the promised donations are payable by instalments over a period of years, and more money is coming in.

The Shah of Persia inaugurated on November 5 the new railway from Bandarshah, on the Caspian Sea, to Sari, in the province of Mazanderan.

It is reported that an American group has submitted an offer at Belgrade to construct a series of up-to-date hotels in a number of Yugoslav towns such as Split, Dubrovnik, Kotor, and Sarajevo.

The Hon. Mrs. (Diana) Newton, of Portchester Road, Bourne-mouth, who died on July 22, daughter of the sixth Lord Vernon, and widow of C. E. Newton, left estate of the value of £31,107, with net personalty £30,092. Among other bequests she left £3,000 to the Church Missionary Society for the English Hospital at Jaffa.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 31.

A Declaration of Policy.

Before this letter is read it will be known whether the British Government intends to make a declaration of policy regarding India now, to supplement that of 1917; the declaration, if there is to be one, will have been made, and small will be the interest left in our present state of mind, expectant or apprehensive. Our minds are naturally full of the matter. The newspapers, day after day, have had such headings as "Britain's Policy in India; Lord Irwin to make important statement," "India waiting for a statement," "Viceroy interviews Indian leaders," "Will Lord Irwin speak this week?" Then there has been Lord Birkenhead, with his "indisputable evidence" and his letter to the Press, and our speculation whether that will influence the Government, and there may be after all no declaration. Then there has been the release for publication by Mr. Jinnah of his letter to the Prime Minister and the Viceroy of four months ago. In that letter he urged the British Government to make a declaration, and to follow it up with invitations to representatives of India to confer with them before the Government formulated definite proposals and placed them before Parliament.

The Better Course.

Declarations are always a mistake. They are a preliminary to a change. It is better to make that change betimes, and just let people wait until you are ready and your plans mature. No declaration is really necessary: it suffices that it should be known that you are preparing a change. Further, you cannot frame words except to fit the circumstances of the moment, or those lying close ahead; close enough to be foreseen. It follows from that that even the most carefully worded declaration, when those who made it have left office, will be one that any two persons could read in a different sense. So it becomes a bone of contention—the mere declaration does, as if it was not enough to have the policy following the declaration as a bone of contention. There was the declaration of 1917; then Sir Malcolm Hailey's statement as to what it meant, and how much arguing since about it? In this very letter of Mr. Jinnah's there was more argument about Sir Malcolm Hailey and his statement. There probably will be something now, but one may hope that it will be a statement of the Government's intentions in the immediate future, as, for instance, that there will be a Round Table Conference before Parliament is called upon to consider what constitutional changes should be made in India. Such a statement cannot be made too soon. A declaration regarding Dominion status—what it is, and whether it will be conferred on India, and if it will be, when it will be—any time that could be chosen for such a declaration must be, in your correspondent's opinion, too soon.

The Maharaja of Bikanir.

In his address to the administrative Conference, which formed part of his recent birthday celebrations, the Maharaja of Bikanir may have said nothing that had not been said before; but it will make for the strengthening of the stabler elements of India that it should have been stated again, with such authority, that the Princes make it a condition of their welcoming the attainment by India of Dominion status that "India remains an integral part of the British Commonwealth under the ægis of our beloved King-Emperor." What was probably least expected of the Maharaja, when he rose to address the Conference, was that he should speak in no measured terms of the baser parts of British Indian journalism, or the baser kind of

British Indian journalist. He spoke of "a certain type of local correspondents and a certain section of the Press, which have brought the name of the public Press into the mire and which have strayed far away indeed from all that was honourable, best and noblest in the traditions of journalism and journalists." If you are far from all that was honourable, where are you? But that is just where those the Maharaja had in mind are.

Discipline.

There are stable elements in India and there is that crying lack of discipline everywhere, side by side with what is ordered and stable. I had a paragraph or two in one letter about the lack in the character of Indians of what makes for discipline. I was not without a doubt, when I left off, whether I had not a little over-charged the picture. My readers may have had a little more doubt. So I may quote this from the article of an Indian writer: "Mr. Gandhi stated with his usual clearness and directness that an utter lack of discipline pervaded the atmosphere in the country; that it was one form of violence; that the land was not ready to put itself under discipline; and as he must be *aut Cæsar aut nullus* in the Congress, he was retiring."

India's Economic Freedom.

An exceedingly difficult question is argued at some length in a statement by Mr. G. D. Birla, made on behalf of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, in reply to a circular letter issued in July by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon, a body that is predominantly European. Part of Mr. Birla's statement is as follows: "There can be no self-government in India, if she is to be denied the power to devise and follow a national economic policy, including the right, if her interests require it, of making discrimination against non-national interests." It may be said, of course, that there would be very great scope for devising and following an economic policy, even if such discrimination as Mr. Birla had in his mind was against the law of the land. Such non-national interests (to call them such) as existed, or might come into existence, could in the nature of things cover but a small part of the whole field. Movement in the rest of the field would be free to the legislatures. But these Indians will over-charge everything they say. Another thing that may be said is that the word "interest" has more senses than one, and that what in one sense is a non-Indian interest, may in another sense be an Indian interest. Another thing that must be said is that, if India is to be part of the British Commonwealth, Englishmen living in India must be considered as Indian subjects, and have all the trading rights of such subjects.

India's Interests.

If a steamship company, trading in Indian waters, is owned chiefly by non-Indian shareholders, it is so far a non-Indian interest that the profits leave India; but if it is an efficiently managed concern, and is not overcharging its customers, it may be much to India's interest to keep it going. If it was replaced by another company, the shares of which could only legally be held by Indians, it would certainly be an Indian interest; but if it was so badly run that it never paid a dividend, India would not be disposed to think very rosily of it; if it served its customers badly, they would not bless it either. One wishes these Indians, when they are considering India's economic future, would look harder at the facts. If instead of promoting doubtfully sound legislation (you cannot make a nation sober by Act of Parliament, and it is just as difficult to make it rich), they would promote companies which should buy out the non-Indian shareholders of any concern that they think should pay its dividends to Indians, one would be much more ready to back them up. Not a few national units have sought to do such things as build up a national mercantile marine, and have found it did not pay. What national interest was served then?

THE STATUTORY COMMISSION AND THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS.

Bombay Government's Memorandum.

In the Bombay Presidency the reformed system of government, which was introduced eight years ago, has worked more satisfactorily than in Bengal. Indeed, the Government of Bombay, in their memorandum to the Simon Commission, expressed the opinion that the system has not been unsuccessful in either the "reserved" or the "transferred" departments. Nevertheless, the defects of dyarchy are considered to be obvious; and the Government accordingly recommend that it should be completely abolished, if possible. Another important recommendation which they make is that the Provincial Legislative Council should consist of elected members only; and that all departments of the Government should be subject to its control. At present—under dyarchy—the "reserved" departments are in the charge of four members of the Executive Council; and the "transferred" departments are in the charge of three Ministers. In place of this system a unitary Government would be established. There would be no distinction between the "reserved" and "transferred" departments. All alike would be under the control of a Cabinet consisting of five members chosen from, and responsible to, the elected Legislative Council. There would be a Chief Minister, who would be chosen by the Governor, and he would submit for the approval of the Governor the names of the four other Ministers. The members of the Cabinet would be appointed for the life-time of the Legislative Council; and they would be removable only by the Governor, or by a vote of no-confidence, carried against the Government in the Council, after due notice. The salaries of the Ministers, and the salary of the President of the Council would be fixed by an Act of the Provincial Legislature.

It is frankly recognised that safeguards will be required if all the departments of the Government are to be transferred to the control of the Legislative Council, and three alternative methods, by which these safeguards might be provided, are suggested. One of these would be to vest the Governor with such powers of certification and veto as might be necessary. But it would be inadvisable, the Government of Bombay think, to place such large powers in the hands of one individual. They are accordingly opposed to the adoption of this method. The second alternative—which is supported by some members of the Government—is the creation of a Governor's Council. This might consist of two Indian and two European members; and it would be presided over by the Governor. It would act as a Second Chamber, or Upper House, with full powers of revision. It would not have the power of veto, but it would have the right to refer Bills back to the Legislative Council. An interesting suggestion which the Government make, with reference to the Governor's Council, is that possibly it might be vested with the right of direct control over the subjects of law and order and land revenue. For there is considerable difference of opinion, among the members of the Bombay Government, on the question of the advisability of immediately transferring these subjects to the control of an elected Council. It is also suggested that the Governor's Council should be made responsible for safeguarding the rights of the existing members of the All-India Services.

The third alternative is the establishment of a Second Chamber. It is anticipated that there may be difficulty in finding a sufficient number of persons of the necessary standing, education, and experience to constitute a useful and effective Second Chamber. But the Government suggest that the Chamber might consist of not more than thirty or forty non-official members, two-thirds of whom would be elected, and one-third nominated by the Governor. The franchise would be similar to that in operation for the existing Council of State. The members

would be, that is to say, men with high property qualifications, large commercial interests, or high academic qualifications. The assent of both houses would be necessary for the passing of any legislation; and the Upper House would have the same powers in matters of legislation as the Lower. The difficult subject of law and order comes in again here, as some members of the Bombay Government would favour the granting to the Upper House of certain special powers as regards this subject. Other members of the Government would extend these powers to the subject of Land Revenue also. In all questions, whether legislative or financial, dealing with these two subjects they would provide that the decision of the Upper House should prevail in all cases of difference of opinion between it and the Lower House. The Budget would be placed before the Lower House in which would be vested the right to assent, or to refuse assent, to any demands other than those relating to Law and Order and Land Revenue. The term of office for members of the Lower House would be four years, and for members of the Upper House five years.

During the period since the introduction of the Reforms there has been no such change in the educational and economic condition of the people as to make it, in the opinion of the Bombay Government, desirable or necessary that the franchise for the Legislative Council should be lowered. Another important consideration which has led the Government to oppose any lowering of the franchise is the undesirability of permitting the franchise for the Council to be below that for district and local boards, and for the Bombay City Municipality. One member of the Government, and one Minister, dissent from the view that the franchise should not be lowered. Dealing with the vexed question of communal electorates the Government of Bombay observe that communal dissensions are worse now than they were when the Reforms were introduced. There is a difference of opinion among the members of the Government as to how separate electorates for Muhammadans have worked; but the majority are of the opinion that these electorates have accentuated ill-feeling between the two communities. So long as such electorates exist candidates on either side make no effort, and have no inducement to understand and to meet the views of the other side. At the same time the fear, entertained by the Muhammadans, that they would not be elected at all on joint electorates is, the Government think, very genuine. Reservation would, to a considerable extent, meet this difficulty. But any change must be based on agreement between the two communities, and cannot be forced on the Muhammadans against their will.

In the opinion of the majority of the members of the Bombay Government the proposal for the separation of Sind from the Presidency, is at present both impracticable and undesirable. Sind is considered to be too small geographically to be formed into a separate province; it has not a sufficiently numerous population; and it would not provide enough work for a Governor and three Ministers.

As regards the Services the Government of Bombay express the opinion that the suspicions and fears, which were entertained in 1920, about the treatment of the existing members of the Imperial Services have largely disappeared. Nevertheless they deem it to be desirable that proper safeguards for the fair treatment, security, and support of the Services should be provided. It is agreed also that the recruitment of Europeans will still be necessary even after the transfer of all the present "Reserved" subjects. Recruitment, whether of Europeans or Indians, should be by the Public Services Commission so far as regards the higher Services. A Provincial Public Services Commission should be created to deal with recruitment for the Provincial Services; and it would also hear appeals from the members of such Services regarding orders of dismissal, removal, etc.

It is recognised that, if an Upper Chamber is established, the necessity for the special powers of veto, certification,

etc., which are at present vested in the Governor will largely disappear. But the Government nevertheless consider that it will still be necessary to retain certain emergency powers with the Governor. These would have reference to the authorisation by him, in an emergency, of such expenditure as might be, in his opinion, necessary for the safety or tranquillity of the Province. And in connexion with legislation also it is considered to be necessary that the Governor should be empowered to veto, in case of emergency, any Bill affecting the safety and tranquillity of the Province.

It must be understood that the foregoing is by no means an exhaustive summary of the comprehensive Memorandum which the Government of Bombay have submitted. It merely gives an outline of the more important of the constructive proposals which the document contains. And it takes no account of the interesting and instructive general review of the political situation in the Presidency which is also included. In this the effects of communalism on educational, social and political progress are set forth; the working of existing representative institutions is discussed at length; the financial difficulties against which the Government have to struggle are considered in detail; and informed criticism is offered on the progress of education, and on other interesting aspects of the political and social life of the Presidency.

THE INDIAN CINEMA INDUSTRY.

A number of interesting facts concerning the development of the film industry in India were disclosed in an instructive Paper read by Mr. A. M. Green, I.C.S., Acting Indian Trade Commissioner, at a meeting of the India section of the Royal Society of Arts on November 8. Dr. T. Drummond Shiels, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India, presided.

The lecturer, who was one of the two official members of the Indian Cinematograph Committee of 1927-28, said that up to that time the prevailing opinion in both official and non-official circles was that the production of Indian films was negligible. But the Committee soon discovered that Indian films were being produced in astonishing numbers, and that despite their great technical inferiority they were infinitely more popular with Indian audiences than imported films. In the year ended March 31, 1927, no fewer than 155 indigenous feature films were produced in India, as compared with only 48 in the United Kingdom in 1927 and 26 in 1928. The Indian footage in 1927-28 represented 21.2 per cent. of the total examined by the boards of censors. This percentage did not represent the true position, however, for Indian films often had longer runs and were screened more times a day than imported films. Yet Indian producers were crib'd, cabin'd, and confin'd by many difficulties unknown to producers in this country, such as general illiteracy and poverty, the multiplicity of languages, and the strength of communal differences.

There was great scope, Mr. Green concluded, for co-operation between East and West for the production of Indian films of sufficient merit to obtain a market in the more critical countries of the West. Such co-operation was given in the production of "The Light of Asia," and more recently of "Shiraz" and "Throw of Dice." The cinema was an influence for good in India, for it caused a mild and desirable intellectual awakening among the masses.

Sir Atul Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, in the course of the subsequent discussion, said it was most desirable that the Indian film industry should develop both as a means of education in India and to provide the cinemas of the world with vivid presentations of Indian life and Indian scenes. A reason for the great length of Indian films was that there was very little in the way of ordinary entertainment to enliven the extremely dull, drab life of the Indian industrial worker or peasant.

Many educated Indians were now looking to the film industry as an avenue of employment, and the actors and actresses in some of the films were highly cultured. He believed that Indians would utilize the films as a medium of cultural expression, as they had utilized, from ancient times, the drama.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN INDIAN TRADE.

Characterising the circular as "the desperate attempt of the British commercial interests in India to maintain their unnatural position at the sacrifice of the most vital interests of the country," a statement was issued in India in mail week on behalf of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in reply to the memorandum circulated by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon in August last on the dangers of racial discrimination in Indian trade and industry. The Associated Chambers' Memorandum, which was addressed to all Members of Parliament, the leading Chambers of Commerce and a number of important public bodies in this country, was summarised in the issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of September 12.

The present statement is signed by Mr. G. D. Birla, M.L.A., President of the Federation, and lays down in unequivocal and emphatic terms the Federation's conception of the broad principles of the economic policy adapted to India's own needs which national opinion, it is contended, is unanimous in demanding, and against the adoption of which, the Federation assert, the Associated Chambers are endeavouring to influence opinion in this country. In the course of his argument, Mr. Birla states:

"There can be no self-government in India if India is to be denied the power to devise and follow a national economic policy including the right, if her interests require it, of making economic discrimination against non-National interests.

"The Indian public are convinced that the economic policy of the Government of India has been to favour British commercial interests.

"There is always a great deal of talk of sympathy, co-operation and the like, but whenever any action is attempted to be taken, there is always the most bitter opposition by the British interests."

After an exhaustive analysis of the history and purpose of the Coastal Traffic Reservation Bill, Mr. Birla maintains that:—

(1) The Bill contains no principle of racial discrimination; (2) The Coastal trade of a country is its own domestic preserve to which non-nationals have no right and may be admitted only as a matter of grace; and (3) The Bill only seeks to do what England and the Dominions have done.

Further reference to the Federation's statement is made in this week's letter from our Calcutta Correspondent.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 558.)

needs." The sole ground of contention is that the right should be exercised in the interests of the whole body politic, and not of any one particular section, and that its exercise should not involve the dispossession of the existing institutions and, in fact, the gradual extinction of every form of British enterprise in India. So long as the two countries stand, and must for a long time remain, on different planes of industrial development it is inevitable that India's right to adapt its economic policy to its own needs should be subject to widely different interpretations, but the way of accommodation and reconciliation should not prove impassable unless Indian leaders, by their own action, are determined to make it so.

CYPRUS AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The Memorandum of the Cyprus Deputation.

We have received from the Cyprus Delegation now in London the following letter accompanying a copy of a Memorandum which summarises the Memorial presented to the Secretary of State to the Colonies:—

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The Greek elected Members of the Legislative Council of Cyprus, representing more than four-fifths of the population of the island, have entrusted us with the task of making known to the British Government and to the people of Great Britain the strong national aspirations of that population for union with Greece.

We are convinced that, if a plebiscite were taken on that issue in the island to-day, the result would clearly demonstrate the strength of this natural sentiment of the historical section of the Cyprus population for their political union with their Mother Country.

This desire is not prompted by any unfriendly feelings towards Great Britain, to whom the whole Hellenic world bears a lasting gratitude, coupled with that admiration and respect which are due to the most liberal among the civilised nations of to-day. It is purely the outcome of the national aspiration of a civilised people to be united to, and form politically part of, that free nation with which, through strong ties of race, of blood, of language, of religion and of tradition, they in fact share one common national conscience.

As a subsidiary to our main purpose and in order that the British people may not presume that Cyprus is, apart from this political grievance, prosperous, we have deemed it advisable to give some other information bearing on the unsatisfactory position of the island in general.

We have, therefore, the honour to enclose for publication a Memorandum on the Island. We feel sure the case of Cyprus merits sympathetic attention. At all events it is our duty and privilege, on behalf of our native island, to see that the public opinion of Great Britain is adequately informed.—We are, etc.,

THE CYPRUS DEPUTATION.

✠NICODEMUS, METROPOLITAN OF KITIUM.

ST. G. STAVRINAKIS.

ZENON ROSSIDES, *Secretary.*

November 18, 1929.

Brown's Hotel, London, W.1.

MEMORANDUM.

1. The Greek elected Members of the Legislative Council of Cyprus, representing well over the four-fifths of its population, have submitted in a Memorandum to His Britannic Majesty's Government their requests which may be summarised as follows.

It is asked, on behalf of the Greek inhabitants of the island, that Great Britain may consent to satisfy a legitimate and just desire by sanctioning their political union with their motherland, Greece, to which they are bound by sacred ties of religion, language, long historical tradition and national conscience.

The argument whereby the satisfaction of the above claim is opposed—viz., the existence in the island of a small Turkish minority—the remnant of the conquering invaders of 300 years ago—is untenable. The island's political annexation to Greece would involve no danger whatever for the Turkish minority, whose rights might be safeguarded by special conventions.

Equally indefensible may be considered the argument that the island is of any military or naval use to Great Britain. Fifty consecutive years of British occupation have testified to the contrary.

2. The above constitutes the paramount and fundamental request of the Cyprus people. In order, however, that it might not be wrongly assumed that the island is in other respects prosperous, its representatives deemed it advisable to acquaint the Imperial Government with the fact that Cyprus has been neglected, and that its present position is far from satisfactory.

3. The main factors in this state of affairs are:—

(A) The very form of the Constitution, which, though emanating from the Letters Patent and Instructions of March 1, 1925, and the Legislative Council Order of February 6, 1925, is in fact almost identical with the one granted to the island at the time of the British occupation fifty years ago; on the few points where it differs it is more restrictive.

According to this Constitution the people have no share in the administration, nor can they exercise any effective control upon the conduct of affairs in their own country. It is true that it provides for an elected majority in the Legislative Council, but the powers of this majority are so restricted that it cannot actually control legislation. Furthermore, the composition of the Legislative Council is so devised that it allows the normal majority, which the Greek people are legitimately representing, to be turned into a minority (without even the privileges of a minority) by a strange co-operation of the British *ex officio* Members with the Turkish Members and the casting vote of the chairman. As a consequence there has been created an ever-increasing friction between the Government and the people in general and the large Greek majority in particular.

It is a matter of no little concern that the Greek inhabitants of Cyprus, who belong to an historical race with a great tradition and who are to-day on a standard of civilisation equal to that of the rest of the free Hellenic world, should be still administered in the same autocratic way as was prevalent fifty years ago, while other British Colonies, whose degree of civilisation cannot at any rate be higher than that of the Greek people of Cyprus, have, in the meantime, obtained complete control of their administration.

The period that has elapsed under this form of Government has seen very little development in this island, whose actual backwardness may be gauged from an analysis of present-day conditions. Agriculture is entirely in a primitive state and no agricultural bank has ever been established with sufficient funds for granting long-term loans at a low rate of interest to assist the rural population.

Education has been very little encouraged and but scantily assisted.

Communications, both internal and external, are most inadequate.

And yet, in spite of all this lack of amenities, taxation which, being 17 per cent. in the first years of the British occupation, was referred to by Mr. Fairfield (see Parl. Papers c. 3661, 1883) as onerous, has now reached the figure of 20 to 25 per cent. of the gross income, thus leaving no margin for capitalisation.

The cause of this heavy taxation has been a wasteful and unproductive system of appropriation of the revenues. This method of appropriation may be illustrated by the following facts:—

(i.) In the Budget of 1929 the expenditure (exclusive of the share of Cyprus of the Turkish Debt Charge) amounted to £735,000, a high figure, considering that Cyprus has no war debts nor military expenses. Out of this sum 57 per cent. is absorbed by the cost of administration, 16 per cent. is spent on miscellaneous services and the upkeep of State property, leaving only 27 per cent. to be applied towards the welfare and general development of the island.

(ii.) Nearly half the amount of the Budget (over 47 per cent.) goes to personal emoluments. This is due to a bureaucratic system with supernumerary personnel and exorbitant salaries. It may be noted that between the years of 1914 and 1929 the personnel has increased by

30 per cent. without a proportional increase in the work of the respective Departments. Personal emoluments have increased by 200 per cent. (taking 100 as a basis) although the cost of living, having increased by 130 per cent. during the War, and afterwards decreased, now shows an increase of only 30 to 40 per cent.

(B) A second factor in the lack of prosperity has been the fact that during the fifty years of British occupation the sum of £2,600,000 has been taken away from the island for obligations and interests foreign to it. The reason was the so-called "Turkish Tribute" created by the Convention of 1878 between England and Turkey, by which the former undertook to pay to the latter the average of the annual excess of the revenue over the expenditure in Cyprus, calculated to be £92,800. The calculation was evidently wrong, considering that the annual revenues of the island did not then exceed £130,000. England, however, charged Cyprus with the payment of that sum; but as it was absolutely impossible to raise it from Cyprus, a grant-in-aid was usually made by the British Treasury to meet the deficiency; this grant-in-aid was, in 1907, fixed at £50,000 a year. It should be made clear that the sum of £92,800, although payable to Turkey, was really applied, to the extent of £81,000 annually, to the British guaranteed loan of 1855; the balance of £11,000 approximately was deposited with the Bank of England on a separate account and, having since accumulated, amounted on November 5, 1914, to the sum of over £452,000.

By the declaration of war between England and Turkey in 1914 the Convention of 1878 came to an abrupt end and the island was annexed to Great Britain on November 5, 1914. Yet Cyprus continued, against all equitable right, to be charged with the same sums of the Tribute in the form of "share of Cyprus of the Turkish Debt Charge" until 1927, when the injustice of such payment became so manifest that the Imperial Government put an end to it by increasing its grant-in-aid, to the extent of out-balancing the whole amount of the Tribute, on condition, however, that a law should be enacted by the Cyprus Legislative Council providing for an annual contribution of £10,000 towards Imperial Defence. The law was passed by the Legislative Council with due reservation made by the elected Members of any rights of the island in respect of the sums already paid.

These reservations were that there should be a refund to Cyprus of the sum of £2,600,000, taken from it without any obligation on its part, or at least of the sum of £1,008,000, made up as follows:—

(i.) Of the sum of £452,000, representing the accumulation of the annual surplus of £11,000, now kept in a separate account with the Bank of England, and

(ii.) Of the sum of £556,000 paid by Cyprus between 1914 and 1927 (i.e., after the abolition of the Convention of 1878) by way of "share of Cyprus of the Turkish Debt Charge," made arbitrarily and without any legal obligation on Cyprus, because:—

(a) Neither the Treaty of Lausanne nor any other Treaty made Cyprus liable to such a share.

(b) No connexion (by Convention or otherwise) ever existed between the revenue of Cyprus and the Turkish Loan of 1855.

(c) The Loan of 1855 ceased to form part of the Turkish Debt Charge as from 1881 and is not mentioned in the Treaty of Lausanne.

(d) In the Treaty of Lausanne Turkey recognised the annexation of Cyprus as from November 1, 1914.

4. The representatives of Cyprus have herein endeavoured to bring to the notice of the British Government the position of their island, in the earnest belief that the present state cannot be allowed to continue, and that the Imperial Government will deem it necessary and advisable to appoint a Commission of Inquiry for Cyprus.

[The Leading Article, on page 559, deals with the subject of this Memorandum.—Ed.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE ARABS AND PALESTINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, in the course of a letter appearing in your number of October 31, writes as follows: "Those who know what the Arabs in general, and the Arabs of this country in particular, did and suffered for the Allied cause in the World War . . ." I am one of those who know nothing of what "the Arabs of this country in particular did and suffered for the Allied cause in the World War." On the contrary, until I am better informed, I shall continue to believe that they did nothing whatever, and whatever they suffered they did not suffer for the Allied cause.

Let me add that this statement is not meant as a reflexion on whatever merits the Arabs' case may have. They were not and had never been Allied subjects, but they were Turkish citizens and they owed nothing to the Allies. The Allies could not reasonably expect the Arabs of Palestine to do or suffer anything on their behalf. They cannot now hold against the Arabs of Palestine that they did or suffered nothing for the Allies, but on the other hand the Arabs of Palestine should not try to speculate on the general public's nebulous recollection of war events in the East by putting up a claim which has no shred of foundation in fact.

That Faisal's "Revolt in the Desert" had never anything to do with the Arabs in Palestine need surely not be pointed out to readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA. The Grand Mufti's statement is phrased in such a way as to create the impression that the Arabs of Palestine did even more than Faisal's Badawin.—I am, etc.,

Jaffa, November 7.

"SPECTATOR."

A new stadium, capable of holding 25,000 people, was officially opened at Alexandria on November 17 by King Fuad of Egypt.

The Turkish Government is to ask Parliament to vote on the question of adopting Sunday instead of Friday as the weekly day of rest.

Major-General O. H. Delane-Osborne, C.B., C.M.G., has been appointed Commander of a District in India, with effect from January 16, 1930.

Sirdah Mohamed Asiz Khan, brother of King Nadir, has been appointed Afghan Ambassador in Moscow. M. Stark, Soviet Minister in Kabul, is returning there shortly.

Changes in the Roumanian Cabinet are announced. M. Madgearu, Minister of Commerce, takes the portfolio of Finance, and M. Aurel Vlad, Minister of Fine Arts, that of Commerce. M. Pan Halippa will be Minister of Public Works and Communications *ad interim*.

The Bulgarian Patriotic Union of the *Rodna Zachtita* (Defence of the Fatherland and the Race) has announced its adhesion to Fascism, and decided to adopt the Black Shirt and the fighting organisation of Fascism, pending complete assimilation of its politico-social doctrines. It is stated that the membership is about 700,000.



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PAINTINGS OF CYPRUS.

Mr. Keith Henderson, whose work as a painter is well known in the Near East, has brought back from Cyprus, in which delightful island he stayed several months, some most attractive pictures, which he is exhibiting at the Beaux Art Gallery, Bruton Place, Bruton Street, Bond Street, W., until November 30. He not only has considerable fluency in execution, but he also shows a remarkable mastery over several kinds of picture, with the very pleasing result that this show is no less than a representative selection of the peculiar charms of Cyprus—figures, landscapes, architecture, birds, and so forth.

Possibly the most refreshing virtue of Mr. Henderson's brush is his firmness. There is no vagueness, no blurring, which inferior artists, whether painters or pianists, sometimes affect to cover up deficiencies in technique. Look, for instance, at the utterly different subjects of "Boy with Camel in view of Papoutsas," "Nicosia from a Minaret," "The Armenian Archbishop of Cyprus," "The Camel Khan by St. Sophia," or "Famagusta from the Reef," and you will find in them all a precision of line, a management of tone-colour, and, above all, a symmetrical rhythm which carry immediate conviction.

The technical merits of Mr. Henderson's work, however, are well enough known, and it will probably be by choice of subjects that most visitors to the Exhibition will be able to express preference. It will be surprising, however, if there is not general consent on the merits of "The Governor's Kavas," "Nicosia with Camels Passing" (which has been lent by the Government of Cyprus), "The Last of the Whirling Dervishes," "Forest Guard," and "Traffic Control."

Mr. Henderson, it may be added, did not "rough it in the best hotels" of Cyprus; he went everywhere that a donkey could take him, camping first here, then there in the mountains. In this way he came to be possessed of the inner beauties of the island, often hidden from the ordinary tourist. His Exhibition is really one both for artists in general and for lovers of Cyprus in particular to visit.

THE ETHIOPIAN LEGATION IN LONDON.

The Ethiopian Minister in London, H.E. Nagadras Makonnen, whose appointment as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary we chronicled some weeks ago, has arrived, and is staying at the Savoy Hotel. He presented his Letters of Credence on November 19. Together with him are Ato Bakkala, First Secretary of the Legation, and Ato Tadla, Principal Interpreter of the Legation.

A band of marauding Arabs raided Mizrah, a small Jewish colony in the valley of Esdraelon on November 8.

Zekiai Bey, Director of the Turkish Alcohol monopoly, has been appointed Turkish member of the Ottoman Public Debt Council.

The new Session of the Roumanian Parliament was opened on November 15. In the Message from the Throne the hope was expressed that the next Budget would not show a deficit.

A Bucharest message reports the engagement of Dr. J. Maniu, Roumanian Prime Minister, to Princess Cantacuzene, widow of Mihail Cantacuzene, a former Mayor of Bucharest.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A new series of postage stamps, on which all the markings are in Latin characters, is being issued by the Turkish Government.

M. Saghatol-Molk has been appointed Governor of Kurdistan, in succession to M. Mofakhamol-Molk. The latter, who was recently recalled, arrived in Teheran at the end of last month.

M. Ali Akbar Khan Mofakham, Persian Consul-General at Constantinople, who has been in Europe for some time, returned to Teheran at the end of October.

The formation of a Greek Air Ministry has been definitely decided upon. M. Venizelos, the Premier, will be Air Minister and have the assistance of an Under-Secretary.

The formal opening of Viceregal House in New Delhi, which was originally fixed for December, has been postponed until the cold weather next year.

The former Zupans of Yugoslavia on November 11 surrendered their offices to the governors of the *bans*, the new administrative divisions of the country.

M. Madoloslovitch, the Yugoslav merchant who was condemned to 30 days' imprisonment for his share in the brawl in Belgrade in which the Italian Air Attaché was injured, last week went on hunger-strike.

Sir George Stanley, Governor Designate of Madras, who has been detained in Bombay since October 25 by an attack of phlebitis, is now convalescent and left for Madras on November 10.

The Mixed Commission appointed by the Yugoslav and Bulgarian Governments for the liquidation of properties on both sides of the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier and for the delimitation of that frontier met at Sofia on November 15.

The Turkish Director of Posts has given orders that all postal packets from abroad addressed to "Constantinople," instead of "Stamboul," the Turkish name for the city, shall be returned to the senders.

Nominations of candidates for the Egyptian General Election closed on November 15. One hundred and five Wafdist Deputies are unopposed. There are 303 candidates, many of them independents, for the 127 seats which are being contested.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Henderson, on behalf of the Government and the Governments of India, the Dominions, and the Irish Free State, has sent a telegram to the Foreign Office at Kabul, recognising Nadir Khan as King of Afghanistan.

The Turkish Government has decided to lay before the Grand National Assembly a Bill providing for a change in the holding of elections to the Assembly, substituting the direct for the indirect system.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald left Cairo at the beginning of this month for Athens, at the invitation of the Greek Government, to give his opinion about irrigation projects in that country. He and Lady Macdonald expect to return to Egypt on November 24.

The death is announced of the Hon. Richard Bethell, only son and heir of Lord Westbury. Captain Bethell was a keen Egyptologist, and had worked with Mr. Howard Carter and the Earl of Carnarvon when King Tutankhamen's tomb in the Valley of Kings was opened.

M. Venizelos has informed the athletic societies of Greece that he takes a great interest in physical education, and has promised to encourage it by granting a Government subsidy of £26,600 annually, sending gymnastic instructors abroad for training, and compelling municipalities to provide playing fields.

The Acting High Commissioner for Iraq has been instructed to inform the Iraq Government of the sincere regret with which the British Government has learned of the untimely death of Sir Abdul Muhsin and of its sympathy with the Iraq Government "in the loss of one who had rendered such signal service to the kingdom, and whose loss will be so keenly felt throughout the whole of Iraq."

Dame Louise Selina Maxwell, of Queen's Gate Place, Kensington, S.W., widow of General the Rt. Hon. Sir John Grenfell Maxwell, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., died on October 18, leaving estate of the value of £32,645, with net personality £31,354. Among other bequests she left Sir John's collection of Egyptian antiquities to the British Museum and the portrait of her late husband by Melton Fisher to the National Portrait Gallery.

Mr. Lunn, Under-Secretary, in the House of Commons on November 13, stated that the Colonial Secretary had recently received a deputation of Cypriot Greeks who asked for the union of Cyprus with Greece. The answer given was that His Majesty's Government could hold out no hope of meeting this request. They also put forward certain proposals for constitutional change, in regard to which no final decision had yet been taken.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

November 21, 1929 (New Style).

November 8, 1929 (Old Style).

Jumada II. 18, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Chesvan 18, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Cable will leave London for India to-morrow.

Sir Stanley and Lady Reed have left London on their return to India.

Lord and Lady Dunsany are leaving to-day for India. They will be away until the beginning of March.

Princess Antoine Bibesco left London last week to join Prince Antoine Bibesco at 45, Quai Bourbons, Paris.

Sir Maurice and Lady de Bunsen will return to London next week from Syria.

Field-Marshal Viscount and Viscountess Allenby will leave London for India about December 12.

Princess Marie of Greece visited their Majesties at Buckingham Palace on November 14.

Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson returned from Vienna on November 13 to Glebelands, Wokingham.

The Maharanee of Alwar sailed from Tilbury on November 15 in the s.s. Mooltan for Bombay.

The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland will leave for Bombay about the second week of December.

Sir Norcot and Lady Warren left Marseilles on November 15 in the Viceroy of India for Bombay.

M. and Mme. Ivan Stancioff will leave London on their return to Sofia about December 1.

Sir Austin and Lady Low left London on November 14 to join the Viceroy of India at Marseilles on their way to Bombay.

Lord and Lady Lloyd returned last week from the Continent, and have taken Gloucester House, 14, Gloucester Gate, which will be their address for the next three months.

Lady Stevenson-Moore has arranged to sail in the P. and O. s.s. Kaiser-i-Hind, from Tilbury, to-morrow (Friday), on her return to India.

Sir Francis and Lady Humphrys will leave Southampton to-morrow (November 22) in the Kaiser-i-Hind for Port Said, en route for Iraq.

Sir Dhunjibhoy and Lady Bomanji, Sir Dorabji and Lady Tata, and Sir Philip Sheridan left London on November 14 to join the Viceroy of India for Bombay.

The annual re-union Dinner of the British Serbian Units Branch of the British Legion and of all friends of Serbia will be held on November 30 at 7.15 p.m., at the Grafton Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, W.1. The President, Mr. Philip Mitchiner, F.R.C.S., will take the Chair. Tickets, 6s. each, from Miss C. M. Marx, 24, Melcombe Court, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1.

PALESTINE IN WATERCOLOURS.

An Exhibition entitled: "Flowers and Stones of the Holy Land," by Mrs. P. A. F. Stephenson, in the Alpine Club Gallery, Mill Street, Conduit Street, W.1., from November 19, to December 3.

Sir Ernest Petter left London on November 14 to join the Viceroy of India for Bombay, and will be away about three months.

Sir Archibald and Lady Birkmyre will leave 67, Queen's Gate, S.W., on December 12 for India. They will join the P. and O. s.s. Ranpura at Marseilles on the following day, and will be away until April next.

SIR ABDUL MUHSIN BEG AS SAADUN.

We much regret to have to record the death of the Prime Minister of Iraq, Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Saadun, who shot himself in his home on November 13. Two hours before taking his life he wrote a letter to his eldest son, who is studying engineering in Birmingham. In this poignant document he explained his reasons for the step he was taking, and ended with these words:—

"My dear son, my first request to you is to show kindness to your young brother, to serve your mother, and be loyal to your country. My second request is that you should remain absolutely loyal to King Faisal, his heirs and successors."

This great Iraqi was born fifty years ago. He belonged to the eminent Saadun family of the Muntafiq, that historic conglomeration of tribes who inhabit Southern Iraq. He was member for Basrah in both the Constantinople Parliament before the War and in the Baghdad Majliss after it. Three times he had been Prime Minister of Iraq—first in 1922, after the Naqib of Baghdad had resigned, then in June, 1925, after Yasin Pasha al Hashimi, and again last September, when he succeeded, on the condition that Great Britain would recommend Iraq for membership of the League of Nations in 1932, Taufiq Beg Suwaidi. He had also, in 1924, been President of the Chamber of Deputies.

Why he should have felt the always heavy burdens of office in Baghdad insupportable at this particular moment is not clear, for so far as is known there were no actual negotiations in progress between London and Baghdad. It is sufficient at this moment to say that he died in the service of his country, and to echo here the words of his King: "We may find consolation in this tragedy, because it proves that Iraq will never die, and that the soil of Iraq is capable of producing great men, prepared to serve their country sincerely and well."

An agreement regulating the relations between the Government and the Orthodox Church in Yugoslavia was signed in Belgrade on November 8, thus ending a long controversy between the present Government and the Church.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Government and the Opposition.

Though the amicability existing between the Prime Minister and the ex-Prime Minister happily shows no signs of diminishing, it is evident that the Opposition is increasingly anxious to fulfil its supposed duties of an Opposition. During the last few days considerable alarm has been expressed over the Government's intention to incur heavier expenditure. For it is proposed in the new Unemployment Insurance Bill to raise the rates of benefit for all categories under twenty-one by two shillings or more a week, and the rate for adult dependents also by two shillings a week.

The question being asked (and it is alleged seriously to be perturbing the minds of Cabinet Ministers who are supposed, by the Opposition, to have only reluctantly consented to this raising of the "dole") is: Where is the money to come from? Only Mr. Snowden can supply the answer, and it is perhaps significant that within the last few weeks he has been attacked, as a financier, in a quarter hitherto very favourable to him, that is, the City. The City appears to be quite upset over the terms of the new five per cent. Conversion Loan.

Amending Hansard.

A little incident happened last week which shows how jealously the English citizen intends to preserve the integrity of Hansard, that infallible record from which it is often regretted by politicians that not a line of their speeches can be omitted, or altered. But Mr. Ammon answered a question in the House wrongly—he had misunderstood it—and afterwards, instead of correcting matters in the House, had it corrected in Hansard.

This violation of the rule that nothing, except grammatical questions, must be altered in the official record of the House was at once noted. The public is resolved, and rightly, that what has been said in the House has been said and should for ever be recorded. If unwise or incorrect statements are made, the man who makes them is to blame—and he can always mend matters in the House itself. To tamper with Hansard is quite unforgivable, even if it is, as it was in this case, well-meant and no harm is done by it. Certain politicians would give pounds now if they could but "cancel half a line."

Civil Service Candidates.

It was of course, known that the type of man attracted to the Civil Service was changing, but from the evidence of statistics the change is less gradual than one would have thought. For instance, whereas between 1906 and 1910 the proportion of successful candidates who had been educated at public schools and Universities was 74 per cent., even now it is 64 per cent.

This change is due mainly to two reasons, the emergence of the secondary school in national affairs, and the orientation of the public school man's ambitions. An increasing number of public school men are going into business, which offers more lucrative hopes. Not only that, but security in the Civil Service is not what it was—as is evidenced by India. A few years back a determined attempt was made to attract public school men into the Civil Service, particularly the I.C.S., but one has not heard that it was very successful.

Evidence was heard last week by the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, from which it was comforting to learn that though "there had been a slight falling off in the quality of candidates since the time before the War," it was merely a question of academic distinction, not of personality. Over this difference nobody will worry very much.

The "Observer."

It is always good to hear praise of the craftsman by the craftsman, and the celebration last Thursday of the twenty-first year of Mr. J. L. Garvin's editorship of the

Observer supplied convincing refutation of the common lament that journalism is now an ignoble trade. Nobody can always agree with Mr. Garvin's opinions, but nobody can deny that the *Observer's* great success is due to his quite remarkable personality. He has consistently stood against the "popularising" tendencies of modern journalism, that is, the tendency to present news for the benefit of the semi-educated. That tendency dates, I suppose, from the foundation of *Tit-Bits* and tit-bits, or tabloid matters, are still the unsatisfying fare of *hoi polloi*.

What one feels about the *Observer*, and what one misses in so many weekly papers, is its personality, its unity. There are many who, while never reading Mr. Garvin's leader-page articles render weekly homage to his influence by reading the rest of the paper. Other papers—rivals of the *Observer*—rely on "big names" each week: they bang the big drum to induce people to buy their goods. As the *Manchester Guardian*, which published a eulogy of Mr. Garvin's achievement that is worth study, finely said of the *Observer*: "It enters the reader's house each week like a familiar presence instead of luring the purchaser outward by the dazzle of lights in its shop window." That is a testimony beside which dividends and circulation are as nothing.

Winter's Arrival.

Winter has really come on England now, and in the last few days there have been gales, fogs, snow and rains. November has, in fact, been even truer than usual to type. On Saturday the drenching rains were so bad that many football matches had to be abandoned.

In most places, however, the weather caused merely inconvenience. But to one section of the community—the men of the Scottish herring fleet—the gales have meant ruin. Last week the fishermen, then off Yarmouth and Lowestoft, lost almost all their nets in the sudden squalls: and now their livelihood is gone. I have seen these men year after year at close quarters, and know what stout fellows they are, and what a precarious calling they follow. It is only just that the Secretary of State for Scotland is interesting himself in their most unfortunate case.

Seals and English Fish.

There are still a number of people who confess surprise at the mention of seals off our English coasts. Yet these stealers of fish exist plentifully round our shores, and often, in fact, become a serious menace to our fishermen.

In the Wash fisheries, for instance, fishermen get a cash payment for each seal's nose, and during the last two years have killed about 600 of them. This slaughter has had little effect, as even the amateur sailor must know, who sees them in scores lying in the sun on sand banks off the East Coast. The Eastern Sea Fisheries Board have just asked the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries for an extra £250 for the destruction of seals during the coming year, for it is believed that there are now more fish in the Wash than ever before.

To the visitor, of course, the presence of seals is an attraction, especially when one is lucky enough to shoot one (and men sometimes get about £4 for the skin and oil of the seal), but to the fisherman it is another matter.

Garages at Stations.

A decided step in the right direction is just proposed by the L.N.E.R. It is recognised that many motorists do not like taking a long drive through town, and it is thought that, if only garages could be provided at suburban stations, motorists would finish their journey by rail. In other words, the railways are looking again to see how they can compete with the road.

Their scheme seems sound. Provide a non-stop train to town from the suburban station, and also a decent garage on the suburban station, and many motorists would gladly avoid the long approach to a big town. Incidentally, what with garage fees, railway fares, petrol sales, and repairs, the railways ought to improve their finances.

ALTER EGO.

Book Review

THE PORTUGUESE IN ABYSSINIA.

"THE ROMANCE OF THE PORTUGUESE IN ABYSSINIA." By C. F. Rey. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby. 18s. net.)

In reading the epic of the attempts of the Portuguese to establish temporal and spiritual sway over Abyssinia one is left in doubt whether the palm for pertinacity should be awarded to those hardy adventurers who braved trials and perils that would surely deter the stoutest hearts to-day, or to a very backward people who clung ferociously not merely to their faith, but also to points of dogma. Three motives played their varying parts in impelling the Portuguese to get into touch with Abyssinia towards the end of the fifteenth century—the storied wealth of "Prester John," the need for new openings for trade, and a desire to obtain, if possible, another ally against the growing power of Islam. The first attempt was made in 1487 by Pedro da Covilham, who, after three years of wandering, reached Abyssinia and was hospitably received by the Emperor. Although he remained a person of consequence in the country, Covilham was never allowed to leave it, and was still at the Emperor's Court in 1520, when a mission under Dom Rodrigo da Lima arrived after amazing experiences in the course of their six months' journey through Abyssinia, at the capital. Da Lima's party had been sent as the King of Portugal's response to a request from the Empress Helena for assistance against her Muslim neighbours in Somaliland, but by the time they arrived the Abyssinians had been successful against their enemies, and the young King was by no means eager to conclude an alliance with Portugal. At the same time he could not bring himself to return a blunt negative to the Portuguese mission, and so fell back on the traditional methods of the East, delay and prevarication. In the end Da Lima remained five years in the country and accomplished nothing, although he carried away with him letters from the Emperor according permission to the Portuguese "to make a church and a castle in Massawa and in Delagua, and to put priests in the churches and strong men to guard the castles, from fear of the Moors."

The next fifteen years form a black chapter in the history of Abyssinia. The country was overrun by the Muslims under a Somali leader, who pillaged and ravaged it from end to end, until the Emperor, "hunted like a wild beast from one refuge to another, had hardly a mountain top in his country where he could call himself safe." To this period, it may be mentioned in passing, is attributed the Abyssinian practice of eating raw meat, as the people feared even to light a fire lest they should attract the attention of a marauding party. A Portuguese left behind by the Da Lima mission was dispatched in 1535 to Portugal to ask for help, and eventually in 1541 a Portuguese force of some four hundred men under Dom Christovão da Gama, fourth son of the great explorer, marched inland from Massawa to help Abyssinia against her foes,

A mere handful of men pitting themselves against the untold thousands of their enemies, but ready in their own words "to die for the faith of Christ and the salvation of that Kingdom." And these were no idle words. For the leader himself and the majority of his followers were to meet with a frightful death within little over a year, while the pitiful remnants, joining forces with the Abyssinians, were to be successful in avenging their chief's death and in driving the invaders out of the land for ever, though hardly a dozen men amongst the Portuguese were to see their own country again.

With the defeat of the Muslims Portuguese relations with Abyssinia enter upon a more distinctly ecclesiastical stage. There were some 170 Portuguese left in the country; but they fell upon troublous times and what little influence they were able to exert upon the Abyssinians seems to have been directed towards obtaining their allegiance to the Church of Rome. The Portuguese who thenceforth came to the country were missionaries.

For over eighty years the Portuguese and the Roman Church persisted in their efforts to convert the stubborn people of Ethiopia to accept the doctrines of Roman Catholicism, and, whatever may be said of the methods adopted, it would be impossible to deny the remarkable courage shown by the missionaries in circumstances of danger, trials, suffering and death. They almost succeeded in their task; after sixty years of work they obtained a dominating position in the country owing to their success in securing the conversion of King Susenyos in 1622, and their sway lasted for six years. But in 1628 it reached its maximum point and, from then onwards, began to decline until five years later the Jesuits were expelled from the country, bag and baggage, and the whole of their work fell to the ground.

The story is well worth telling and reading. Mr. Rey has compiled a most interesting account from Portuguese works of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In spite of what still remains of Portuguese architecture in the country, the author is perhaps not too severe in saying that the efforts of the Portuguese "in no way tended ultimately to benefit or advance Abyssinia or its people from either the moral or material point of view; they in fact resulted in throwing back the country into deeper isolation and prolonging the period of its aloofness from the world—besides implanting in the minds of the people seeds of suspicion of all foreign enterprise, religious and other, seeds which bear fruit even to-day. Even to-day the 'gates of Abyssinia' cannot be said to be very widely open."

The Portuguese must have the credit of discovering the sources of the Blue Nile at Lake Tana. Not the least interesting part of Mr. Rey's narrative is the light it throws on the conservative nature of the Abyssinians, for many of the old chroniclers' descriptions, whether of men or of things in the country, apply with equal accuracy to-day.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- "The World, the Flesh, and the Devil." By J. D. Bernal. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)
- "Jewish Life in Modern Times." By Israel Cohen. Illustrated. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)
- "The Narrative of a Naval Nobody. 1907-1924." By Douglas Fairbairn, Lieut.-Commander, R.N. (retd.). (London: John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)
- "Afghan and Pathan." By George B. Scott, C.I.E. (London: The Mitre Press. 8s. net.)
- "Europe Throughout the Ages." By David C. Somervell. "The Restless Earth." By Professor H. L. Hawkins. "The Women of To-day." By the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Dighton Pollock. "Practical Economics." By Harold E. Batson. (All Routledge Introductions to Modern Knowledge, Nos. 5, 10, 14, and 15. Price 6d. each.)
- "Crusader's Coast." By Edward Thompson. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)
- "Moslem Jane." By Norman Lorimer. (London: Hutchinson and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "Money" and Other Stories. By Karel Capek. With a Foreword by John Galsworthy. (London: Hutchinson and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "The History of Hayy Ibn Yaqzan." By Abu Bakr Ibn Tufail. Translated from the Arabic by Simon Ockley. (London: Chapman and Hall. 21s. net.)
- "Self and Superman." By L. E. Eeman. (London: Christophers. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "After Mother India." By Harry H. Field. (London: Jonathan Cape, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)
- "Cimmerii, or Eurasians and Their Future." By Cedric Dover. (Calcutta: The Modern Art Press. Rs. 1'8 net.)
- "The Lights of Canopus." Described by J. V. S. Wilkinson. (London: The Studio, Ltd. 30s. net.)

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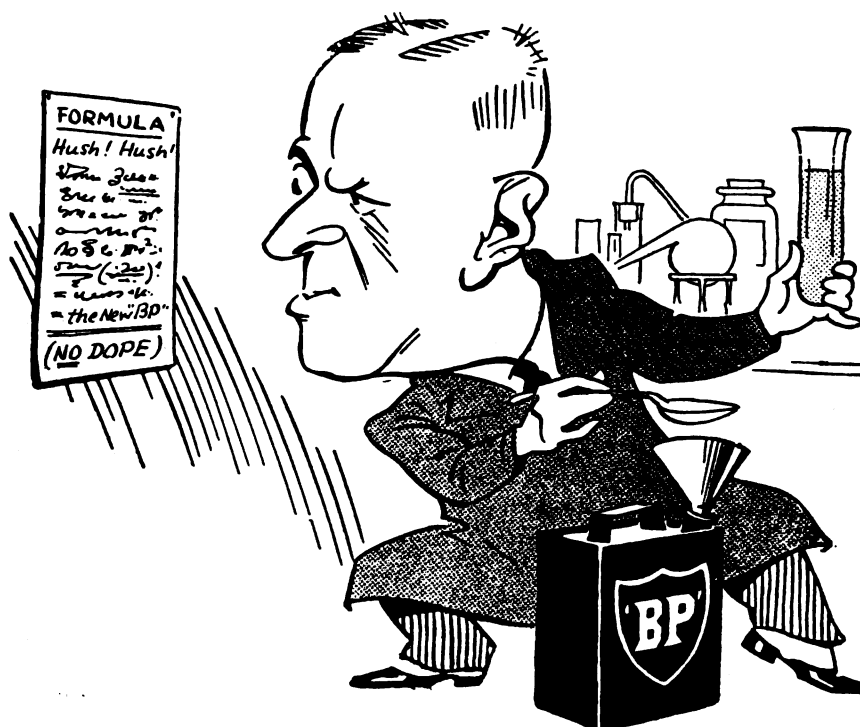
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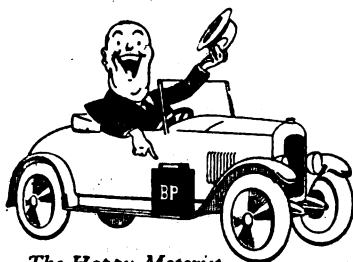
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NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Openings in Yugoslavia.

In an article which appears elsewhere in this issue a correspondent in Yugoslavia discusses the development of foreign enterprise in that country, and draws special attention to the success which Germany is making to re-establish her position there. As he justly remarks, there are openings for British enterprise, but as a matter of fact Great Britain is already to the fore there in a number of important directions. One need only instance the recent formation of Chemical and Wood Industries, Ltd., and participation in the development of various mining enterprises. But to remain satisfied with what we are doing would be foolish. At the present time the trend of Yugoslav trade is towards Central Europe, and while enterprises successfully conducted under British auspices must develop conditions favouring the growth of economic relations between the two countries, the desired expansion of mutual trade can only come about if our manufacturers and exporters do their part. The correspondent in question concludes his article with a most timely warning regarding the German trade menace, and if anyone doubts the extent of Germany's energy and ambition, the export figures for the first six months of this year provide the writing on the wall for all to see. For that period Germany's exports were larger than the British figures for the same period, which was not the case even in the last year before the War. Of course Germany has to develop her trade to meet her various obligations, but the significance of the figures is nevertheless unmistakable, and it is only natural that the full force of German competition should be felt in the Near East.

Sudan Trade Conditions.

The trade figures for the Sudan continue to be satisfactory, the value of the total trade via the Red Sea and Wadi Halfa for the first eight months of this year being £E10,641,777, an increase of £E1,104,001 on the figures for the corresponding period of 1928. With the exception of Government imports all items showed an increase. Exports totalled £E6,020,377, an increase of £E924,556, this being principally due to the large increase in the exports of cotton. The exports of gum showed a considerable falling off, but the value was greater owing to the sharp rise in prices. Imports at £E2,848,581 were £E144,354 up, but this increase inadequately reflects the growing purchasing capacity of the country, as in the case of almost every one of the commodities which were in greater demand there was a marked fall in values. As already recorded, the outlook for the current season's cotton crop is distinctly favourable, and with a further increase in the acreage under this crop there is every prospect, provided cotton prices remain at a reasonable level, that next year's exports will show a further substantial advance. An important feature of the increase in cotton growing in the Gezira is that it is accompanied by an increase in the area under food crops, so that the Sudan is benefiting in two ways from the great scheme. On the one hand the prosperity which has accrued to that region though cotton is slowly but surely making its influence felt in other parts of the country; on the other, important additions are being made to the food supplies of the country.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

At the meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway a year ago the Chairman suggested that the results of 1928-29 might be a little better than those of the year then under review. His tempered optimism has been more than borne out by the results, the gross earnings for the past year showing an increase of Rs. 2,33,000, due to a large increase in the gross receipts from goods traffic. The improved position of the Indian railways as a whole has been very marked in the past few years, and there will be not a few who will wonder whether it would not be sounder policy for the Government of India to leave the railways under private management instead of taking them over. In many countries where vastly different conditions exist State control of railways works admirably, but it is at least arguable that the needs of India in the immediate future would be better served if the railways were run by private enterprise instead of by the State. Where large schemes of development are called for as is the case in India, a measure of initiative is required which is not invariably forthcoming under Government control. The policy of the Government must in its nature be experimental, and it might be well to call a halt for a little time instead of taking over any more of the railways, in order to see how the new system works in regard to the lines already acquired.

Speed Boats for Egypt.

It is perhaps difficult to associate a desire for speed with that haven of rest and enjoyment that tourists find in the Nile Valley, for one naturally thinks of leisurely cruises in a picturesque dahabeah or voyages up the Nile in a launch which will enable one to drink in all the romance that lies along the banks. But it is impossible in the modern world to stand apart from progress for long, and I noted a reference recently in an Egyptian contemporary to a suggestion that speed boat services may shortly be placed on Egyptian waterways. If, as I understand is the case, the wash of speed boats is not very great, there would seem to be no valid reason against the experiment, which might prove a most valuable method of improving the communications of the country. It is at any rate worth trying, and as British manufacturers have shown themselves so capable in the production of this type of craft, it may be hoped that it will be British speed boats that will lead the way on the Nile.

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Capital Paid up - - - £600,000
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The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

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growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

Russia's Search for Trade.

Russia's attempt to obtain an opening in the coal markets of the Mediterranean is only one example of the efforts that country is making to obtain outlets in more or less adjacent countries. The latest development is particularly interesting, for Russia's match organisation is now endeavouring to measure its strength with the Swedish Match Company, the expansion of whose operations has left a very small field for rivalry. The Balkan markets now provide no opening, and the agreement made by the Swedish Match Company with Germany has closed that market to Russian matches, but the one outlet in which Russia has always shown special interest—Persia—is still available, and there the two groups are now contesting for a match monopoly. Local conditions probably favour Russia, and the inviting conditions which the Soviet Match Trust are said to be offering must give them a decided prospect of obtaining this concession.

COMMENTATOR.

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF YUGOSLAVIA.*(From a Correspondent.)*

Like every other State which experienced a period of inflation, Yugoslavia was afterwards faced by a difficult economic crisis. Yugoslav post-War inflation was caused in the main by two factors. One was the Austrian War-time inflation and the other Serbia's War debts. Then the conversion of Austrian currency into the new Serbo-Yugoslav currency caused further complications which were in many cases more than even powerful banks or soundly financed industrial groups could weather.

Yugoslavia is above all an agricultural country, and her wealth all springs from the soil. Her industry, though in a fair way towards development, is still more or less insignificant in importance compared with her agrarian productivity. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that it is precisely because of its present immaturity, coupled with the country's wealth in raw material, that Yugoslav industry has every chance of prosperous development. Yugoslavia is not rich in country produce only. The country has minerals, timber, wool, and water power. In South Serbia silk is made, and throughout the State there is so much livestock that the leather industry does very well; so does the chemical industry.

Most of the financial groups which at present exploit the wealth of Yugoslavia are either foreign or at least have the support of foreign capital. That foreign capital has gained so much ground in Yugoslavia is largely the fault of Yugoslav financial circles, especially of the Yugoslav banks. Only the stern realisation that every effort must be made to promote production, particularly agricultural production, made a solution of the serious currency crisis possible. Of course the blow to Yugoslav

currency practically paralysed foreign trade in certain goods for a time. Yugoslav production has now almost recovered from the deadlock period, and the results are beginning to make themselves felt.

Yugoslavia's home trade is based in the main on credit. Obviously credit was shaken by inflation, especially the credit of the producer who was not covered by ready money. To this came the conversion of the Austrian post-War krone at the rate of 25 paras (10 paras equals 1 dinar), which was exceedingly good value in view of the position on the money market at the time, but very hard on the credit of all banks and industrial groups whose finances were based on the krone, not to mention the peasant proprietors, many of whom were ruined by the conversion. Yet I, for one, am of opinion that the Yugoslav authorities were justified in taking this step. It caused money to circulate once more, and thus gradually to recover its value. Even those inactive reserves which happened to be in the hands of private persons after the operation came into circulation, and so helped to arrest the fall of the dinar on the world's exchanges.

The Agrarian Bank.

Of course agriculture had now to be provided with fresh support, with assistance towards the building up of new credit and the replenishing of its capital. Hence the idea of the Agrarian Bank. As a rule, the Yugoslav peasant or landed proprietor has not got large sums of money at his disposal. His ready money is required for renewal of stock and for repairs. A suitably run loan and deposit bank was urgently needed, and if this bank was to be endowed with the necessary financial soundness, it would have to be worked hand in hand with the National Bank. By the establishment of the Privileged Agrarian Bank the State definitely and energetically tackled the problem of placing Yugoslav agricultural interests once more on a sound basis. The bank was inaugurated during the course of the summer, and is now in working order.

Meantime there has been a falling off in agricultural production; there is a certain amount of unemployment, and in parts of the country a too-radical carrying out of agrarian reform has contributed to agricultural depression. It is to be hoped that with its system of loans at low interest the Agrarian Bank will help to reconstitute the great estates broken up by agrarian reform as land units owned by peasant co-operatives (*zadruga*) which will be in a position to till the ground far more efficiently and remuneratively than a number of independent smallholders. Co-operatives on these lines have already been formed in the provinces which were faced by special difficulties as an immediate consequence of agrarian reform, viz., the Banat, Bachka, and Slavonia, a good model being provided by the peasant co-operatives in sundry parts of Slovenia, Croatia, and the Serbian Sumadija.

Trade in Yugoslavia, is not complicated. Money passes in the main from the retailer to the producer, and goods from the producer to the retailer-tradesman. Any tran-

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sactions beyond this scope are based for the most part on foreign capital. Great industrial concerns are almost all owned by foreigners. France in particular is the lessee of several great concerns whose status is specially legalised. During the period of inflation and still more during that of deflation—which was all the more sharply felt in Yugoslavia as the latter, unlike certain other European States, refrained from issuing a new currency after the inflation—trade on long-term contracts languished. Even to-day, immediate payments are practically the rule. It was then that German industry took advantage of conditions and made headway with its products in Yugoslavia, whereas French and Italian goods correspondingly lost ground considerably.

Yugoslavia exports a good deal of her agricultural produce, cereals, beans, lentils, peas, mushrooms, fruit dried prunes), preserved fruit, tobacco, hops. Of her mineral products she exports coal (brown), metals (lead, copper), and carbide. Other exports are chemical products, silk, leather and wool. Yugoslavia's principal searoutes for imports and exports are via Salonika, Fiume and Shushak, Trieste, and—showing the strong influence exercised by Germany on Yugoslav trade—through Hamburg and Antwerp. In the northern provinces of the kingdom the samples fairs of Zagreb and Liubliana have proved a great incentive to trade, and of course the great Leipzig and Vienna fairs are not without influence either.

Openings for British Capital.

Undoubtedly Yugoslavia is moving towards economic and financial consolidation, and British capital stands a good chance of profitable employment, all the more so as the country's export is mostly overseas. As showing the interest of foreign capital in Yugoslavia it may be pointed out that a powerful French company exploits the water power in Bosnia; that certain German and Swiss circles are interested in a possible lease of the Yugoslav State railways; and that the Swedish Match Trust holds a lease of the match industry in Yugoslavia. There is still plenty of room for the investment of foreign capital out here, and the risk would not be great. Just now the Yugoslav Press is writing of work to be put in hand for the reclaiming of arable land in Dalmatia and the afforestation of that province on a large scale. Something similar is bound to be done for the exceptionally rich and hitherto all but unexploited province of Yugoslav Macedonia. Available capital so far has been either insufficient or not sufficiently guaranteed; but I am convinced that sound enterprise in that province is bound to reap financial and economic success. In the struggle for Yugoslav markets the victory rests for the time being with Germany. Unless the western and northern states of Europe take a more active interest in the country it is probable that Germany's vigorous post-War industry will acquire a monopoly of imports into Yugoslavia and thereby be the predominating financial influence.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

ROUMANIA.

Bronze and Copper Wire, etc.—The Direction Générale des Postes des Télégraphes et des Téléphones invites tenders for the supply of bronze wire, hard and soft copper wire, and copper sleeves. December 10. (D.O.T.)

EGYPT.

Direction Indicators.—The British Commercial Secretary at Cairo (Mr. R. M. A. Turner, O.B.E.) has reported a possible opening for the sale of direction indicators for motor buses and taxicabs in Egypt. (D.O.T.)

Transmission Lines.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of high tension 3-phase overhead transmission lines in Northern Delta, consisting of a main line of about 165 kms. and branch lines of about 150 kms., including all necessary materials for the lines and all accessories. February 27.

Electric Generating and Pumping Sets.—The Ministry of Public Works, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of electric generating and pumping sets for the Mankabad Barracks. December 28. (D.O.T.)

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of a complete plant for the supply of filtered and unfiltered water, including centrifugal or turbine type pumps, electric motors, filters, etc. January 6. (D.O.T.)

Incinerators.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of incinerators for disposition of garbage, refuse, waste dressings, etc., required for the year 1929-1930. December 9.

GREECE.

Cargo Vessel.—The Acting British Consul-General at Salonika reports that a local concern desires to be put in touch with British shipbuilding firms likely to be interested in quoting for the construction of a cargo boat of 300 tons net. The firm would also consider the purchase of a suitable second-hand vessel. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 23); s.s. Castalia for Bombay (Glasgow, November 29; Manchester, December 3; Birkenhead, December 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 29); s.s. Markhor for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 7).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 27).

British India Line.—S.s. Mundra for Bombay (London, November 23); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Middlesbrough, November 23; London, November 30).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bactria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Spezia, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Corfu, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume; also at Algiers, Oran, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Gruz, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, November 23; Swansea, November 26); s.s. Bothnia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza; also at Volo if inducement (Glasgow, December 12; Liverpool and Swansea, December 14).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 7); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 21).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaiser-i-Hind for Bombay (London, November 22); s.s. Perim for Calcutta (London, November 22).

Prince Line.—S.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 30); s.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 10).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Roumelian for Algiers, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, November 23; Swansea*, November 23); s.s. Maronian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 5; Swansea, November 28); s.s. Manchurian for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, December 7; Swansea, December 12); A steamer for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, December 30). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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MASSILIA ...	Nov. 26	BRITANNIA ...	Jan. 10
*CASTALIA ...	Dec. 10	*ELYSIA ...	Feb. 4

*Leaves Marseilles January 18.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, November 19.

The powers of the London Stock Exchange to absorb the enormous volume of securities liquidated on the New York and Continental Stock Exchanges, which have hitherto proved remarkable, have shown signs of weakening this week, and until Thursday, when there was a rally in Wall Street, prices fell steadily, the only exception being the gilt-edged market, on reports that subscriptions, to the new five per cent. Conversion Loan were coming in satisfactorily. The weakness extended to many domestic shares in the industrial list which have hitherto not suffered very much from the Wall Street collapse and the settlement next week will show some very heavy declines. There is, however, a general feeling in the House that the worst of the slump has been seen and that, although there may still be a certain amount of spasmodic selling which may prove sufficiently disturbing from time to time, the events of the past two weeks are hardly likely to be repeated with the same severity. On the other hand a rapid recovery in values is also highly improbable.

The Fall in Industrials.

This week's break in the industrial sections has brought many good class stocks, domestic as well as international, down to levels at which they are distinctly attractive in comparison with the prices of only a few weeks ago. Their earning power, which is after all what concerns the investor, has naturally not been affected; it is only that enforced selling has, as usual, most affected the leaders. They have attractions, however, for the genuine investor rather than the speculator, for the man who is prepared to hold them, as there are few prepared to assert with confidence that the bottom has been reached. Those who have courage to hold should see a substantial capital appreciation in time. Imperial Chemical ordinary shares may now be bought to yield just over £5 10s. per cent., on the basis of the 8 per cent. dividend paid in the two years of the company's existence. So far the group has made very satisfactory progress, and the full fruits

of the economies rationalisation was established to effect have probably yet to be achieved. Courtaulds have also been severely marked down. On the basis of last year's dividends a return of £6 5s. per cent. is obtained. It is true that results are expected to be less satisfactory this year, but progress in the artificial silk trade has not yet finished and this great combine will again reach prosperity. The growing profits and the conservative financial policy of the Imperial Tobacco Company are well known and the taste for cigarettes has exhibited no signs of diminution. Yet this prosperous concern's ordinary shares can be bought to yield about £5 18s. per cent.

Rubber Outlook.

Just about a year has passed since the termination of restriction in the rubber market, and dealers are faced with prices little above 8d., the lowest level for 18 months. Side by side with the fall in the commodity price the shares of the leading rubber companies have declined, but the *Economist* suggests that this decline is not unjustified on the basis of recent earnings. It is shown that net earnings reported have steadily fallen since 1926, and that reports published in the first three quarters of this year have, on the average, shown earnings of only 9 per cent. compared with nearly 30 per cent. in the same period of 1926. It is, however, the current position of supply and demand, and obscurities of the outlook which are affecting the commodity prices. Production in Malaya has proved much heavier than anticipated, exports being approximately 12½ per cent. higher than last year. The consumption of rubber in the U.S.A. has risen by some 15 per cent. this year and imports of other countries have advanced even more rapidly. Visible stocks are nevertheless higher and it is feared that the anticipated check to motor car sales resulting from the Wall Street break will seriously check the demand for rubber. On the other hand, hopes have been expressed that as the effects of "resting" British trees during the restriction period are now passing, production may show some falling off, while some competent authorities state that motor cars are so much of a necessity in the United States now that the effects of the collapse will be less than expected.

Australasian Bank Shares.

The general depression in the Stock Markets has combined with particular adverse factors to cause a decline in the shares of banking companies operating in Australia, many of which now stand at unusually low prices. The particular factors referred to are the advent of a Labour Government and the difficult times through which Australia is passing. Restricted Government borrowing, together with the discouragement of capital owing to the high costs of production and the prevalence of industrial strife, have resulted in a slowing down in industry and general trade, which has been accentuated by the partial failure of the seasons and the fall in the world prices of Australia's principal primary products of wool and wheat. The wool position has, however, somewhat improved of late, but while confidence on the part of buyers has been more in evidence the prospect of an early marked improvement in value is not good, and the menace of a strike of textile workers in Yorkshire is an adverse factor. Both the political factors and the economic are of a temporary nature. Confidence in the Australian Government, has, indeed, already been restored, and as Mr. Andrew Williamson said at the meeting this week of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank, when the lessons of the present trouble had been learnt, Australia's natural resources and the calibre of her people should carry her towards prosperity. When the tide turns her banks will, of course, be among the first to benefit and meanwhile, thanks to the strong financial positions they have built up, their difficulties are not likely tangibly to affect shareholders. The ordinary shares of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank return £6 6s. per cent., and those of the Bank of Australasia £6 12s. per cent.

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TURKEY IN RECONSTRUCTION.

[A recent issue of the United States "Commerce Reports" contains an interesting survey of the present position in Turkey, from which the following is taken.]

The reconstruction of Turkey advances slowly, with progress retarded by adverse agricultural returns. The failure of the cereal crops in 1928, for the second consecutive year, necessitated heavy imports of wheat and flour for food purposes, and had a depressing effect on commerce in general. The tobacco crop was also smaller, but this was not entirely unfavourable, as it permitted the movement of accumulated stocks. The lower purchasing power of the peasants was reflected in the continued difficulties of many importers, while the more stringent credit conditions also contributed to this situation. Budget estimates show a further expansion, despite the generally unsatisfactory economic conditions, and large revenues are anticipated under the new tariff regulations.

Despite an extended drought, crop returns in 1928, with the exception of wheat, tobacco, and cotton, compared favourably with those of the previous year. The drought most seriously affected the wheat crop, which, for the second consecutive year, fell below the average recent reports place it at 611,000 metric tons, as against 1,333,000 tons in 1927, and about 4,700,000 tons in 1926. Turkey normally raises sufficient wheat to supply about three-fourths of its domestic requirements, and the failure in 1928 resulted in a food shortage which necessitated emergency imports of large quantities of wheat and flour. Semi-official estimates place such imports for the last six months of 1928 at 72,000 long tons, as compared with 6,480 tons in 1927 and 10,500 tons in 1926. Tobacco, the leading export item, suffered also from disease; unofficial estimates place the crop at 79,365,600 lb., as compared with 148,384,400 lb. in 1927. This decrease, which was partly due to the smaller area sown, was not entirely unfavourable, inasmuch as it permitted the movement of accumulated stocks from the previous year. The wool crop was estimated at 11,000,000 lb. (11,900,000 in 1927); mohair, 4,500 metric tons (3,700); raisins, 45,000 metric tons (48,000); figs, 29,000 metric tons (28,500); cotton, 85,000 bales (105,000); valonea, 45,000 metric tons (42,000); barley, 900,000 metric tons (629,280); rice, 20,640 (10,080) metric tons; potatoes, 59,480 (20,740) metric tons. The new filbert crop, according to recent (September, 1929) reports, is apparently a failure, owing to damage sustained from disease. It is expected that the harvest, will be one of the smallest ever recorded.

Slow Industrial Development.

The manufacturing industries in Turkey are of relatively little importance. Some progress has been made in the textile industry, owing to the local demand, but the lack of modern equipment has made it difficult to compete with imported products. The carpet industry, as indicated by exports, had a fairly satisfactory year in 1928, although the value of total shipments declined slightly to £E4,433,200, as compared with £T5,346,890 in 1927. These figures do not indicate whether or not re-exports from Persia are included. This industry, centred in the Smyrna district, is favoured by the excellent quality of the domestic wool. Other plants include sugar factories, fig and rasin packing establishments, cotton ginneries, and woodworking plants.

The exploitation of the mineral resources of the country has been handicapped by inadequate transport facilities. According to the General Direction of Mines, production of the leading minerals in 1926, the latest year for which figures are available, was as follows: Coal, 1,222,390 metric tons (703,440 in 1925); lignite, 12,200 (6,060); boracite, 18,360 (12,350); argentiferous lead, 17,670 (1,440); copper, 7,530 (197); chrome, 6,450 (6,670); emery, 6,060 (6,480).

An increase in commercial activity by purely Turkish enterprises has been noted recently in Turkey. This expansion has been particularly evident in the field of

banking. The Turkish Ish Bankassi (Banque d'Affaires de Turquie) has gradually increased its branches, which, with recent additions, now number 22. This expansion is interesting, in view of the general economic depression and the recent closing of branches in Constantinople by three foreign banking institutions. With a view to training Turkish citizens in commerce and industry, their employment by both foreign and domestic concerns is being urged.

The Smyrna Fair, which was scheduled for September 9, has been postponed until 1931, at the suggestion of the Minister of National Economy, in view of the unfavourable economic conditions. In the future, it is proposed to hold this fair every three years instead of annually, because of the heavy expense involved in special construction work.

Railways and Roads.

Railway construction has proceeded steadily. Estimates in May, 1929, placed the total of railway lines in operation at 5,215 kilometres, as compared with 4,640 kilometres at the end of 1927. In addition, 1,280 kilometres of line were under construction, most of the work being done by foreign companies. A continuation of the programme of railway expansion is indicated by the passage of a law by the National Assembly in the second quarter of 1929, providing for the opening of a credit of £T240,000,000 for construction and irrigation work over a period of 12 years. Of this amount £T140,000,000 is designated for railway construction.

Development of highway traffic has been handicapped by the poor condition of the roads, many of which are impassable in the winter months. As a result, most of the inland road traffic is still hauled by animals. Motor traffic, nevertheless, is increasing steadily, as growing automobile imports indicate. In 1928 motor car imports were unofficially estimated at 3,100 units, as compared with 2,220 units in 1927. Estimates at the close of 1928 place the total number of passenger cars in use at 6,700, and of lorries and busses at 2,300.

GREEK ASSIGNED REVENUES.

The Greek assigned revenues for the nine months January to September, 1929, amounted to:

	Drachmæ.	Increase or decrease.
Old revenues	2,441,792,406	+152,881,477
New revenues	664,173,413	— 4,384,191
Total	3,105,965,819	+148,497,376

Upon the basis of the above receipts and the relative security rights of the various loans the following figures show the approximate security available for the Refugee Stabilisation and Public Works Loans for the nine months January-September, 1929:—

	Security available.*	Service of loan requires.	No. of times covered.
Seven per Cent. Refugee, 1924 ...	£ 6,070,391	£ 691,875	8.77
Six per Cent. Stabilisation, 1928 ...	4,924,133	513,490	9.59
Six per Cent. Public Works, 1928†	4,240,326	199,290	21.27

* Exchange is calculated at Dr.375 per £1 (the stabilised rate) and all possible contingent future charges deducted.

† £4,000,000 at present issued. A further £18,000,000 can be issued ranking *pari passu*.

Hughes and Lancaster, Ltd., Wrexham, have obtained a contract for the Damanhour ejectors of the Cairo main drainage scheme.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended October 19 amounted to Rs.13,16,669, making the total since April 1 Rs.3,75,64,426, as compared with Rs.3,40,17,716 for the corresponding period of the previous twelve months.

The Directors of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., announce an interim dividend (No. 50) of 5 per cent. (less income tax at 4s. in the £) in respect of the year ending December 31, 1929, on the ordinary shares of the company, payable on and after November 18, 1929, at Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), 29, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

Steam Production.

One of the essentials in connexion with any power plant is to be able to know exactly how much steam the boilers will produce under various conditions. Only with this knowledge as a base is it possible to ascertain whether or no the plant is being operated efficiently. Where steam is used, in addition to its use for power generation, for process work, and for heating water radiator systems, and other industrial applications, it is impossible to get out the proper costs of all or any of these utilities unless the exact amount of steam generated is known and the amount used for actual power generation duly measured. In calculations of the kind it is necessary to take into consideration the length of the pipe lines, the conditions they meet with in that length, the amount and nature of the lagging or non-conducting material, if any, with which they are covered. From this it naturally arises that some form of steam meter is necessary on both the power lines and the lines used for industrial purposes. In any case, the amount of steam generated at the boiler should be metered, as this enables the engineer to know exactly how much the boiler is producing for a given expenditure of fuel. Meters at the other centres of use would enable the amounts used to be subtracted from the amount shown as generated on the boiler meter, and in that way transmission and radiation losses could be ascertained to a nicety. The use of meters also often enables a reduction in the quantity of steam used to be effected. The only argument that can be used against the installation of steam meters is that they are fairly expensive. The question therefore arises as to whether the savings they can effect are sufficient to pay interest, depreciation, and other standing charges on the meters. Those are not matters that can be touched upon here; they depend on local conditions and the cost of suitable meters, and advice from meter manufacturers should be taken before installing plant of the kind.

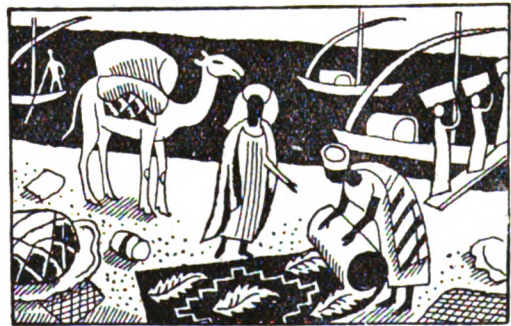
Steam meters work, as a general thing, on the pressure-drop principle, and in the majority of types a throttle plate, consisting of a diaphragm with a small hole in the centre, is placed in the steam pipe. When the steam flowing has to pass through this orifice, the constriction causes a proportionate increase in the speed with which the steam moves, and this increased speed brings about a drop in pressure, which is measured, in the steam meter, by one or other of the many types of manometers. From the apparatus, electrical connexions carry the readings and changes to a dial situated at any convenient point. The great trouble in connexion with meters of this type is that they are not accurate when the steam flow is small, and they cannot be guaranteed for flows of less than one-tenth of the maximum.

There is another type of steam meter which so far has not been too successful, but which would seem to be on right lines and capable of considerable development. That is the type known as the vane-wheel turbine meter, and whilst at one time the exception was to find one of these working accurately, the construction has been so much improved that to-day thoroughly reliable meters of this kind are obtainable, measuring with accuracy down to one-tenth the maximum flow. One of the chief advantages of these meters is that they not only cannot be damaged by overloads, but will record them correctly. So far, the vane-wheel turbine meters have been liable to err through wear in the bearings, dirt or water in the steam, steam leakage through the glands in which the spindle worked that operated the recording mechanism, and through friction brought about by endeavouring to keep these glands steam-tight. The latest design is one in which the vanes are damped down by being made to rotate in water condensed from the steam, under which conditions

compensating mechanism could be, and in some types is, introduced. The makers of these types of meters point out that the wear on the bearings is reduced, and that, as the normal flow of steam is upward, it is a comparatively simple matter to arrange that the force of the steam on the vanes just about balances the weight of the rotor, so that this floats in its bearings without a positive thrust on either side. A further point is that the whole of the mechanism is placed in a shunt circuit, thus preventing any oil or dirt in the steam from having to pass through the meter. The wheels of the counter train run in water condensed from the steam, and the whole of the counter mechanism is enclosed in an air-tight chamber.

Waterways.

From time to time proposals are made to the effect that the more or less derelict canals of this country should be reconditioned and put into active service, the proposers waiving altogether, apparently, the question as to whether any goods could be carried by canal which are not at present carried by road or rail. If there are no such goods, then all that would be done by reviving our canals would be the robbing of a by no means too well-fed Peter to feed an aged and decrepit Paul. What seems to be forgotten is that the improvement of the transport facilities of this country is of no value in itself; no country can get rich on good roads or big railways or far-reaching canal networks. What is needed is production of goods; wheelbarrows are useless unless there is something to put in them. A few days ago the writer heard Mr. W. W. Grierson speak on this subject at the Institution of Civil



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to
the Secretary

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Engineers—Mr. Grierson is the new president—and as his duties, professionally, include the supervision of the chief canals of the country, his opinion may be taken as of considerable value. He said that it is difficult to see any hope that canal transport would prove economical to-day in England. A considerable number of the original canals are derelict and the rest are far from prosperous. It was questionable whether any comparison could be made with canals on the Continent, where geographical, physical, and political conditions were so different. Another factor, which did not obtain on the Continent, was that traders in England desired speedy delivery of comparatively small consignments. Further, in Belgium and Germany both canals and railways are State-owned, and the general policy in both countries, for certain reasons, has been to foster water-borne traffic. In his view, he said, it seemed that any State-aided scheme for the improvement of transportation in Great Britain would be more likely to succeed if it assisted the railways rather than a system which is nearly obsolete in this country.

Railway Gauges.

The president then referred to the development of rail tracks from the earliest examples to the latest types, and suggested that modification in the proportions of the constituents of ordinary steel rails and the development of special steels and processes of heat treatment presented scope for a possible lengthening of the life of rails. The standard gauge of 4 ft. 8½ in. was probably a legacy from the earliest platways built to take an ordinary country car. Brunel considered that high speed on the alignment followed by the Great Western Railway Company would be obtained most safely and economically by the use of a broader gauge; and a Royal Commission appointed in 1838 recommended a gauge of 6 ft. 2 in. for railways in Ireland for reasons similar to those which had influenced Brunel. Nevertheless, want of uniformity led to the scrapping of the broad gauge in England. The serious-

ness of the gauge problem is now fully recognised in Australia, where the main trunk lines are of three gauges, which involves numerous and costly delays and transhipments. In India, where the important centres are connected directly by through routes, the problem is of less moment. The South African railways demonstrate in a remarkable manner, largely due to development in the last few years of locomotive power, the capacity of the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge for dealing with heavy traffic at high speeds and of providing very comfortable passenger accommodation. It seems possible that modern development may proceed along the lines of narrower rather than broader gauges.

Low Temperature Carbonisation.

One important general application for the low temperature carbonisation of coal is in the iron and steel and general metallurgical industries, treating bituminous coal dust and smalls to obtain smokeless solid fuel in large pieces, equal to screened coal, as well as tar and light oil, and using all the rich clean gas for the heat treatment of steel. At the present time the general method adopted is of course hot, uncleaned producer gas, but there is also employed coal or other solid fuel in the lump form, pulverised coal, oil, natural gas, and coke oven gas. In this connexion a highly interesting paper, "Fuel used in Heat Treatment of Steel," has been read in Philadelphia by Martin J. Conway, Fuel Engineer to the Lukens Steel Company, Coatesville, Pa., well known for boiler plates and flange steel, who are going to take all the gas, as already mentioned in these columns, from a "K.S.G." low temperature carbonisation plant. Mr. Conway sums up the advantages of low temperature carbonisation gas as against hot uncleaned producer gas as follows:—(1) Cleaner operating conditions without soot and deposits in the gas main and entire absence of ash and clinker. (2) Constant calorific value of the gas, which does not obtain with producers, especially because of the necessity of clinkering. (3) Ease of control, due both to constant pressure and calorific values, thus allowing of highly efficient automatic gas supply with constant heat. (4) Flexibility in the sense that low temperature carbonisation gas of this character can be piped with the greatest ease to any part of the plant, whereas hot, dirty producer gas cannot be sent for long distances, and the supply pipes lined inside with firebrick are costly to install and also keep in operation. (5) Great accuracy in the actual heat treatment of the steel in the sense that the flame can be altered instantly so as to give a slightly reducing or slightly oxidising atmosphere at will, with continuous maintenance of these conditions in a manner impossible with producer gas or oil firing. (6) Various other advantages which include easy metering of the gas and therefore very scientific control of the furnace operation, while it is not necessary to pass the gas through regenerator chambers, so that the whole of the equipment of this character can be thrown on to preheating the air and giving still higher combustion efficiency.

It may be remembered that the "K.S.G." plant, now being erected by International Combustion Engineering Corporation, adjoining the Lukens Steel Works, consists of six standard rotary cylindrical steel retorts, each with a throughput of 80 tons of coal per 24 hours, that is, 480 tons for the complete plant. These consist of a very large slightly inclined steel cylinder, 85 ft. long and 5 ft. 6 in. diameter, carrying an outer cylinder 72 ft. 9 in. long and 10 ft. diameter, running at one revolution in 90 seconds, driven by suitable gearing and giving 2½ hours' carbonisation with a maximum temperature of 925-1025 deg. Fahr. by means of external heating along with steaming of the charge, and blending if necessary with a small amount of the smokeless fuel smalls. Obviously the future of low temperature carbonisation, and especially in Great Britain, lies in co-operation with furnace equipment, using all the gas, for example, in steam boiler plant, and pottery, general ceramic, and glass works, as well as, of course, in the iron and steel and general metallurgical industries.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE FOR "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

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Port Said: John Horne.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.
Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.
Tel Aviv: Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.
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IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

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BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangere, 24, Rue du Stade.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendo.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

Near East Markets

THE ROUMANIAN MARKET.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended November 8:—

Grain.—A general collapse in grain prices on consuming markets has brought about almost complete stagnation of fresh business for prompt shipment here; in fact, practically the only movement there has been during the week was in connexion with the fulfilment of old sales and the shipment of a few parcels of new maize, chiefly to Rotterdam. Some sales, however, have been effected for second half November shipment, both for maize and barley to U.K. and Continent. The change in the weather is expected to cause an improvement in the position in Western Europe and, as a matter of fact, yesterday's telegrams indicated a somewhat better feeling. Freights have had to give way about 6d. to 9d., due rather to the nervousness of charterers than to any excessive supply of tonnage. Parcels have been booked at from 14s. 9d. to 15s. for the Continent, and a large parcel was accepted at 14s. to complete a steamer about to run into demurrage. The position at Constantza is somewhat easier, and steamers are gradually obtaining their cargoes at about 8s. 6d. to 9s.

Timber.—Although there is no improvement in the trade in general, the demand for space, especially to South Italy and North Africa, is well maintained owing to the limited time remaining before the possible closing of navigation. A few hundred waggons have been booked for Italy at rates varying from £11 Sicily and £13 West Italy. Shippers are offering £11 for the South of France and North Africa, but so far no engagements at these rates have been reported. A fairly good demand is maintained for Syria and Palestine at £11, £11 10s. Greece is less in demand, and although steamers are unwilling to accept the present rate of £8 5s., no bookings at higher rates have yet been reported.

Weather and Crops.—The temperature fell considerably from the 4th till the 6th owing to cold easterly winds, but otherwise the weather has remained mild, cloudy, and relatively moist. Precipitations locally have been in the form of intermittent drizzles, but nearly an inch of rain has been reported from some districts. A Government report issued on the 7th summarised the position as follows:—"In the course of the past week only partial rains have been registered although the sky was continually cloudy. The nights, especially in the Northern regions, were cold, whilst in the old Kingdom fog and winds were experienced in many districts. Shortage of atmospheric precipitations is still felt in Central Bessarabia and in Moldavia, as well as in the counties of Muscel, Alba, and Turda. In general, however, the ground has sufficient moisture and sowings are being carried out under good conditions." A shortage of seed wheat and rye is reported from the County of Ismail. There is no news yet as to the extent of the autumn sowings. If these fall below the possible maximum, this will not be so much the fault of the weather, which during the last weeks has in general been very favourable, but rather to the antiquated methods of cultivation with ox traction, which does not allow full advantage to be taken of the climatic conditions. The Government is favouring the introduction of machinery and motor tractors, but though motor traction is increasing rapidly in the towns, the modernisation of agriculture is retarded by the large number of small holdings into which the bulk of the land is divided, and the lack of a well-organised system of co-operation, which counteracts the advantage enjoyed by this country in the shape of a plentiful supply of cheap liquid fuel.

Sulina.—Bar.—The depth on the bar is maintained at 24 feet, the dredgers working whenever the weather permits. River.—The depth of water in the river has increased to 23 ft. 6 in., and, in view of the greater volume of water coming down from Central Europe, it is expected that the depth will shortly improve to 24 ft. without the necessity of further dredging on the shallows.

Constantza.—This week about 11,500 tons of grain arrived from the interior and about the same quantity was exported, mostly to Antwerp-Hamburg range, although 1,800 tons went to Hull and a few hundred tons to Mediterranean ports. Two 8,000 ton steamers are loading under the elevators at time of writing, whilst three are waiting for berths and six others are expected to load grain. Fourteen vessels loaded over 46,000 tons petroleum products and three oil fuel for bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, November 2.—Our freight market is very quiet owing to weak grain markets abroad, and very few transactions have been concluded at 10s. 6d. to 11s. for Antwerp/Rotterdam/Hamburg. To Mediterranean destinations the business concluded has also been insignificant. The weather has been generally rainy and foggy, favouring autumn sowings.

At a recent meeting of the Directors of the Ionian Bank, Ltd., Mr. Arthur George Mitton Dickson was appointed a Director of the bank.

A recent Roumanian Ministerial Decision provides for a reduction of the valuations of woollen and worsted piece-goods and hosiery (on which the 2.2 per cent. turnover tax is levied on import); and provides that for the purposes of calculating the luxury and turnover tax applicable to yarns, piece-goods, and other wares of artificial or vegetable silks, the valuations are to be taken as 80 per cent. of the valuations established for real silk goods.

THE TRADE OF CYPRUS.

During the quarter ended September 30 there was an increase of £75,000 in the value of the imports of Cyprus over the figure for the corresponding period of 1928. To this the principal contributors were coal, cement, cotton yard and thread, fertilisers, leather, machinery, and motor car and motor cycle tyres. Decreases were recorded in wheat meal and flour, unmanufactured tobacco, timber, and motor cars. In exports there was also an increase of some £52,000, made up chiefly by carobs, barley, wheat, raw hides and skins, cumin seeds, and mules. Raisins, potatoes, asbestos, raw cotton, pyrites, and wool showed a slight drop.

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The November issue of the Monthly Review of Barclays Bank, Ltd., contains the following quarterly reports:—

Egypt.

The three months under review have been marked by a gradual decline in cotton quotations, due partly to good crop reports and partly to general financial stringency. Prices have reacted from the highest point of 34½ dollars at one time reached during the quarter to 29½ dollars for Sakellaridis and from 23¼ dollars to 19½ dollars for Ashmouni, without apparently attracting any important demand generally. It is true, however, that Ashmouni, owing to its relative cheapness in comparison with American cotton, has been in favour and nearly the entire old stock has been disposed of, while a fair amount of new crop has also been sold forward. The carry-over at the end of August, amounting to 1,164,000 kantars, was composed of 732,000 kantars of Sakellaridis, 293,000 kantars of Ashmouni, and the remainder of different varieties such as Pilon, Maarad, and White. The Sakellaridis carry-over contained 230,000 kantars belonging to the Egyptian Government, which may be discounted for statistical purposes, but the remainder, together with a very large stock of Sudan Sakels in Liverpool and a prospective crop of 2,750,000 kantars of Egyptian Sakel this year seem to have assured spinners of supplies at reasonable prices. The difference between Sakels and Ashmounis has fallen from 12½ dollars to 9½ dollars, with every prospect of a further narrowing unless a demand for Sakels eventuates. The spot market has recently become active, but exports remain small for the time of the year. The rise in the discount rate of the Bank of England has restricted trade, and very little cotton is being stocked either by exporters or spinners, with a result that the demand is from hand-to-mouth, a factor which has not tended to strengthen prices. Crop estimates seem to have crystallised around 7,850,000 kantars for Egyptian and 14,915,000 bales for American cotton, figures which, it is thought, ensure ample supplies of both classes.

The three months under review witnessed an almost absolute depletion of stocks of cotton seed, the figures returned on August 31 being 71,341 ardebs, which is barely sufficient for local consumption for a month. The first arrivals of new crop were eagerly bought up at good premiums, but larger arrivals and lack of freight caused premiums to diminish and the accumulation of stocks led to a heavy fall in the price of futures. Quotations lately have touched almost a record low level, but a sound commercial demand is manifest and a further decline is considered likely. The cotton goods market has been active and prices have ruled steady; Manchester goods have been in satisfactory demand. Business in flour has been irregular and has been greatly influenced by the wheat market, but the demand for Australian, French, and Italian flour has been satisfactory. Stocks are still abundant and holders are not pressing sales, as it is thought that the tendency of the market appears to be in favour of an improvement. Sugar arrivals have been abundant, but actual prices were low and attracted business. Trade in imported rice has been very restricted, owing to reduced stocks, but the demand for Egyptian rice has been satisfactory at easy prices, due to an abundant crop. There has been very little export trade in cabots, and consequently the tone of the market has been irregular. Coffee has been steady and active. The gunnies market has been weak, and prices for cotton sacks have declined, but cereal bags have been in good demand.

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for local consumption and for export to Syria. Business in cereals has been active and crops generally are abundant.

The Sudan.

As usual at this time of the year, markets generally, during the quarter, have been featureless, natives being occupied in the cultivation of the new crops. The situation, although quiet, is sound, and a period of activity is expected in the near future, following upon good rains. Locusts this year are causing some anxiety and their depredations have been considerable in certain areas, both to cotton and dura. Whether the latter crop will be seriously affected is, however, not yet known, but the rapid ripening of the cereal should prevent further extensive damage. All cotton in the Gezira Irrigation Scheme has been planted, 159,512 feddans having been sown. Some re-planting has been found necessary, owing to excessive moisture, as a result of exceptionally heavy rains during July, and a brown rot, from the same cause, has destroyed a certain amount of seedling cotton. Generally speaking, however, the crop is well up to average and a normal yield is anticipated. The 1928/29 gum season is now virtually over, although inquiries from overseas buyers still continue. About 10,950 tons have been received this season, as against 16,350 tons for the corresponding period last year and, if inferior hashab gums are also taken into consideration, the estimated total shortage on the crop approaches 7,500 tons. A certain caution is being displayed by sellers in regard to contracts for the coming season, and the new arrivals are being awaited with some anxiety. The sesame market has been uniformly weak and stocks on hand have exceeded demand. Egypt has remained a consistent buyer of small quantities, but with the advent of the new crop contracts, prices have slumped to £E15.500 for white and £E15 for red. Stocks on hand are estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 2,500 tons.

In the absence of stocks, the ground-nut market has been stagnant, but the new crop is expected to be larger than that of the previous year. Quotations for delivery November/December are £E11 per ton f.o.r. Port Sudan. The cotton piece-goods market has been dull, but prices have been maintained in anticipation of a quickened demand from natives when the cultivation of crops is completed. Prices for Japanese cabots have fluctuated between 11s. 4d. and 11s. 10d. per piece c.i.f. Port Sudan. Coffee has exhibited a dull tendency, but quotations have remained firm and are expected to harden in the near future.

Palestine.

The plentiful harvest, with reasonable prices, gave promise of a prosperous period, but the serious rioting which took place during the latter half of the quarter under review caused a sharp set-back and the continuance of the boycott and the animosity between Arabs and Jews has had a most depressing effect on trade. In spite of the serious troubles, however, business was soon resumed, but on a very curtailed scale, and certain facilities have had to be granted in the payment of bills, etc. At the time of writing, relations are still very strained, but it is thought that recovery from the recent disturbances would be rapid if normal commercial relationships were resumed. The orange crop is making satisfactory progress.

ABYSSINIAN MARKET FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

Among the more promising of the newer lines of trade in manufactured articles opening up in Abyssinia is that of watches and clocks. The present volume of the trade is small, but from a comparatively recent start it is increasing at the rate of 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. per annum (says the United States Minister and Consul-General at Addis Ababa in a recent report). Customs statistics are not available, but retailers estimate that during the current year about 1,000 watches, with a value of £1,500, have been sold, and the prospect is that sales will nearly double that number next year. Less than 100 clocks per annum are now being sold, but the demand is increasing.

About 70 per cent. of the demand is for pocket watches and 30 per cent. for wrist watches. Of the pocket watches three-quarters of the total sold are with hunting case, the remainder being open face. Gold-plated watches make up 25 per cent., silver watches about 30 per cent., and nickel watches about 45 per cent. of the total sales. Ornamental cases are preferred. Those found in local shops have such designs in the metal as St. George on horseback, King Tafari, Empress Zeoditu, a sun with rays, a lion, or a horse. The sun design appears most popular. Dials are generally plain. Arabic numerals are preferred to the Roman. Three-fourths of the total sold are in size 18. Comparatively thin watches appear to meet with most favour.

There is no watch manufacturing industry in Abyssinia, nor is there likely to be one for many years to come. All watches are imported,

and fully 85 per cent. of the total come from Switzerland. France, England, and Italy supply each about 5 per cent. of the total. Clocks come exclusively from Germany. Some cheap American watches have been imported in the past, but they are said to have proved too plain in case design to attract the average Abyssinian purchaser. Swiss watches lead because the manufacturers of that country have catered especially for the trade. Their designs and trade-marks are well established and known.

The increasing demand for watches is followed closely by an increased demand for chains. Low-priced chains are mainly required. Rolled-gold chains come first in favour. Silver chains are sold, as also are those with gilt, nickel, and gold finish. More expensive chains are made by local jewellers by hand from gold of the country. Price depends usually upon the weight of the chain, which is of solid gold of better than 18 carat quality. This trade is much less important than that in watches, but it follows the watch trade closely and might be considered at the same time. The demand for clocks is not equal to that for watches, but it has been observed to be following the increase in demand for the portable timepiece. The preferences of the purchaser are not yet well developed excepting as to price, which must be modest.

Time has not heretofore been an important consideration in Abyssinia. The sun, moon, stars, and intuition have served the purpose of marking the hours of day or night. However, the country is now rapidly taking up Western ways and is coming more and more into contact with international trade. Officials of the Government now find watches necessary, whereas in an older day they did not require them other than for ornament. School facilities on European and American bases are being developed. The greatest potential demand is among the younger generation now attending the schools. A few dozen students attended less than ten years ago, but there are now thousands, with thousands more in sight. Money to buy watches is becoming more readily available.

Appropriate repair facilities are, of course, essential to encourage the demand for watches, and such facilities already exist. The repairers are mainly Armenians who have learned their trade elsewhere. The Abyssinians frequently break stems and springs in winding. Many crystals are broken. Spare parts come mainly from Switzerland.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at September 30, 1929, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000; reserve fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E1,340,625; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E13,584,815; Egyptian Government, £E15,051,236; Sudan Government, £E116,880; Mixed Tribunals, £E2,017,854; bankers' accounts, £E460,682; cheques and bills payable, £E106,055; sundry other accounts, £E2,429,748—£E39,595,304. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E20,196,522; sundry securities, £E916,643; advances on merchandise, £E2,117,393; advances on securities, £E4,640,307; advances otherwise secured, £E1,449,896; sundry other advances, £E1,420,553; bills of exchange, £E2,555,565; local bills discounted, £E747,774; buildings and furniture, £E225,802; money at call and at short notice, £E897,000; bankers' accounts, £E316,764; sundry other accounts, £E1,706,282; cash: notes, £E1,736,001; gold, £E384,477; silver, nickel, etc., £E284,245—£E2,404,723—£E39,595,304. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E26,900,000—£E26,900,000. Gold, £3,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, £E10,110,430—£E13,450,000; securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, and British War Loan, £E11,950,000—£E13,450,000—£E26,900,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel*, October 30, 1916.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotation.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.08½
Athens	Drachms to £ ...	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275½—276
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.39
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.14
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—29.32
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.87
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	816½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.88½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—29.32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1.032½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.87½—7/16
Paris	Francs to £.....	124.21	123.86
Prague	Kronen to £.....	164.25	164.9/16
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	93.13—16
Sofia.....	Leva to £	673.659	674½
Teheran	Krans to £	48	62
Vienna	Sch to £	24.58½	34.67½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 7/16—9/16

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MERSIN AND THE CILICIAN DISTRICT OF TURKEY.

The proposed construction of a modern port at Mersin, which is one of the projects included in the general public works programme of the Turkish Government, has tended to focus attention on the region served by this undeveloped port (says an article in the United States "Commerce Reports"). This region, known as the Cilician district, is probably the richest and most active agricultural section in Turkey. Although Mersin, which is situated on the Mediterranean Sea, close to the Syrian border, is at present not much more than an open roadstead, the volume of trade through this port has been fairly well maintained, despite the lack of facilities.

The Cilician plain, located in the southern part of Turkey, is roughly crescent shaped, with the Taurus Mountains on the north and west, the Giaour-Dagh Mountains on the east, and the gulfs of Mersin and Alexandretta on the south. The plain has an area of approximately 5,000 square miles, is 100 miles in length, and averages about 50 miles in width. The area under cultivation is estimated at 1,350 square miles, or about one-fourth of the total, according to semi-official sources. In spite of centuries of cultivation the soil is extremely fertile. It is composed chiefly of limestone silt, brought down from the Taurus Mountains by the three rivers which have built and which water the plain—the Tarsus, the Siehan, and the Jeyhan. The plain has a semi-tropical climate and is protected from the cold winds of the Anatolian Plateau by the Taurus Mountains. Official statistics covering the population of the Cilician plain are not available, as a considerable portion of the Taurus and Giaour-Dagh Mountain regions is included in the vilayets of Mersin, Adana, and Jebel-Bereket, among which the plain is divided.

Cotton, wheat, barley, and sesame constitute the principal crops of the Cilician district. It is estimated that approximately 50 per cent. of the total area under cultivation during normal years is devoted to cotton, 25 to wheat, 10 to barley, 5 to sesame, and 10 per cent. to miscellaneous crops, as oats, maize, and millet. For 1927, production of cotton totalled 27,602 metric tons, wheat 85,891, barley 29,457, oats 11,308, maize 128, millet 1,045, and sesame 2,312. From the point of view of financial returns, cotton is the outstanding crop of this region. The average size of the farms is larger than in any other part of Turkey, being estimated by the 1927 census at 108.3 dunums (4.4 dunums equal 1 acre) in the vilayet of Mersin, 75.4 dunums in the vilayet of Jebel-Bereket, and 57.8 dunums in the vilayet of Adana, as compared with an average of 25 dunums for the entire country. In Turkey generally, however, the use of modern machinery is still far from widespread, because most of the farms are too small to necessitate, and the peasant farmers too poor to purchase such equipment. Interest rates on agricultural loans, furthermore, are extremely high, ranging from 18 to 22 per cent., and are an important handicap to the more extensive purchases of agricultural machinery.

In the field of animal husbandry, the breeding of sheep and goats represents an important activity. Exports of wool from the Cilician district are considerable, with England and the United States the principal purchasers. Production data are not available, but shipments of wool during 1927 and 1928 via the port Mersin, as reported by the Director of Maritime Commerce, were 734 tons and 1,356 tons, respectively.

Manufacturing in the Cilician district is confined chiefly to the cotton industry. There are approximately 20 ginning mills in operation in the district, two important spinning mills near Adana, and three fairly large cotton seed-oil plants. As a result of the new tariff large increases in duties are levied on imported textiles, which are expected to have a stimulating effect on production of

cotton and manufacture of textiles in this district. The lumber industry, which is also of considerable importance, has been handicapped in development by lack of transport facilities. It has been confined chiefly to the vicinity of the larger streams and of the Baghdad Railway. The Taurus and Giaour-Dagh Mountain regions are the centre of the industry, and shipments via the port of Mersin are mostly to Syria and Egypt.

A considerable share of the import trade into the Cilician district is handled through the sub-agents or subsidiaries of Stamboul firms, this being particularly true in general merchandise lines. Foreign trade activity—especially in Mersin and Adana—is largely in the hands of Levantines of various origins. In spite of two years of bad crops, not only in this district but throughout Turkey, the trade in staple lines and necessities in this region had held up fairly well. As yet, there are few firms in Adana and Mersin engaged in general merchandising which have sufficient capital to import direct from foreign countries. But an exception must be made in the case of agricultural machinery, the major part of which is sold through direct representatives of the foreign manufacturers. There is a growing tendency in all lines toward direct relations with the foreign manufacturer, thereby eliminating the charges attendant on transshipment.

Cotton and Cotton Goods. THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 13:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—The majority of commodity markets have latterly appeared to reflect or anticipate the after-effects of the financial crisis in New York in a more direct manner, consequently a general further marking down in cotton values has again been experienced. The decline in Sakels has not been as severe as in other growths, due mainly to the action of the Egyptian Government expressing their intention of accepting tenders against the November position in Alexandria at 27 dollars, a figure which, at the time of writing, is only a few points below the ruling level. Ideas here of the potential buying power behind the scheme are still vague, but as, since the initial declaration, a further official notification has been issued stating that the operation will be extended to Januarys at the same basis, it appears probable, should the occasion arrive, that quite a considerable amount of cotton may be involved. With this in mind, operators, both here and in Alexandria, are naturally shy of entering into short commitments, and holders of actual are inclined to run their cotton unhedged, or, as a temporary measure, to take advantage of the premiums on distant positions to put out the necessary sales. The result of this policy is apparent in the closing in that has taken place in the local market between near and distant trading positions. The view we expressed in our last report than an increased offtake for Sakels should commence to develop owing to the reasonableness of the existing level and the attractive basis now obtaining in Egypt, appears to be gaining ground. Since we last wrote, spinners report a distinct improvement in yarn business, with further good orders only being withheld because of the prevailing unsettled and perhaps too pessimistic views of outside conditions. Under existing circumstances we cannot advise any out and out commitments; at present actual cotton is weighing too heavily to permit of anything but a very slight advance, whilst, for reasons stated previously, there is no margin for the time being on the "short" side.

Upper Contract.—Trading in this contract during the majority of sessions since our last report has been of a very light character, but, in view of the fact that values have worked down fairly close to the Government limit of 19 dollars, only moderate price recessions have been recorded. The trade have only bought sparingly out of the local stock, but rather more c.i.f. inquiry has been in evidence. Sentiment in most markets is so overwhelmingly "bearish" that we hesitate

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to advise purchases; at the same time, we must point out that, at the ruling level, near positions in our markets are considerably undervalued when compared with the basis of the majority of offers coming to hand from Egypt.

Egyptian Spot.

Spot business has been much restricted this week and buyers have shown little interest except for the low and inferior qualities, in the demand for which there has been quite a small revival, and for Uppers within the usual range. Quotations have been much steadier and the better qualities in Upper even show a slight advance on the week. Spinners are finding the present level attractive and we are inclined to think that in Sakel it has been the poor selection on offer, rather than any unwillingness to buy, which has hampered business. It is by no means certain that the bottom has yet been reached, but any halt in the decline is welcome, and, as past experience shows, these "halting" periods are generally the prelude to a recovery.

Sakel has again suffered from neglect, particularly amongst the medium and better qualities. The "off" and "inferior" grades have met a very fair inquiry, but we doubt if the results have been in proportion to the demand.

Uppers.—"From pass to 20 on" has once again proved the most frequent inquiry. Bargains are not so easily come by, however, as they were a short time ago, and, as any cotton based on Alexandria appears disproportionately dear when regarded in terms of points on Liverpool futures, actual business has dwindled considerably. A necessary period of adjustment between buyers and sellers is now in being as regards Upper prices.

Pilion has been in moderate request only.

Nahda, White, Maarad, etc.—Slightly more inquiry, but results very limited.

Tokar Sakel.—Entirely neglected.

Sudan Sakel.—Only a moderate business has taken place.

C.i.f. business.—There has been more doing in certain quarters, and as confidence returns this is likely to grow rapidly in extent at around current levels. Forwardings last week were returned as 8,382 bales Egyptian and 1,829 bales Sudan.

Spot Sales.—These have been estimated at 1,600 bales Egyptian and 250 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel show a net decline of 10 points; Uppers an advance of 5 points for Good and above. Pilion shows no change on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 14.80d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.41d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 11.35d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company report as follows for the week ended November 7:—The market during the past week has been fairly quiet and fluctuations have been small; the tone at the close to-day was steady. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November, 27.77 dollars, 0.03 dollars down; January, 28.20 dollars, 0.55 dollars down; March, 28.60 dollars, 0.80 dollars down; May, 28.90 dollars, 1.15 dollars down; July, 29.25 dollars; November, 29.65 dollars. Ashmouni: December, 19.55 dollars, 0.13 dollars down; February, 19.72 dollars, 0.43 dollars down; April, 20.02 dollars, 0.61 dollars down; June, 20.31 dollars, 0.69 dollars down; October, 20.71 dollars.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Nov. 18	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Oct. 30.
Government Stocks.			Government Loans.		Rs.
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	...	80	3½% Government Paper ...	...	68
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	...	69½	Banks		
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	...	65	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	1,387
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	...	70	Bank of India ...	...	98½
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	...	28½	Central Bank of India ...	...	18
Do. 7 p.c. ...	...	78½	Coal.		
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ...	...	68½	Baraboni ...	...	6 as
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ...	...	68½	Bengal ...	...	492½
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	...	53½	Burrakur ...	...	154
Do. 5 p. 1890 ...	...	68½	East Indian ...	...	27
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	...	68	Equitable ...	...	254
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, Loan, 1902 ...	...	55	Pench Valley ...	...	39½
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	...	56½	Raneegunge ...	...	44
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	...	71½	Standard ...	...	62
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ...	...	96½	Cotton.		
Do. 6 p.c. 2d Bds. ...	...	84½	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	38½
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	...	100	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	762½
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ...	...	83½	Bowrah ...	...	592
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext ...	...	68½	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	175
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	...	44	Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	328½
Do. 7 p.c. ...	...	79½	Century ...	...	477½
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	...	105½	Central India ...	...	91
India 3½ p.c. ...	...	61½	Elgin ...	...	87½
Do. 5 p.c. ...	...	54½	Klatau Makani ...	...	337
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	...	100	Muir ...	...	161
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	...	84½	New Ring ...	...	320½
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	...	20½	Phoenix ...	...	410
Banks.			Svadeshi ...	...	
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	...	7½	Jute.		
Bank of British West Africa ...	...	4	Alliance ...	...	501
Bank of Roumania ...	...	80½	Barnagore ...	...	274
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl. ...	...	26.9	Bengal Paper Mills ...	...	530
Chartered Bank of India ...	...	181	Budge Budge ...	...	37½
Eastern ...	...	61	Clive ...	...	526
Hambros ...	...	9 31/32	Dalhousie ...	...	535
Ionian Bank ...	...	6 11/16	Delta ...	...	9.5
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	...	10	Fort Gloster ...	...	450
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	...	16	Gourepore ...	...	56½
Lloyds ...	...	60	Howrah ...	...	614
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	...	30½	Kamarhatty ...	...	516
Do. B ...	...	33	Kankannarrah ...	...	653½
National Bank of Egypt ...	...	32½	Khardah ...	...	1,065½
National Bank of India ...	...	48	Kinison ...	...	29½
Ottoman Bank ...	...	11½	National ...	...	454
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	...	77 1/16	Standard ...	...	685
Westminster ...	...	74.9	Union ...	...	
Land.			Miscellaneous		
Kassala Cotton ...	...	7.6	British India Corporation ...	...	2½
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	...	5.9	Bengal Timber Trading ...	...	213½
Sudan Plantations ...	...	3½	Burn and Co. ...	...	352
Mines.			Cawnpore Sugar ...	...	174
Salaghat Gold Mining ...	...	4.6	Champan Sugar ...	...	124
Burma Corp. ...	...	16.9	Howrah Oil Mills ...	...	11½
Champion Reef Gold ...	...	9.9	ALEXANDRIA		
Myers ...	...	14.3	Prices on Nov. 8, supplied by G.L. Morten, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Nuadydroog ...	...	15.9	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	£7½
Oreogum Gold Mining Ord. ...	...	7.6	" " Fond. ...	...	£730
Oil.			Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	14
Anglo-Egyptian B ...	...	2½	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	£23.32
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	...	3 15/16	Behera Ord. ...	...	£2.19½
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	...	26.3	Ciments d'Egypte ...	...	Frs. 123
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	...	27.9	Div. ...	...	164
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	...	97½	Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	...	Frs. 840
Brit. Burmah ...	...	6.6	" " Fondateur ...	...	Frs. 133
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	...	329.32	Crown Brewery Priv. ...	...	£2
Do. 8½ Cum Pref ...	...	26.3½	Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	...	£67 1/16
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	...	-3	Frigorifique d'Egypte ...	...	£144
Phoenix Oil and Transport f.p. ...	...	9.9	Immeubles d'Egypte Sec. An. des. ...	...	£16
Do. (l.) ...	...	421.32	Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	...	£212
Shell Transport ...	...	9.6	" " Parts de Fond ...	...	Pt. 190
Steaua Romana ...	...	9.6	Menzaleh Canal Navigation ...	...	Sh31.6
			Naw Egyptian ...	...	

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	585	INDIAN NOTES ...	587	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		SPECIAL ARTICLE—		Notes and News ...	601
A New Session in Roumania ...	588	Tribes of the Southern Sudan III. ...	595	Economic Conditions in Yugoslavia ...	603
SPECIAL LETTERS—		BOOK REVIEWS ...	599	The Week's Finance ...	605
Egypt ...	589	PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	597	Notes from Bulgaria ...	606
Yugoslavia ...	590	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	598	Motors and Motoring ...	607
The Hijaz ...	590			Near East Markets ...	609
Calcutta ...	592			Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	611
				Company Meeting—	
				Bengal Nagpur Railway Company ...	611

Notes of the Week.

The Wailing Wall.

As is very well known, the Special Commission mentioned in Article 14 of the Mandate for Palestine has never, since the failure of the British Government's attempt to establish it in 1922, been formed, and the whole question of the Holy Places in Palestine is still in a somewhat anomalous state. The main difficulties in the formation of such a Commission concerned the precise nature of Catholic representation upon it and the faith, Catholic or Protestant, of the Chairman. Failure to implement this Article 14 did not, however, greatly matter until the problem of the Wailing Wall arose in such virulent form. On this matter the British Government has proceeded with the greatest circumspection and caution, yet a disaster has not been avoided. The provisional arrangement which is being enforced at the Wall is displeasing, apparently, to both Muslims and Arabs, though it has much to commend it as a provisional arrangement. But a definitive ruling must somehow be reached. Yet how? That is the Mandatory Power's problem. The Foreign Secretary inquired last week of the Permanent Mandates Commission at Geneva whether an international Commission might not be set up to solve this particular question. The suggestion seemed not unreasonable, seeing that no Christian interests—the factor which had nullified previous attempts to set up a mixed Commission for the Holy Places—were involved, the Wailing Wall being a matter between Muslim and Jew alone. Apparently, however, this British proposal did not commend itself to the Mandates Commission; if so, another deadlock confronts those who would have this affair, ridiculously petty in itself, but capable, as the world knows, of assuming gigantic dimensions, regulated for good and all. It will be remembered that the terms of reference of the Palestine Commission of Inquiry, whose members, by the way, should be back in England by Christmas-time, did not extend to the Wailing Wall. So far as can be seen, therefore, the matter stands where it did, with little prospect of immediate advancement.

The Government of Palestine.

Good may, however, come out of evil; and if the fact that the League of Nations is unwilling at the moment to help the Mandatory Power in Palestine with advice, it may

result in a more rigid determination by the Government of Palestine to govern. Such an effect would by no means be displeasing to that large number of intelligent Englishmen who deplore the attempt hitherto made by the local Administration, which, of course, receives its orders from the Home Government, rather to cultivate a mental system of checks and balances, to preserve an attitude of holding the ring while Arab and Jew, if they must, spar between one another, than, quite simply, to govern. Great Britain in Palestine has gone slowly, if only because of her mandatory position and the multitude of interests involved; but if the League of Nations is unwilling now to assume that responsibility to which, apparently, the Mandatory Power has so long paid deference, the way would seem clear for a more definite, direct line in administration. We should be the last to criticise the local administration—unqualified vilification of the man on the spot is never indulged in by Englishmen except in unworthy moments—but the present does seem a fitting occasion for reminding the world of the enormous difficulty, the impossibility, we should rather say, of governing a country if one eye has to be kept cocked on Geneva and the other on a clear ring for Arab versus Zionist. In the event, it seems, this policy has not been vastly pleasing to the League, to the Arabs, or to the Zionists. If there is a case against the Government of Palestine, which, we repeat, only carries out the instructions of the British Government, it is precisely this: that instead of governing, an attitude of watching, waiting, and hoping has been indulged. To such a charge there is an obvious answer, an answer which may, moreover, be perfectly rebutting. If a policy laid down by the British Government be unworkable, then little blame attaches to the men who attempt to work it out; if, on the other hand, the British policy in Palestine is quite feasible, quite sound, and quite just, it is indeed difficult to assume that the local Administration is without blame. From such a conclusion there appears to be no escape, for by the conduct of a mandated people the worth of a Mandated Power must be judged. It is sheer hypocrisy to say that Great Britain is not responsible for the conduct of Arabs and Jews in Palestine; it is. Of course, the Arabs ought not to have shown violence; of course the Zionists ought not to have lent themselves to the charge of provocation. The fundamental point is, that the Arabs were known to be, when profoundly touched, a

violent people, and the Zionists to be, on occasion, a provocative people. And Governments should be guided at least as much by knowledge as by hope.

Arab and Jew.

It might appear, from this analysis, that the hope of Arab-Jewish *rapprochement* in Palestine is illusory. But we do not believe it. The best Arab opinion recognises the existence of the Jewish community in Palestine, knows its value to the country, and certainly would not be a party to its disappearance. Similarly the best Jewish opinion recognises the existence of the Arabs in Palestine, and would be no party to their banishment from Palestine, even if such a course were possible. On these two facts must be built a *rapprochement*. The two peoples must come together, if peace is to reign in the Holy Land, from which, as we shall all soon be reminding ourselves, went forth the message of peace and good will to men. As for the British people, they are sufficiently well acquainted now with the facts of the situation to make further propaganda by either side, Arab or Zionist, seem nothing less than a pouring of oil on the fire. Cannot the Arab and Jewish leaders come unofficially together, to see whether, by an inevitable process of give-and-take, some means of understanding may be found? Manifestly, it would seem to the outside observer, the old policy and the old claims are no longer tenable: a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine can no more be built up in face of a fairly united Arab antagonism than Arab hopes of self-government can be realised on the basis of opposition to the Zionists. It is difficult to think that either side (and one must refer to "either side," for the official use of the phrase, a "Palestinian people" is but a fiction, now seen to be very unscientific) is so lacking in statesmen as not to find some ground of reconciliation, in which the seeds of co-operation may be planted. Naturally, germination must be very slow—words have been uttered, deeds have been done that are not soon forgotten—but that this is a season when the frail flower of good will should be planted is unquestionable. The act should, we think, be performed unofficially, for the banging of heads together by Government can scarcely promote good will. If the Zionist case and the Arab case be equally stripped of all that is not absolutely indispensable, surely some basis of collaboration might be found between two peoples who are at the moment only accidentally, as it were, in conflict. In this connexion we should like to quote some wise words by Dr. Einstein, who seems to have changed his attitude a little since the actual disturbances in Palestine last August. In a recent Interview with *L'Oeuvre*, the Professor is reported to have said that the Jewish work of upbuilding Palestine was neither possible nor desirable, unless it proceeded from an understanding between the Jews and Arabs, that the Jewish people must realise the futility of resentment because of recent events in Palestine, and that it was for the Jews, and the Jews alone, to seek peace and the co-operation of the Arab people. To allow such wise words as these to drop unfructified would be folly on the part of the Arabs, who, we hope, will cherish them and produce similar buds to adorn the garden of good will in Palestine.

Progress in Greece.

The story that M. Maris, Greek Minister of Finance, was able to unfold to the Chamber in presenting the Budget for 1930-31 last week is calculated to rouse the envy of more countries in Europe than Greece's immediate neighbours. In broad outline he held out the prospect that in fifteen years one-half of the Public Debt would have been redeemed, while for the current year there would be reductions of twenty per cent. on the income-tax, licences, house-tax, the tax on movable property, the tax on sheep, goat and pigs, and the tobacco tax. The tax on oil is to be reduced by more than twenty-five per cent., and the tax on agricultural produce is to be suspended for two years. For the rest M. Maris had a favourable picture to present of progress of the national economy in all branches, commerce, industry, agriculture, and shipping, and drew

attention to the fact that Greece was paying out of income for various works of public utility. Few countries can have reacted more rapidly and with greater effect to political stability, and it is to be hoped that not only Greece, but also other States of South-Eastern Europe will take the lesson to heart. The present economic situation is a great achievement for M. Venizelos's régime, and the Prime Minister has not been slow to point out that it is the first time in Greece's history that a Government has actually abolished a tax, as in the case of that on agricultural produce. This state of things, however, increases the national responsibility to see that it is not interrupted by any untoward developments in foreign affairs. For the time being the sparring with Bulgaria and the friction with Turkey need not be taken too seriously, but it may well be prejudicial to Greek interests to keep Greco-Bulgarian and Greco-Turkish relations for an indefinite period on an unsatisfactory basis.

The Orient Express.

The adage which identifies happiness with no-history applies with even greater force to trains than to countries. Judged by this standard, the splendid train which carries its proud label "Calais-Constantinople" across Europe leaves much to be desired. Less than a year ago it had to confess itself beaten by snow-drifts, and for days remained a hopeless, helpless and foodless derelict in the Thracian uplands. Last week it was unceremoniously bombed on the Yugoslav-Bulgarian frontier. For a day or more Balkan journalistic imagination ran riot over the incident, and Belgrade was almost prepared to give the name of the Sofia shop where the Bulgarian brigands bought their collars. More reliable information records an uncomfortable experience, but reduces the episode to less fatal proportions. The train was brought to a standstill by the explosion of bombs on the line; a luggage van was derailed, and the engine was damaged. The expected attack by brigands, however, did not materialise, in spite of earlier reports of two passengers killed and several wounded. Whether the firing of a rifle by someone on the train, or the prompt action of a neighbouring Yugoslav frontier post upset the brigands' calculations, or whether there were no brigands at all and the outrage has to be written down as a political move does not appear. Fortunately for the passengers, nothing happened to them, while the engine left the train to its own devices, and ran alone to Tsaribrod to report the mishap. It does not seem to be established that any people were seen who might be supposed to have been the perpetrators of the outrage. From the fact that it took place near the part of the frontier which the Ouzounoff band is alleged to have crossed after its recent outrages in Bulgaria the same band is credited with this additional crime. If this should be the case, a further reason has been supplied to the Yugoslav and Bulgarian Governments for friendly co-operation in ridding both countries of a dangerous pest. The nationality of brigands is of much less importance than the need for their early extermination in the interest of international traffic that uses Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, and of good relations between the two countries.

Istanbul.

Turkey has every right to change the names of any of, or all her towns, and the world, which has almost forgotten that five years ago Oslo was still Kristiania, and has reconciled itself to Zagreb and, more or less, to Leningrad, will quickly abandon its sentimental leanings towards Constantinople in the convenience of the shorter Istanbul. Misgivings on the subject were aroused only on the strength of the alleged decision of the Turkish Post Office to refuse to accept any postal matter still addressed "Constantinople." Happily, rumour on this point has been proved once again a lying jade; the Director of the Constantinople Post Office has declared that letters bearing the old name will still be accepted for delivery and that no arbitrary action will be taken in regard to the change. The world at large that has any dealing with Turkey has been laid under such an enormous obligation by the Re-

publican Government in the adoption of Latin characters for the Turkish alphabet, that it may well hasten to adapt itself to the change of place-names. In this matter, however, the foreigner will have to display some of the assiduity to master all the new names that the Turkish people did in grappling with the Latin characters. "Istanbul" presents no difficulties to anyone who retains memories of philological studies at school; "Izmir" for Smyrna is not unreasonable, and "Trabzon" for Trebizond almost a boon. Repetition only will enable us to see Pera in "Beyoglu," and Stamboul in "Yeni-Cami." Adrianople is shortened to "Edirne"; Angora must henceforth be restricted to goats and wool, for the Turkish capital is Ankara; but most sympathy will be reserved for the traveller bound for Rodosto, who may well have journeyed the whole length of the Sea of Marmara before he realises that his destination was Tekirdag.

British Policy in Iraq.

The White Paper on "Policy in Iraq" (Cmd. 3440) published last week by the Stationery Office contains nothing surprising to those who have studied at all closely the problem of Anglo-Iraqi relations. One thing it does emphasise, however, and it is one on which too much stress cannot be laid, namely, that British policy in Iraq has had a constant goal. An atmosphere of suspicion of British motives had grown up in the last few years in Iraq which was by no means justified by the facts. It is no detractor of the late High Commissioner of Iraq, Sir Gilbert Clayton, to say that the policy which he advocated and which the British Government adopted had been long advocated by his predecessor, Sir Henry Dobbs. It is only recently, indeed, that the real nature of Sir Henry's attitude towards Iraq has been made public, and most observers have been surprised to learn that he counselled Iraq's admission into the League of Nations as early as 1928. More to him than to anybody, in fact, was it due that the present British Government could deem it evident that, in the words of this White Paper, "Iraq, judged by the criteria of internal security, sound public finance, and enlightened administration, would be in every way fit for admission to the League of Nations by 1932." The Treaty that will govern that entry is, as is well known, to be on the lines of the proposed Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, of which the most important provision, from the Iraqis' point of view, would possibly be that concerning British help of her Iraqi Ally in case of trouble. It is to be hoped that the new Prime Minister, Naji Beg as Suwaidi, and the new High Commissioner, Sir Francis Humphrys, will between them settle with the utmost amicability the terms of the new Anglo-Iraqi Treaty, and that no fractious opposition will be offered. British policy in Iraq is now crystal clear; its interests are definite and plainly declarable; and Iraqis have the immense advantage of knowing, what perhaps no other people of an Eastern country know concerning British policy towards that particular country, that British opinion is behind its Government.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Sukkur Barrage.

There has been a good deal of not unnatural anxiety, particularly in Bombay, which is at least nominally liable to bear the burden of any failure, regarding the soundness of the Sukkur Barrage Scheme. This has been chiefly due to the fear that its execution was entered upon with the undue optimism and neglect of inquiry into essential points that marked the Back Bay fiasco. The circumstances of the two schemes were, however, entirely different. The Sukkur project had been considered and examined for many years prior to Lord Lloyd's administration, which only gave it a much-needed fillip and support when financial support was necessary. Most people in a position to know regarded the work as a necessity if Sind was to preserve its share of the Indus water against the inroads of the better organised Punjab Irrigation administration, and as a perfectly sound financial pro-

position, if proper rates were charged for water and for land as had been done in the Punjab. It is satisfactory to find that the essential soundness of the scheme has been endorsed by the recent report of two Indian engineers—Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Nawab Ali Nawaz Jung Bahadur. With minor criticisms and suggestions these engineers approve of the scheme, and testify to the soundness of the work done. Allowance may, perhaps, have to be made for the well-known optimistic temperament of one of the eminent engineers who have made the report; yet it can hardly be doubted that the scheme has not yet justified any of the forebodings that were entertained about it.

The Real Test.

The reporting engineers, however, point out the necessity of the scheme becoming productive as soon as possible. This excellent, if somewhat obvious, advice is clearly dependent on administrative and political considerations. If the Bombay Government, from the distant recesses of Poona and Mahabeshwar, and in the face of the natural unwillingness of the Sind Muhammadan Zamindars, on whose vote they depend in Council, to pay high, though legitimate, rates for water and land, is able to enforce a strong policy, all will be well. The reporting engineers also recommend that the Government of India, which originally advanced the money required for the work, should be asked to relieve the Government of Bombay of the responsibility of the debt thus incurred. That is largely a matter of account. The real security for the debt is the Barrage itself, and the land for which it supplies water. If the work fails to pay, it is hardly likely that the financially hard pressed Government of Bombay could bear any considerable deficit. It is, we consider, altogether correct that the Government of India, which obtains considerable indirect benefit from the revenues accruing from the work, should bear the small risk incurred for the welfare of a not inconsiderable portion of the Indian Empire. But if it agrees to do so, the question arises whether it should not do so by direct arrangement with the Province of Sind, and, if necessary, by a more direct voice in, at least, its irrigational administration. This, however, raises the subject of the separation of Sind from Bombay: a large question though one which, we believe, will have to be taken up at no distant date.

Dr. Drummond Shiels, Under-Secretary for India, will preside at a meeting of the East India Association at the Caxton Hall on Monday, December 9, when a lecture on "Women in India and New Social Movements" will be given by Mrs. A. L. Underhill, who, as Mrs. Starr, rescued Miss Ellis in 1923 from the Pathan tribesmen by whom she had been abducted.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1929.

A NEW SESSION IN ROUMANIA.

The Roumanian Parliament is to provide no exception to the régime of hard work and disciplined attention to business that has been introduced for the whole country by Dr. Maniu's Government. A new session was opened on November 15, and the Royal Message outlined a programme of such formidable dimensions that the Chamber will have reason to be grateful for the exiguous showing that the Opposition makes in it, if it is to accomplish a half of the task allotted to it. The Government contemplates the introduction of legislation dealing with fourteen major subjects, many of which will entail a whole series of separate laws. A wide scheme of military re-organisation is promised; the better distribution of justice calls for measures dealing with the independence of magistrates, the unification of codes and the organisation of the Court of Appeal; higher education is to receive special attention, and Bills will be introduced for the regulation of universities, higher applied education, and polytechnic institutions, and for a "new and permanent organisation of the teaching of the Arts in Conservatoires of Music and Schools of Fine Arts, of a nature to respond to the actual needs of the national theatres and the State Opera." In the economic sphere, apart from the further tightening of the financial administration, there are to be introduced measures dealing with the production and organisation of power, Forestry administration and a cadastral survey; a law for the encouragement of agriculture will be supplemented by other measures for the organisation of Chambers of Agriculture, for agricultural insurance and for land settlement; industrial legislation is to be unified, and amplified with a view to promoting new openings for industrial production and rationalisation, and measures will be submitted for the regulation and encouragement of exports and for protection against unfair competition and speculation in the necessities of life. The sanitary organisation of the country is to be overhauled, and special laws are to be introduced dealing with social welfare, the education of the public in hygiene and the combating of infectious diseases and alcoholism. To promote the harmonious co-operation of capital and labour there is to be a law for regulating the relations between employers and employed in the professions, and new measures to regulate the immigration of foreign subjects into Roumania. At present the country has three different systems for the regulation of insurance; these are to be unified, the finance of insurance is to be reorganised and the administration of insurance companies investigated with a view to rationalisation. Finally, to satisfy the needs of the towns, a wide policy of public building will have to be inaugurated, and to this end it is proposed to recommend to Parliament the formation of a national building society.

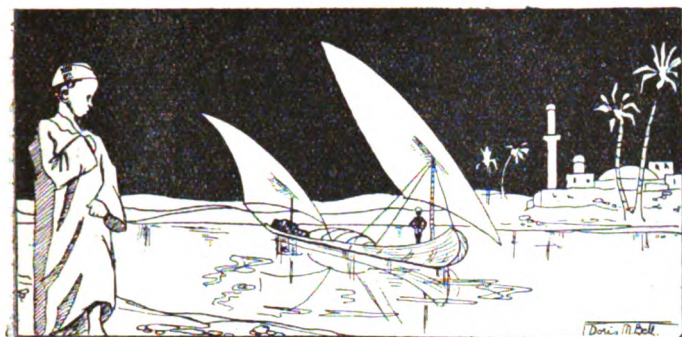
For a country hardly yet emerged from a grave financial crisis, this is an ambitious programme; but the Maniu Government approaches its task in the confidence that its economic policy is now firmly established on a sound foundation and is already beginning to bear fruit. The hope is expressed that equilibrium is now permanently assured not only for the State Budget, but also for the separate budget of the Railway Administration. Thus, when the situation of the international markets shall have improved, Roumania should be able to count on the

measure of financial support which her needs demand and her resources justify. For the realisation of the Government's plans the kingdom requires political stability and freedom for the people from distractions in their efforts, now happily directed on more practical lines, to increase production. The attention at last being paid to the general improvement of agricultural methods could not attain its maximum effect so long as the transport system lagged behind the country's requirements. Experience in connexion with this year's substantial harvest suggests that the railways have for the moment caught up, if not the capacity of foreign markets, at least Roumania's ability to make use of them. Increased production, therefore, will fail in its purpose, unless simultaneously the producer is helped either by co-operative or by State-directed methods to reach a wider and a regular market.

In the matter of political stability Roumania's great need is that sufficient time should be given to the new economic policy to determine its value to the country as compared with the policy that it superseded. In this connexion it is of interest to note that the Liberal Party through its official organs still affects to believe that intrigue rather than its own fiscal and economic policy was responsible for Roumania's unpopularity abroad under the Bratianu régime. The refusal of foreign capital to come to the assistance of the latter is attributed solely to the machinations of the National-Peasant Party when in Opposition, with special reference to alleged activities in London. In so far as the argument may be advanced solely with the object of making party capital out of it, there would be no need for notice to be taken of it abroad, but as it seems to have become the *idée fixe* of the Roumanian Liberals, it may be useful to correct misapprehensions on the subject, in anticipation of the time when the Liberal Party will again be in power and it will be desirable for Anglo-Roumanian relations to remain as cordial and as close as under the present régime. The attitude of British capital, it ought not to be necessary to state, is not influenced by propaganda, whether Hungarian or Roumanian, but by something far more concrete and more convincing. In Roumania's case it had staring it in the face the actual legislation of the Liberal Government directed against foreign capital. Roumania was fully entitled to enact such legislation, and the Government, no doubt, considered that it was acting in the interests of the country. Foreign capital, on the other hand, was equally entitled to protest, if it found the legislation hostile to its interests, and cannot be blamed for adopting the attitude that, so long as legislation of this kind was persisted in, it could not regard Roumania as a favourable field for investment. When the National-Peasant Party sent its representatives to England to learn the views of British capital regarding Roumania, these had no need to decry Roumanian legislation, for financial interests in London knew all that it was necessary to know on this subject. The Roumanian representatives were more concerned to find out whether a change of Government in Roumania would entail an immediate change of attitude on the part of British capital; they were told that it would not, unless there was satisfactory evidence that there was a change of heart as well in Roumania's fiscal policy. When Dr. Maniu came to power, he reversed his predecessor's policy, and Roumania's prestige has been restored in the world of finance. Changes of Government in Bucharest need make no difference to her prestige, provided that a sound economic policy is maintained. The London money market does not stop to inquire whether M. Bratianu is anti-British or Dr. Maniu pro-British; it forms its own opinion of the trend of Roumanian legislation and acts accordingly. For Roumania, therefore, it should be the policy and not the personality that counts. The foreign world of business is not concerned with Roumania's party politics, but is interested in the openings for foreign investment that Roumania offers. When the door is closed to it, there is no need to look for propaganda or intrigue as the reason for its aloofness.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, November 16.

Armistice Day.

Armistice Day was, as usual, celebrated in Church and Cemetery in Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez. In every instance the Service was much curtailed, and in the opinion of many it gained in impressiveness. In Cairo, the High Commissioner and Lady Loraine attended at both St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral and the British War Memorial Cemetery at Old Cairo, the address at the former being delivered by Bishop Gwynne and at the latter by Archdeacon Swann. In Alexandria a service was held at Hadra in the British Military Cemetery, conducted by Padre Simons, Chaplain at Mustapha Barracks, the Rev. J. F. Alderson, Chaplain at Alexandria and the Rev. Gibbon, Chaplain of the Scottish Church.

The Elections.

The closure of the list of candidates shows that there will have to be elections in 127 out of the 235 constituencies, as 105 candidates have been returned unopposed. Of these unopposed seats the Wafd holds 102, so that it needs to gain only another sixteen in order to have an absolute majority. That it will gain these seats and considerably more is a foregone conclusion. Indeed it is foreseen that, owing to the fact that many of the so-called Independents are in reality Wafdist, and, if returned, will declare themselves as such, the new Chamber will be for all practical purposes a Wafdist body. It is considered doubtful whether the other parties will secure more than ten seats between them.

Archæological Survey of Nubia.

It has been decided that the Archæological Survey of Nubia, which was carried out on the occasion of the first heightening of the Aswan Dam under the direction, first of Dr. George Reisner, and then of Mr. Cecil Firth, should be resumed in view of the further heightening of the Dam now about to be undertaken and the consequent submergence of the land and the destruction of the cemeteries between Wadi Seboua and the Sudan frontier. The work will on this occasion be under the direction of Mr. Walter Emery, who recently excavated at Armat on behalf of the Egyptian Exploration Society. He will be assisted by Mr. P. Korwan, and the staff will include three young Egyptians who have taken their Egyptological Diploma at the Egyptian University and are being attached to this expedition so that they may acquire experience in archæological field-work. Later an Egyptian anatomist and an Egyptian surveyor will be added. Mr. Firth left on Wednesday evening for Shellal, in order to

see that the organisation was complete, as the Expedition is to start forthwith.

Cairo a Consulate-General.

It is announced that Cairo is to be raised to the dignity of a Consulate-General, and that Mr. Lomas, the present Consul, has been promoted Consul-General, and is being transferred to Tunis. In the early days Cairo was, in fact, a Consulate-General, but that post was combined with that of British Agent and was held by Lord Cromer, Sir Eldon Gorst and Lord Kitchener. It disappeared on the declaration of War when the British representative became a High Commissioner. Cairo is, therefore, only reverting to what it was before the War.

On the occasion of the departure of Mr. Lomas a house-dinner was given to him at the Turf Club this week, the Chair being taken by Sir Percy Loraine. Over eighty friends foregathered to bid him good luck and give expression to the esteem which the community feels for Mr. Lomas and their regret at his leaving them. His health was proposed by the High Commissioner and seconded by Bishop Gwynne in felicitous terms, the references to the part he has played in the development of the community and to the work he had done, not always in the lime-light, in the interests of its members, being received with warm applause. Mr. Lomas will be succeeded by Mr. Rabino, who was Consul here before him and has since received promotion to Consul-General. The community cherishes very pleasant recollections of Mr. Rabino's former sojourn in its midst, particularly of the able manner in which he reorganised the affairs of the Consulate.

The New British Boys' School.

Considerable progress has been made with the work of building the new Boys' School in Alexandria. The levelling is almost complete, and building above-ground is about to start. The contractor is already a fortnight ahead of his time, so that there should no doubt about the premises being ready by the autumn term of 1930. Meanwhile, the School is continuing in the hired premises in which it was started last autumn in the Rue des Pharaons. I paid a visit to it the other day and was agreeably surprised to see how well things were going. There are now over 160 boys in attendance—those who wondered whether the estimate of 50 for the first term would be realised cannot now have any doubts as to the want the school fills—and this number would have been much greater if the accommodation had not been restricted. A school library has been started, which is already very popular and any contribution in the form of novels, magazines and standard works, fit for boys between the ages of 7 and 17, particularly books which show how our Empire was built up and what it stands for, will be gratefully welcomed by the Headmaster, Mr. H. R. Thompson, who deserves the warmest congratulation for having overcome the many unavoidable difficulties and assured the success of this venture from the start.

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Belgrade, November 14.

***Troubled Waters.**

The Italian campaign against Yugoslavia, begun by Press attacks and the severe note of protest sent after the anti-Italian demonstrations in Zagreb which followed the shooting of the young Croat, Gorton, at Pola, has been steadily continued ever since. It is claimed here that there can be little doubt that the note addressed by the Albanian to the Yugoslav Government, relating to the murder of an old Franciscan priest, Guetchov, near Prizren, was inspired by the Italians. The Albanian Minister had visited the Italian Minister a few days before, the Italian Minister had mentioned to friends that he was busy investigating cases of murder of Albanians on Yugoslav territory, a long time elapsed between the murder, which was fully reported, as a case of Albanian revenge, in the Belgrade Press, and the protest, and the Albanian Minister declared that his Government demanded satisfaction and would go "*jusqu'au bout*" to get it—strong words for a tiny Power to use. But inquiry proved the priest to be a Yugoslav citizen, and the murderers to have been Albanians, probably acting on political motives, since Father Guetchov was a well-known opponent of King Zogu's régime; so the matter was allowed quietly to drop.

Brigands and Brawls.

While the majority of Bulgarian newspapers admit that Ouzounoff is an ordinary bandit and blame the Government for failing to bring him and his gang to justice, a certain section of the Press, always believed in Yugoslavia to be financed by Italy, has tried to attribute the blame for his misdeeds to Yugoslavia. Although it is admitted that no single member of the gang has been caught, they give exact details of the arms and munitions which they allege were supplied to each member of the gang by the Yugo-

* Speaking in the Albanian Parliament on the assassination of Stefen Guetchov, Raoul Beg Fitzo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that Guetchov was an Albanian subject, born in 1874, who had lately become a priest in the village of Zumbi in the district of Prizren. "On October 13," he continued, "two gendarmes of the Zumbi village presented themselves at the house of Father Stefen Guetchov and notified him that, according to orders received from the Prefecture, he was summoned to appear in the town of Prizren before the Prefect. Father Guetchov, knowing that nothing of an official character exists between him and the Prefect, began to doubt the reality of the call. But on the insistence of the gendarmes he was obliged to start for Prizren, taking with him, as associates, an employee at the Town Hall and the guardian of the village school. On his arrival at Prizren he went straight to the Bishop Guidovitz and informed him about the summons. After a short stay with him, he presented himself to the Prefect who, being surprised of his presence, assured the priest that he knew nothing about the summons, which must have been a mistake. Leaving the prefecture, Guetchov again saw Bishop Guidovitz and proceeded to return to Zumbi with his companions. After they had crossed the Drin, on the Prizren-Jakovitz road, two men, heavily armed, came out of a hut and fired at the priest, who fell shot through the right eye. The criminals then approached him and, cursing him in the Serbian language, fired again and again at his motionless body. As soon as they finished the crime, they took their flight towards the village of Jonay. It ought to be mentioned that hundreds of workers, working on the road Prizren-Jakovitz, have been witnesses of the circumstances in which the murder was committed. The companions of the priest were not molested."

"With regard to this incident our Royal Legation in Belgrade notified us that the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs, in reply to the note of our Legation, declared in a friendly tone that orders have been given for a judicial investigation into the crime and the result will be communicated; also the Minister of Foreign Affairs has declared personally to our Minister in Belgrade that strict orders have been given to unravel the mystery of this crime. So, it is necessary to wait with assurance that the assassins will be punished and let us not be alarmed so much."

slav Government. But, as most of the crimes were committed some 200 kilometres from the Yugoslav frontier, and, despite their serious nature (the murder of several judges and the holding up of a whole train), the police and soldiers have failed to track the gang, it would seem probable that they have considerable support from the peasants, who probably consider that they are working on their behalf against the Government.

There is evidence that the Italian Legation in Belgrade has been looking for an opportunity to make protests against the treatment of its members, who have been unnecessarily exposed to insult and injury to this end. For a long time no cause could be found, but a few days ago Colonel Casson, the Italian Air Attaché in Belgrade, provided such an incident. When sitting in a cabaret bar about three o'clock in the morning, he annoyed some Serbians sitting near by making eyes at a girl who was with them. When they moved to a place out of his sight, a companion sitting with him made rude remarks about Belgrade so loudly that they were overheard by one of the group who was dancing. The dancer, a young man of excellent repute in the sporting and business world, asked whether the remarks were addressed to him. Getting no reply but derisive laughter, he said: "If they were, I can only tell you that it is not Belgrade but Rome which is filthy." The Italian Colonel immediately jumped to his feet and struck him in the face, but the young Serb, being an excellent boxer, replied with a blow in the eye which felled the Colonel. Getting up, he walked out and went to complain to his Minister, who in turn complained to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and demanded the punishment of the offenders. So keen is the present Yugoslav Government to be on good terms with Italy, that they immediately punished severely the Serbs involved, even those who were merely sitting near, and they closed the cabaret where the incident took place for three days. The Italian officer who began the whole trouble has not been punished.

A Rapallo Echo.

On November 12, the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Rapallo Treaty, students of the Belgrade University held a meeting in the Great Hall, at which a number of speeches were made against this Treaty, and especially against the clauses which give half a million Slavs in Istria to Italy, who, it is contended, is ill-treating them. Strong police guards were immediately placed all round the building to prevent any possible demonstrations from being made in the streets, and the meeting ended peacefully and without untoward incident.

Administrative Reform.

On November 11 the Bans, who are to govern the nine provinces into which Yugoslavia is now divided, took over from the old Veliki Zhupani and other officials of the local autonomous bodies, and began their task of reconstructing the administration of the country. Various Acts passed since October 3 have defined the power of the Bans more accurately, and it seems from these that the *Banovine* (Banats) will have a very considerable degree of autonomy, especially in administrative matters.

THE HIJAZ.

Jidda, November 10.

France's Legation at Jidda.

After some months of silence I resume my letters to report the materialisation of a development envisaged in my correspondence as far back as May. The French Government has now decided forthwith to raise the status of its Consulate at Jidda to that of a Legation; and M. Maigret, who came here in April as Consul for the time being, has been appointed *Chargé d'Affaires* pending his formal appointment as Minister. He will shortly present his Letters of Credence to H.H. the Amir Faisal, who will receive him on behalf of his father on the occasion of his

forthcoming visit to Jidda. Thus France gets the honour of being the first Power to recognise the diplomatic needs of the changed situation in Arabia; and it is to be hoped that the British Government will soon take a similar step, which has now been under consideration for some months since the visit of Shaikh Hafidh Wahba to London during the past summer.

In Eastern Najd.

Shaikh Hafidh Wahba, after a visit to Egypt and a short sojourn in the Hijaz, has now again left Jidda—this time for Kuwait in connexion with family affairs. He will doubtless, however, have an opportunity of making contact with the King, who is shortly proceeding to the Hasa to press the punitive measures hitherto conducted by his son, Saoud, against the scattered remnants of the little group of malcontents which Faisal al Duwish had gathered round him to defy his sovereign on the issue of war or peace with Iraq. His son, Abdul Aziz, was recently killed at the wells of Umm Radhma, and the whole of his following of 700 men was wiped out except two men who managed to escape. Faisal himself has been reported dead on many occasions, but he is in fact alive and living the life of a hunted fugitive; and while he is alive the King is wisely prepared to take no undue risks. There seems little reason to doubt that soon or later Faisal will be caught or killed. Abdullah ibn Jiluwi, Governor of the Hasa, has of late been seriously ill, mainly owing to grief for the recent death in action with the Ajman of his eldest son Fahad; but I understand that he is now recovered and has resumed work at the head of his province, which has been administered latterly by the King's son, Saoud.

Accession Day.

It has been decided that in future January 8 shall be observed and celebrated as the official Accession Day of H.M. the King, who on that date in 1926 was acclaimed

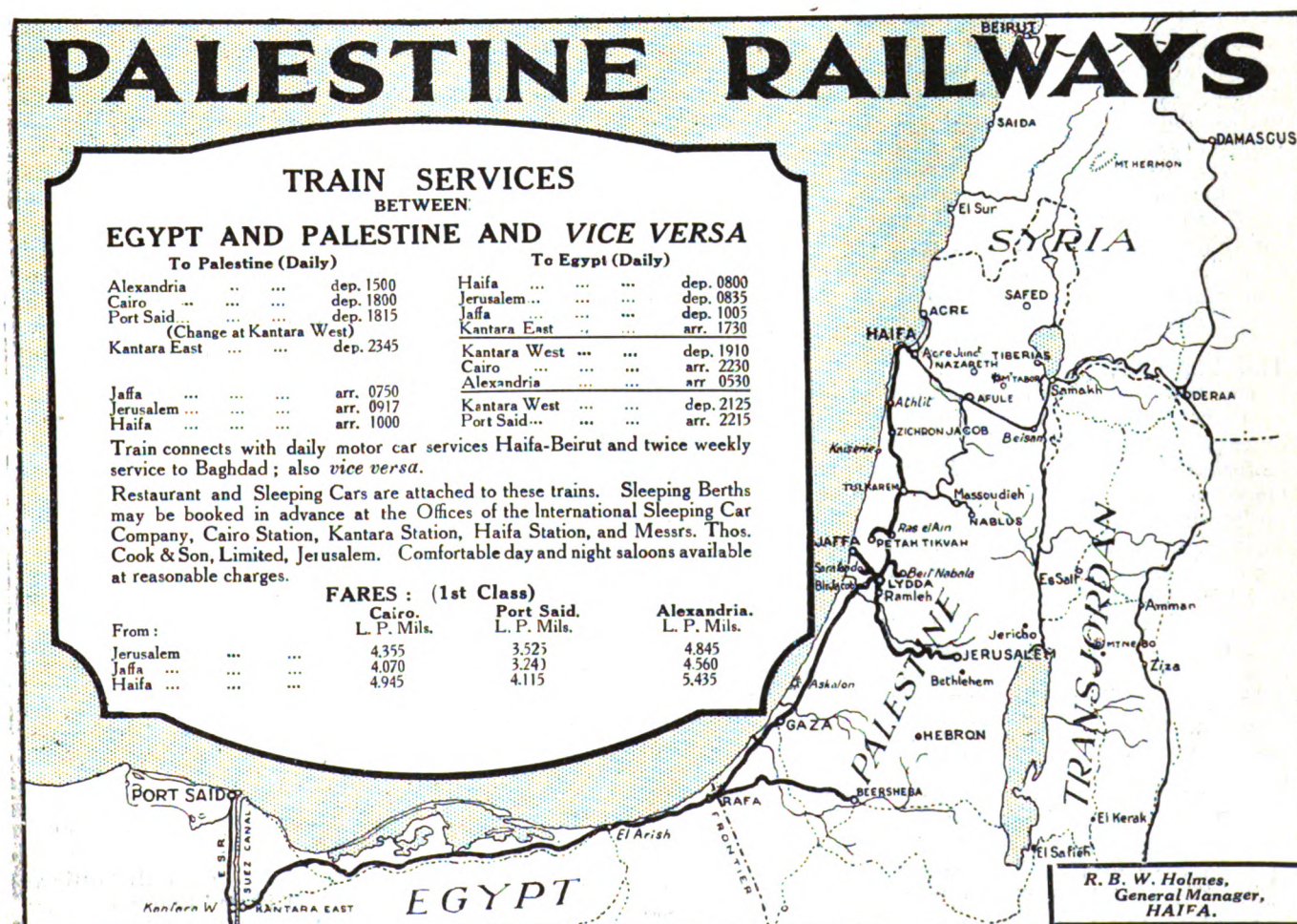
as King of the Hijaz at Mecca. His fourth anniversary will be celebrated with processions at Mecca and a great banquet at Jidda, at which the Amir Faisal will preside. It is noteworthy that a fixed date of the solar year has been deliberately selected in preference to a moving lunar date; in consequence the occasion will be treated as a purely secular festival, the only one of its kind in the Arabian calendar.

General News.

The first pilgrims (as usual, from Java) are due to arrive here in about a week, and the prospects for the coming season seem rather above the average. There should be something over 100,000 visitors from overseas, and it looks as if Egypt will this year make a special effort to increase the number of its pilgrims. The Misr Bank group has apparently secured the contract for the transportation of them to the Hijaz, and is contemplating the construction of a number of ships specially designed for the pilgrim traffic. It is reported that these ships will enter into competition with the Khedivial and Italian lines by offering lower passenger and freight rates. That is all to the good, and, indeed, a long-overdue reform.

The first rains have not yet arrived, though a few days ago there were promising signs of a break in the weather. The promise was not, however, fulfilled and the cistern-stored water of last year is nearly exhausted. The two condensers are in consequence kept busy.

A new Vice-Consul, Mr. Wikeley, from Alexandria, has arrived to complete the staff of the British Agency and Consulate; and we have to record the arrival of a new Italian Consul, Commendatore Sollazzo, in the place of Commendatore Teodorani. The Turkish representative, Abdul Ghani Bey Sani, is at present absent, having gone some months ago to Beyrout for an operation; and the Dutch Consul is expected back very shortly.



CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 7.

The Viceregal Pronouncement.

A student of Indian politics, and especially one who has to write of them, will not have found much time this week to read anything else. I did pick up something else a day or two ago, and there my eye fell upon these words: "En politique il faut être sobre de protestations, parce que nul ne sait, comme dit le proverbe, de quelle source la soif ou la disette peuvent nous amener à boire les eaux." If one is to judge whether or no the Viceroy transgressed that rule in his pronouncement of October 31, one must go back and consider what precisely the situation was. If the rule was transgressed, there will be the bill to pay. In going back, then, to consider what the situation was, and how it should have been met, one will not be merely displaying ancient history. If there is a bill to pay, it cannot make it more onerous, and may make it lighter, to know better what it is.

The Situation.

The situation was that there was a government established in India under which the more advanced Indians felt that they could not live without a loss of self-respect. There was to be a revision, after an inquiry according to the provisions of a statute. A Conservative Government was in power in Great Britain. From no Conservative Government do the Indians expect much; for they know that by temperament the Conservatives are Imperialists. That Conservative Government appointed a commission to make the inquiry. India would have been ready to say that not much in any case was to be expected from a commission appointed by a Conservative Government. When it was announced that no Indian was to be asked to serve on the commission, an easy excuse was given the more determined elements in Indian politics to refuse to have anything to do with it. So the inquiry that has been held has been one, the face value of which, to put it so, has been greatly diminished. Large numbers of influential men do not seek to baulk and thwart a parliamentary commission without a considerable heightening of the political temperature. It is when a country's temperature is high, that the wilder spirits turn revolutionary. No Government is tranquil in the face even of only the forerunnings of a revolution. So the heads of the Government will be impelled to seek as large a remedy for things as men dare venture. The Viceroy and his Council in India, one may assume, were even more ready than the new British Government for change in India. What was the new British Government ready for?

The Impediments.

The new British Government cannot have been ready, as a whole, for more than the Cabinet could count on the other parties being persuaded to support. The fact might be forgotten that the Prime Minister, when Leader of the Opposition, accepted his full share of responsibility for the Statutory Commission's being constituted as it was. That might be allowed to be forgotten, but the fact could not be forgotten that the Conservatives and Liberals would stand fast by the Commission. Now the Indian boycott of the Commission was to extend to its Report. India was to refuse to discuss any proposals for changes in the constitution based on that Report. Nothing could be done, then, until such a change had been brought over things, as to make India ready to discuss. So the idea gained ground that there should be a Round Table Conference.

The Round Table Conference.

What made a Round Table Conference the only way of proceeding was that it was the only way out of the *impasse* created by India's refusal to discuss. One is impelled to think by what has followed the Viceregal pronouncement that it would have been better politics,

as more intelligent and showing more strength of character, had the British Government frankly said so; had it said: "We made a mistake; the inquiry is incomplete; the Prime Minister will therefore issue invitations to a Round Table Conference, to complete it, as soon as the Commission's Report is in his hands." It would have been better politics to say that, leaving it to the Indian leaders to refuse, if they dared. The British Government, as you know, have shirked saying that. They have "put up" Sir John Simon to say that there must be a conference between the British Government and the Ruling Princes. It is not true that there must be that *now*. A year or two hence would have been ample time. But to say that it must be now was to let in the chance of suggesting a conference with the Indian leaders of the recalcitrant parties under cover of it. It has all been a game of *finesse*, the poorer thing always in politics.

The Word Too Much.

There was no need to say more than that the British Government desired there to be a Round Table Conference, unless it had been said that it would be summoned at the earliest possible moment, and that ample time would be given for the examination of the whole question, including time for adjournment, should time be needed by any party to the conference for preparation of a case. There was no need to say a word about the Declaration of 1917; about what was implicit in it; about Dominion Status. That was a word to keep for Parliament at a later date; at any date at which the Conservatives and Liberals threatened to combine against the Government's proposals. They could then have brought forward the passage in the Viceroy's Instrument of Instructions from the King-Emperor. It is apparently not in contemplation to summon the Round Table Conference at the earliest possible date. That is a mistake. Indian opinion is already fastening upon that. It is apparently contemplated to hold separate conferences with the Ruling Princes. That is another mistake, and Indian opinion will soon be fastening upon it. One is forced to the conclusion that there are not nearly brains enough behind the British case as it has been presented.

Unlimited Hopes.

To say so much about Dominion Status as the Viceroy did say, was to rouse hopes in the people of India (not so much, I believe, in the leaders) which the Government will have to disappoint. Already, on the morrow of the pronouncement, one had the leaders in Delhi putting this forward as a condition of their acceptance of the invitation to the Round Table Conference: "Some doubt has been expressed about the interpretation of a paragraph in the statement of the Viceroy made on behalf of His Majesty's Government regarding Dominion Status. We understand, however, that the conference is to meet not to discuss when Dominion Status is to be established but to frame a scheme of Dominion constitution for India." One will have the Indian leaders putting such as that forward, though a more emphatic portion of the statement made on behalf of His Majesty's Government was this: "Sir John Simon's Commission . . . is now at work on its report, and until that report is laid before Parliament, it is impossible, and even if it were possible, it would, in the view of His Majesty's Government, clearly be improper, to forecast the nature of any constitutional changes that may subsequently be proposed." What the Indian leaders, in their reply, sought to do, in the passage that I have quoted, was to determine now the fundamentals of those constitutional changes. That cannot be allowed.

The People's Hopes.

The people's hopes are bound, I say, to be disappointed; the leaders' not so, I think. The leaders, of course, in their game of *finesse*, will play any card they think good, such as try now to get the British Government to commit itself beforehand to a Dominion constitution for India; but they know that the British Government knows that there

are far too many British lives entrusted to India, and far too much British capital sunk in India, for Great Britain to want to see the whole government of India handed over immediately to a lot of untried men. They know that. They may not know as some others do, I think they do not know, that there is not and never will be, among those born of people settled in India for many generations, enough of the stuff that good government and peace within India, and keeping her frontiers and shores free of invaders, would need.

The Indian Born.

For how many long centuries now has India been governed by recent immigrants from countries that breed more stalwart men. The Indian born of families settled for many generations in the country is a man of lowered vitality, which shows itself in character, no less than in intelligence. That is what constitutes the insuperable difficulty in the way of making India a Dominion as free within her borders as the other Dominions of the British Commonwealth. Mrs. Besant has been orating. My newspaper reports her as having said: "If you would know what India can do, you must know what India has done in the past; she has the most glorious history, the most wonderful history, the most precious history in the whole world." She says, however, no word of this, that most of the men who made that history were in a very real sense non-Indian. Among the men who signed the leaders' reply of last Saturday were three men at least who think of themselves in their hearts more as Arabs than as Indians; men in whose families there has been a deep sense of the value of keeping their foreign blood pure. But it is well known how many of India's great rulers have been immigrants, or men who could count back a generation or two or three to immigrant stock.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The India Office announces that the King has approved the extension of the tenure of office as Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council of Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habibullah Sahib Bahadur, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., to March 31, 1930, and in the vacancy caused by his retirement to appoint Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, K.C.I.E., to succeed him.

The King has also approved the extension of the tenure of office as Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council of Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., C.B.E., to April 29, 1930, and the appointment of Mr. Joseph William Bhore, C.I.E., C.B.E., Indian Civil Service, to succeed him.

Both the new appointments are likely to command general approval in India. A very capable administrator and a keen student of educational problems, Sir Fazl-i-Husain, whose selection is likely to give particular pleasure to the Muslim community, for the last three years has been Revenue Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of the Punjab. Mr. J. W. Bhore, who is a Mahratta Christian from the Bombay Presidency but a Madras Civilian, is almost as well known in this country as in India, for when the office of High Commissioner for India was created in 1920 he was chosen to be secretary to Sir Dadiba Dalal and has on several occasions officiated in the senior post. On his return to India Mr. Bhore became Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands and for the past two years he has been Joint Secretary of the Statutory Commission.

Lord Peel, former Secretary of State for India, arrived on November 22 in Bombay from England. To a representative of the Press he stated that he was visiting India with a view to studying the political situation. He will remain for two months, during which period he will visit Burma.

The appointment of Mr. Robert Stonehouse Broomfield to be one of the Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in the place of Sir Charles Gordon Fawcett, who has resigned, is gazetted.

MAHATMA GANDHI AND TOLSTOY.*

A book which purports to set out the life and explain the ideas of Gandhi must be of interest to the many who find difficulty in grasping what these ideas are, and in understanding their effect on the people of India. Gandhi has always been an admirer of Tolstoy and in many ways recalls his life and influence. The resemblance does not of course lie in such unpleasant personal traits as are depicted in Countess Tolstoy's recently published diaries, but it is to be seen in the common idea of self abnegation, and in the confusion of teaching which is common to both leaders. Tolstoy was a great writer and thus attained an influence outside his own country to which Gandhi could make no claim. On the other hand, Gandhi exercised, under the sway of a "Satanic" Government, an amount of political influence which was impossible to Tolstoy under a more brutal régime.

It is hardly necessary to emphasise the inconsistencies of Gandhi's teaching. To take a few obvious instances, he is a firm believer in what he calls "caste fixity": he says that the prohibition of inter-marriage and inter-dining between castes is essential for a rapid evolution of the soul: and yet he is a strong opponent of "untouchability," which can hardly be affected, except in name, so long as the superior castes hold their old position. Similarly he denounces child marriages, and yet does not recognise that so long as marriage is regarded as a religious obligation, and is allowed only within the caste, the restriction of choice makes early marriage almost a necessity. It is, however, in respect of Passive Resistance or Non-Co-operation that his inconsistencies become most marked and dangerous. Mr. Andrews regards this as a singular weapon which Gandhi first forged. But, apart from the fact that it is well known in the history of many religious sects in Europe, Passive Resistance is a mere extension of the old Hindu custom of "dharna." Gandhi's only creative share in it was that he applied the practice to politics on a large scale. He was able to do so, partly it must be admitted, by his own personality and the popular confidence in his saintliness, but still more by the growth of humanitarianism, and the power of agitation through the Press, which renders Government far weaker than they were in sterner days. Non-co-operation with Government is open to two obvious dangers. It can be applied, by the order of an irresponsible though influential leader, on entirely inadequate public grounds. A good instance is given in this book, when Gandhi started Passive Resistance because of the existence of a customs boundary between Kathiawar, his original home, and Guzerat, his place of residence. Doubtless the customs examination was, like customs elsewhere, a nuisance, but the danger of dealing with a nuisance extra-legally is obvious. The second, and chief, objection to Non-Co-operation is that it is bound to lead to violence. This was proved repeatedly, and the fact that Gandhi was genuinely shocked on each occasion, called off the Non-Co-operation, and underwent a fast, hardly undid the damage. Nor did it prevent Gandhi from starting Non-Co-operation again on the next occasion.

Mr. Andrews, who has long associated himself with the forces that desire to eliminate British influence in India, must not be regarded as an altogether safe guide to the history of agitation in India. It is hardly correct to say that Gandhi's revolt against the system of Government in India began only in 1920. Before that he doubtless satisfied himself that his opposition was to the practice, and not to the theory of Government, but the distinction is too fine for common minds. It is, however, true that he attempted to obtain recruits for the Army in 1918, a step of which Mr. Andrews, it may be noted, strongly disapproved. It should be added, though Mr. Andrews does not do so, that Gandhi's efforts in recruitment were, through no fault of his own, entirely unsuccessful. Just as there were no Guzerathis in the old "Swadeshi" army

* "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas." By C. F. Andrews. (London: Allen and Unwin. 12s. 6d.)

of the Sultans of Guzerat, so no modern fighting force could be raised in the Province: a fact which alone rather impairs the Swadeshi ideal of Gandhi, whereby not merely every Province but every village should be self-supporting.

Readers of this book will, we think, be somewhat puzzled to find the secret of Gandhi's undoubtedly widespread influence. That lies, we believe, in two factors: partly in an admitted though indefinable personality, but chiefly in the respect which in India still attaches to a prominent man who prays and fasts. But this does not prevent Gandhi's ideas and actions from being as illogical as ever Tolstoy's were: and, it may be added, as embarrassing to his Nationalist friends as to any Satanic Government.

THE BURMA RICE TRADE.

The prevailing depression in the Burma rice trade is attracting considerable attention; and, as readers of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* are aware, for some time past the question has been under investigation by a Committee appointed by the Provincial Government at the instance of the Legislative Council. The position is serious and no immediate remedy would seem to be in sight. The trouble is due very largely to a great extension of cultivation and production in certain of the rice-growing countries other than India. Even as recently as 1925 the Indian Taxation Inquiry Committee stated, quite correctly, in their report that: "the only countries which export appreciable quantities of rice are India, Siam and Indo-China." This statement is very wide of the mark to-day. Before the War Italy, Spain, Egypt, and the United States produced not much more rice than was needed for their own consumption. In 1914 their output was only about 600,000 tons. In 1928 it was over two million tons.

In the light of these figures it is not difficult to understand why the demand from Europe for Burma rice has diminished. Before the War Burma had almost a monopoly of the European rice trade. This advantage she has now lost; and it is clear that she can only recover her former commanding position by economic competition. It is satisfactory to see that the position is frankly recognised by the trade and the Burma Chamber of Commerce is perfectly right in contending, in a memorandum which it has submitted to the Inquiry Committee, that all possible steps must be taken to meet the situation, as otherwise the position of Burma in the consuming markets will go from bad to worse.

It is particularly unfortunate that an expansion of rice cultivation in the western countries should have coincided, as it has done, with an increase of production in the East. French Indo-China and Siam are both producing more, and although the superiority of the Burma grain remains beyond dispute, are at the same time steadily improving qualities. Between them they now export no less than 2½ million tons yearly. Indo-China competes severely with Burma in Cuba, which is an important consuming market; and even in India last year Indo-China rice came into direct competition with the Burma grain. The Burma Chamber has also emphasised another difficulty, arising out of the relative prices of wheat and rice, to which reference was made recently in this journal. Wheat is at its pre-War price in the East, while rice is much above the pre-War level. According to the Burma Chamber the result of this is that wheat has become a serious competitor as a food in countries where rice was formerly supreme. There has certainly been a big reduction in the exports of Burma rice to both China and Japan. And the increasing importation of wheat by both these countries is said to be entirely at the expense of rice.

The most encouraging feature is that it is quite clearly understood by the Burma Chamber and the trade generally that Burma must fight her competitors on their own ground. Her cheaper cost of production is her principal weapon, and this must be used to the utmost. This

being so, the question to be answered will be how, without injuring the cultivators, it will be possible to reduce prices. The Chamber's answer is that the right policy will be to improve agricultural methods and cultivation so as to obtain a larger yield per acre; to improve quality so as to enable Burma rice to compete in the higher priced classes; and to ship pure grain and not admixtures. The Indian export duty should be, the Chamber suggests, either withdrawn entirely, or converted into a cess, the proceeds of which would help to meet the cost of introducing the proposed improved agricultural methods.

It certainly seems to be an anomaly to continue to impose an export tax on a commodity which is situated as Burma rice is situated to-day. The export cess has become a popular method of providing for the cost of industrial development in India; and it might prove to be useful in respect of rice. The Indian provinces other than Burma are not greatly affected as their exportable surplus is restricted. Of the 1½ million tons of rice exported from British India in 1928 no less than 1½ millions came from Burma. And in 1925, when the total was nearly 2½ millions, Burma was responsible for close upon 2,200,000 tons. In view of the active support which the rice trade in America, Spain and Italy receives from the respective Governments, the case for either the removal of the duty or the application of the proceeds for the benefit of the Burma industry is a strong one.

THE VICEROY'S DECLARATION.

Reception in India.

It is difficult to exaggerate the warmth of the welcome accorded to the Viceroy's statement, published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* on November 1, by the leaders of all political parties except the most extreme section. The lead given by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, a prominent member of the All-Parties Conference, has been widely followed. Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar describes the statement as an act of great statesmanship which constitutes a bridge over the gulf that has been dividing Great Britain from political India. "It has not only cleared the air," he adds, "and dissipated suspicion, but it goes far to bring about harmony of purpose and outlook in England and India." No less emphatic in his insistence upon the necessity for an immediate and favourable response on the part of Indian leaders is Moulvi Muhammad Yakub, Deputy President of the Legislative Assembly, who pays an especial tribute to Lord Irwin for his part in the creation of the new atmosphere of amity and good will. After appealing to leaders of every shade of political opinion to avail themselves of the new procedure as the means of achieving an honourable settlement, he voices the general hope of the community that the special Muslim interests will be adequately represented at the Conference.

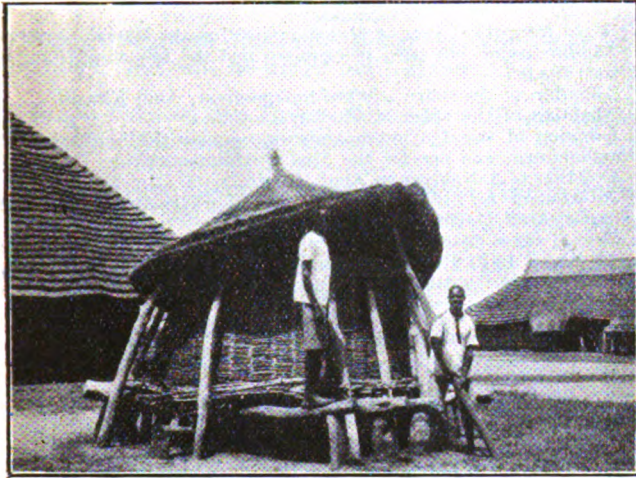
The attitude of other Liberal leaders is also well brought out in the joint statement issued by Sir Muhammad Shafi, Sir Muhammad Iqbal, Shah Niwaz and six other prominent Muslims in the Punjab, which expresses their unanimous and sincere conviction that the action proposed by the Viceroy's announcement provides the most satisfactory solution of the Indian political problem. The clear and unequivocal declaration made by H.M. Government that the grant of Dominion status to India is the underlying purpose of British policy must inspire all sincere well-wishers of India's constitutional progress. Provided that Hindu-Muslim differences were equitably adjusted before India's representatives proceeded to India, and provided that the leaders selected to participate in the discussions were real representatives of the various communities, the signatories of the statement are confident that the Conference will succeed in achieving the desired end.

SOME TRIBES OF THE SOUTHERN SUDAN—III.*

(From a Correspondent.)

Round the Bari on either side of the river there are other tribes who speak dialects more or less closely resembling Bari. On the east bank are the Shir, the Lokoia, and the Lotuka. The Lokoia are not plainsmen like the Bari; they have fewer cattle, and often live in well-protected homesteads built on a terraced hill. Their organisation is probably very much like that of the Bari, but it may be better preserved in such particulars as age-classes, and organisation for fighting, hunting, dancing, and mutual help.

On the west bank are the Mandari, a people who are not at all unlike the Dinka in appearance, and the Nyang-



A "GUGU," OR GRAIN STORE.

wara, a tribe that provides many of the Government police. Further inland on the west are the Fajelu and Kakwa. These tribes are well out of the Nile Valley with its cattle pastures and long-legged Hamitic Bari. The country is a close woodland no longer suitable for cattle, though here and there are a few herds of stunted animals. The people, generally speaking, are shorter and more thick set; their faces are rounder and their colour lighter. They are cultivators and not herdsmen. The country round Yei, inhabited by a mixed population of Kakwa, Makaraka, Kaliko and Mondus is and always has been rich in durra, and in the old days a "razzia" or marauding expedition in to Makaraka, as it was then called, generally filled the granaries of the Khartoumers on the Nile.

The staple crops of these people are red and white durra, maize, groundnuts, simsim, and telabun. The men do the heavy work, hoeing off the grass, and turning over the soil before sowing; the women the lighter work of weeding as the crop grows; and the little boys have the tedious task of scaring the flocks of persistent durra birds as it ripens. After harvest the crop must be stored, and to this vital business the native has given all his ingenuity and centuries of practice. The result is the ubiquitous *gugu*, and it is hard to improve upon. It is a cylinder of plaited canes, plastered with mud and cow-dung, mounted on a stand of wooden legs, or in some districts of upright stones, and covered by a moveable grass-thatched roof. Thus the durra is protected from the white ants below and from the rains above. Each married woman has her complement of *gugu*, for herself and her children; they are her own property, and when they are full a man may not take their roofs off or look into them.

The native is almost wholly a vegetarian, and to this diet he apparently owes his remarkable tolerance of abdominal wounds. An old man of eighty may tumble on to the dirty blade of his spear and give himself a nasty

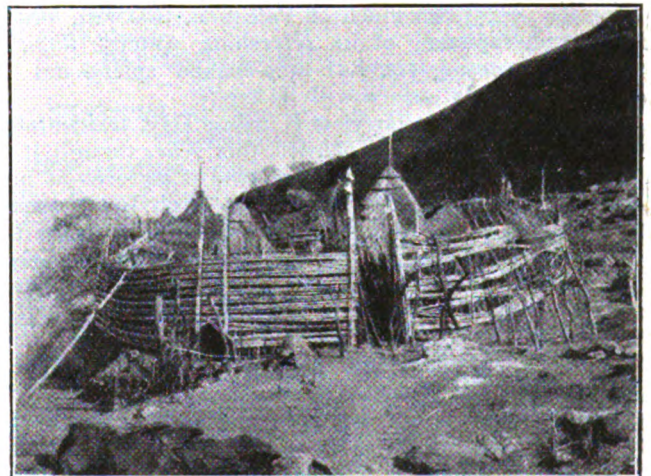
wound in the stomach and yet be about again in a few weeks, when his European contemporary would be in his grave.

The agricultural habits of these tribes and a fair annual rainfall make commercial crops a possibility. The Kuku country, a high open plateau on the west of the Nile, and the Acholi country on the east seem particularly favourable spots. Until now the Kuku have lived in isolation owing to the regulations of the sleeping-sickness authorities; but the country is developing now, and the natives find a market for their surplus telabun and also for cotton.

The increase of intercourse among all these tribes, and between them the outside world raises interesting questions of language. Up to the present Arabic has been their *lingua franca*. It has come down the one main highway into the country, the Nile, brought by sailors, soldiers and traders. It was the language of administration in the old days, and still is so. Nearly everyone knows some Arabic, even the women and children, and, if two members of the same tribe can greet each other with Arabic salutations instead of in their own tongue, they are pleased to do so. That is to say, it carries a certain prestige in the eyes of the native. Some of its words have been permanently absorbed and moulded into native language, and all are so much modified as to make the Arabic of the Southern Sudan almost unintelligible to a northerner.

But it is not the only competitor as a common language. Bangala is wellknown to the west of the Nile. This is a mongrel language composed of a basis of some Congo tongue, Bangala, with an infusion of Suaheli, Arabic, French, and English. Like most mongrels it is said to have the virtues of vitality and adaptability. Some of its champions, and it has them, even claim that it has a delicate and growing grammar. But its great recommendation for most people is that a rough and ready facility in it can be acquired in a very short time. It was adopted by the Belgians during their occupation of the Lado Enclave, and was probably thus given a certain impetus as an official language. The natives sometimes call it Faransa or French.

On the other side of the Nile Suaheli is used to some extent as a means of communication. The Abyssinians



A SUDAN HOMESTEAD. ON THE LEFT IS A SMALL ENTRANCE FOR GOATS.

who come to poach elephants on the Nile have brought it with them, and for this reason it is sometimes called Abbasi by the natives.

These three languages bespeak the three influences from the north, the south-east, and the south-west to which Southern Sudanese have hitherto been exposed. They may be said, perhaps, to meet at Rejaf. There it is on the cards that a native addressed in any of these three languages would be able to answer in them, though the order of probability would be Arabic, Bangala, Suaheli. But now a fourth competitor is in the field. The pros-

* This is the concluding article of a series, the first of which appeared in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of September 19, and the second in that of November 7.

pects of English do not on the whole look bright; it is only spoken by a handful of people in the country and has not the pervasive influence of one already well rooted in the environment. But the native is a great linguist and would probably pick up a little English quite soon, if he found he needed it.

Meanwhile for the purposes of their own languages and dialects, they have now an approximately uniform script and many opportunities of learning to write it. When they have once learnt their script, which is naturally very much more phonetic than any European spelling, they can easily learn to record the words they hear either in their own language or another. The native has a good ear, and is used to what seem to us very delicate differences of tone, so that he knows what he is doing when it comes to his writing in his own language.

The major languages of the Southern Sudan certainly can never coalesce. Dinka and Bari, for instance, are probably not as close as are English and Dutch; but in each group one dialect may be expected to become the vehicle of literature, and in this way a common written language may possibly become evolved for each group. Those dialects which are too remote from the common standard will dwindle or only survive as the spoken dialect of a small community.

THE HOLY LAND IN WATER COLOUR.

No readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA need be reminded of the excellence of the work of Mrs. P. A. F. Stephenson, who has now an Exhibition of water colours (called, a little inadequately, "Flowers and Stones of the Holy Land,") at the Alpine Club Gallery, Mill Street, Conduit Street, W.1. Mrs. Stephenson is not only a lover of Palestine, steeped in its beauty and lore; she is also a most accomplished and eager artist. We shall not recapitulate her technical merits, and will merely say that in this exhibition her skill seems to be put to even more various use than previously. Her flowers really call to one—and the heart leaps up, so beautiful are they; her "stones," as she calls the historical buildings of Palestine (and of Trans-Jordan, by the way) speak to one, so impregnated are they with the sanctity of ages and the significance of the present. Mrs. Stephenson, who had in former years seen much of Palestine, this year drank deeply and copiously of its refreshing waters; there is for her no staling of its time-soaked splendours or perennial marvels.

Most of the works on view (Closing Day, incidentally, is on December 3) were painted this year, though it is interesting to notice a replica or two of pictures in previous exhibitions by this gifted artist. Perhaps her main virtue is still most evident in the representation, on the one hand, of age-old historical buildings—the Greek Convent at Bethany, the Wall of Wailing, the Great Street at Jerash, the Dome of the Rock, and so on, buildings which are not dead but living—and, on the other hand, of the ever-springing, joyful flowers. But for these flowers, Mrs. Stephenson is little concerned with the new: Palestine is to her, it seems, always the Holy Land, on which the modern may like as not strike a jarring note. In this view there is nothing sentimental, but mainly an evidence of constant reverence of the past and belief in its virtue to inform the present. Her Exhibition is, in short, the story of a search for and the finding of—beauty, whether man-made or natural. How successful she has been her busy brush here abundantly shows, and if there are any of our readers who have not yet seen these pictures, we advise them not to let next Tuesday pass without experiencing what is in fact a visit, or a revisit, to that incomparable land sacred to Christian, Muslim, and Jew.

It has been decided to appoint Ali Jowdat Beg, Mutasarif of Basrah Liwa, as a Director-General of the Ministry of Interior, which is a newly created office, and to appoint Nashat Beg Sinawi, Amin-ul-Asima (Mayor) of Baghdad, Mutasarif of Basrah.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF PALESTINE.

An attempt was made in Jerusalem on November 24 to assassinate Mr. Norman Bentwich, Attorney General of the Government of Palestine. An Arab youth was arrested. Mr. Bentwich, who was wounded in the leg, is expected, fortunately, to make a complete recovery. Before the Commission of Inquiry on November 25, Mr. Stoker, Counsel for the Arabs, Mr. Preedy, Counsel for the Government, and Sir Boyd Merriman, Counsel for the Zionists, expressed their horror of the crime and sympathy with the victim. The Chairman, Sir Walter Shaw, then said, in words which we cordially endorse:—"Such acts cannot benefit the party to which the assailant belongs, and can only tend to prejudice its case in the eyes of the world." Sir Walter Shaw considered that the crime could only have been committed by a foolish and irresponsible person, and not as the result of any instigation.

THE BASRAH LIWA.

We learn from the *Times of Mesopotamia* that the Basrah Government administration has been reorganised and the following changes have been made:—

- (1) Abolition of the office of Qayimmaqamiyat, Abul Khasib.
- (2) Abolition of the office of Mudiriyyat of Fao.
- (3) Creation of two Qayimmaqamiyats, one for the Shatt-al-Arab Qayimmaqamiyat and one for the Sila Qayimmaqamiyat.
- (4) Creation of a Nahiyat in Abul Khasib.
- (5) Attachment of Zubair, Hartha and Abul-Khasib Nahiyats to the Shatt-al-Arab Qayimmaqamiyat.

In view of these changes the Basrah Mutasarrifiyat has rented the house of Abdul Latif Pasha El-Mandil, previously the Basrah Club, to be the Sarra of the Mutasarriif, and the Qayimmaqam of Shatt-al-Arab will occupy the present Sarra.

THE NEW IRAQI CABINET.

A new Cabinet has been installed at Baghdad, consequent upon the death of the Prime Minister, Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Saadun. Naji Beg as Suwaidi, who was Minister of Interior, becomes Prime Minister and takes the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, and the other offices are filled as follows:—

Naji Pasha Shawkat	...	Interior.
Yasin Pasha al Hashimi	...	Finance.
General Aziz Beg Qassab	...	Justice.
General Nouri Pasha as Said	...	Defence.
Haji Abdul Husain al Chalabi	...	Education.
Amin Beg Zaki	...	Communications and Works.
Khalid Beg Sulaiman	...	Irrigation and Agriculture.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Dr. H. Frankfort, the Dutch archæologist and Egyptologist, has been invited to lead an expedition in Assyria and Babylon.

A monument to the late King Ferdinand of Roumania at Orashtie (Transylvania) was unveiled on November 18.

Mirza Mohamed Ali Khan Farzin has been appointed Foreign Minister and Mirza Hassan, Mushir Mushar-ul-Mulk, Finance Minister of Persia.

Six Roman sarcophagi, containing a number of gold coins and a ring of the time of Constantine the Great were found recently during excavations at Salonika.

A Royal decree last week announced that Mahmoud Pasha Samy, Egyptian Minister in Washington, and Sadek Pasha Hussein, Egyptian Minister in Rome, had been relieved of their posts.

Rival groups of the Bulgarian Liberal Party at Plovdiv came into collision on November 16, one person being killed and several injured.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

November 28, 1929 (New Style).

November 15, 1929 (Old Style).

Jumada II. 25, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Chesvan 25, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord and Lady Stanley will leave London on December 12 for India.

The Hon. Mrs. Levy will leave 54, Lowndes Square immediately after Christmas for Port Said.

Sir Edwin Lutyens left 2, Weymouth Street on November 21 to join the P. and O. s.s. Mooltan for Port Said.

Lady (Stephen) Renshaw sailed on November 22 for Bombay, and will be away until March.

Major-General Sir Henry Bushman will sail for India about the beginning of January.

Lady Honor Guinness is leaving for a visit to India on December 5, and will return to England in the spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lumley are leaving for India on December 12, and will be away for three months.

Lady Capel Slaughter will join the P. and O. s.s. Ranpura on December 13 at Marseilles for India.

Shah Wali Khan, a younger brother of Nadir Shah, King of Afghanistan, has been appointed Afghan Minister in London.

Prince Lotfallah arrived in London at the beginning of this week from the Continent, and is staying at Claridge's Hotel.

Ex-King George, of Greece, returned to London on November 22 from Paris, where he had been making a brief stay at the Hotel Meurice.

M. Stancioff, formerly Bulgarian Minister to London, has arrived in London with Mme. and Mlle. Stancioff. They are staying at 9, Courtfield Gardens.

Professor D. S. Margoliouth will lecture to the Central Asian Society, on December 4, at 5 p.m., in the Royal Society's Hall, Burlington House, W.1, upon "The Ideals of Islam."

Mr. T. L. Jacks, Resident Director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in Teheran, arrived, with Mrs. Jacks, at Abadan, from Bombay, on October 30. After staying in Muhammarah he left for Teheran.

The Prince of Wales received at Buckingham Palace on November 20, on behalf of the King, Major B. J. O'Leary (upon his appointment as British Military Attaché, Constantinople).

Sir Francis Humphrys, the newly-appointed High Commissioner for Iraq, and Lady Humphrys left London on November 22 to take up his appointment. On his way to Baghdad he will visit Cairo, to meet Sir Percy Loraine (High Commissioner for Egypt), and Jerusalem, where he will see Sir John Chancellor (High Commissioner for Palestine).

The Prince of Wales received in audience at Buckingham Palace on November 19, on behalf of the King, His Excellency Mirza Seyed Hassan Taqizadeh (who presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor, and his own Letters of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Shah of Persia), and His Excellency Nagadras Makonnen Indalkatcho (who presented his Letters of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Court of Ethiopia).

Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, a former Governor of Bombay, will speak on "The Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London and its work for the Empire" at a meeting at Mrs. F. S. Franklin's house, 44, Lancaster Gate, W.2, to-day at 5 o'clock.

THE CYPRUS BROTHERHOOD.

Under the title of the New London Cyprus Brotherhood, the association of London Cypriots has been reorganised under the former President, Dr. A. Zeminides. The Brotherhood exists to keep Cyprus and its affairs before the British public by means of lectures and publications, to provide education in English for Cypriots, to promote the interests of Cypriots in London and to advise those who are thinking of coming to England. The Brotherhood, it is stated in its Constitution, will indulge in no political activities whatsoever.

The headquarters of the New London Cyprus Brotherhood is at the Pulteney Institute, Peter Street, Soho, W.1. There are already eighty registered members. The officers of the Brotherhood are: *President*, Dr. A. Zeminides; *Vice-President*, A. Marcoullides; *Hon. Treasurer*, Major W. H. Flinn (Trade Commissioner for Cyprus); *General Secretary*, K. Tigris; *Commissary*, J. Prountzos; *Librarian*, J. Kaniklides.

Four students were seriously injured, and 15 others slightly injured, in Sofia on November 18, when the police dispersed the demonstrations against the scheme for Bulgarian reparations elaborated by the Paris Committee.

Where to stay in the East

Write for particulars of attractive offer
for Advertising Hotels on this page.

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JAFFA—Hotel Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM—Hotel Fast.

H. & F. Fast, Proprietors

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Sea-Side Actaeon.

KYRENIA, Cyprus—

Sea-View Hotel.

NICOSIA, Cyprus—

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Tories in Conference.

A mordant critic, "A. A. B.," tells us that the Tory Party is bereft of ideas, if indeed, its senses have not completely departed since 1906, and the Conservative Conference last week rather dismally failed to disprove his charge. True, it had the decency and common-sense to conserve Mr. Baldwin as its leader, but of any vital ideas, which might supplant the Labour Party as possessors of public confidence, it showed a sad lack—unless, indeed, enthusiasm for safeguarding can be considered a new sign. In effect, the Conservatives appear rather to be waiting for blunders on the part of the Socialists than relying on any conversion of the populace to their own point of view. And who wins battles on negatives these days?

One had rather thought that the new heaven in the Conservative Party, as shown, for instance, in the Liberalised Toryism of such young members as Mr. Boothby or Mr. Macmillan, would have been prominent at this Conference. But it was not to be: the stereotyped policy won all along the line. But wholesale opposition to the Government's Russian policy or to its fiscal policy will never of itself win a fight: there must be constructive ideas.

Perhaps, however, one ought to add that the policy laid down by the Conservatives does include a definite reference to the development of the Empire. For that fact they have largely to thank Lord Beaverbrook, but his policy is professedly a non-party policy. And obviously the development of Imperial resources cannot be claimed as a monopoly of any Party.

Ever Westward.

"Westward, lo! the land is bright" certainly seems to be the slogan of electrified London. Hotels, flats, restaurants, theatres, business houses—all are moving westward. The dazzling electric sign seems out of place except in the region or vicinity of the West End, and since that seems to be the criterion of progress—well, we all must move thither.

It is only with an effort that we can recall Oxford Street before Mr. Selfridge made it the spectacular thing that it is steadily becoming. The fact that it is now a shopping centre of its own is evident from the number of shops which move westward thither, Gamage's being the latest.

And now we learn that a block of buildings in Oxford

Street, between Portman Street and Old Quebec Street, has been bought with the idea of transforming the whole into residential flats. Thus the western end of Oxford Street will in a year or two have become completely transformed. But one does wonder, in connexion with this last project, for whom the flats are to be built. Only a few people can afford the enormous prices charged for West End flats, and I believe there are at this moment hundreds of expensive flats in the West End untenanted. Unless these new flats are designed for the bourgeois with incomes of something under a £1,000 a year, it is difficult to see how they can be made to pay.

However that may be, the amount of building in the West is prodigious. Only the other day a vast new Hotel was opened at Baker Street; new theatres seem to spring up weekly; at the corner of Great Cumberland Street a new hotel is being built, and the famous Horse Shoe Inn, where Tottenham Court Road meets Oxford Street, is to be rebuilt as a modern hotel.

Oxford and Cambridge.

At irregular intervals the controversy breaks out between the respective merits of Oxford and Cambridge. The only criterion used is, of course, the athletic one. It so happens that Oxford, partly owing to its fewer numbers than Cambridge, partly to other reasons, has had for the past decade or so a rather dismal record in games. It is, of course gratifying to see the right cause so often triumph, but one must in justice add a note of protest against the bosh that is now being written about the decadence of Oxford.

As everyone knows who knows anything at all (a surprisingly small percentage of our population), all Schools, Colleges, and Universities have lean years. Who before the War, for instance, could have dreamed of the emergence of St. Catharine's College into its present giddy limelight, when, through the genius of Wales, it is becoming famous? Oxford has been having such a lean time, but, as surely as the sun will set to-morrow over Madingley and Haslingfield, Oxford's glories will re-arise. A beginning may even be made next month, when, through the genius of South Africa, the Rugger Match may go to the Dark Blues. If so, Cambridge men will naturally deplore the break, but they will not begrudge Oxford their exit from an unusually prolonged darkness of defeat.

Modern Broadsheets.

I like very much the idea which Messrs. Faber and Faber, most enterprising young publishers, are putting into practice in the form of a kind of broadsheet. These little booklets, which cost a shilling each, belong to what is called the "Criterion Miscellany," and they appear to aim at conveying through the words of a single author, anything that at the moment may seem to be, so to speak, spiritually topical.

So far I have seen but four of them; A. W. When's "Two Masters," an unsatisfying, over-literary story of the War by a man who appears to have more depth than balance, H. M. Tomlinson's "Cote D'Or," a slight essay which is worth reading for the directness of its English alone, H. G. Wells' "Imperialism and the Open Conspiracy," in which the claims of the World State are politely pitted against the Imperialism of such men as Lords Melchett and Beaverbrook, and George Blake's "The Coasts of Normandy," a strangely inspired but very readable tale by the Editor of the *Strand Magazine*.

The conception of these publications has great possibilities, not only in the purely literary aspect, but also from the view of controversy upon the highest plane. It supplies a most refreshing means of clarifying intelligent opinion upon the capital issues of our time, and it will be very interesting to see how a generation which is accustomed to have its thoughts discussed in daily, weekly, or monthly publications takes to this new form of pamphleteering.

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Book Reviews

'THE INDIAN PEASANT UNDER MUSLIM RULE.

"*THE AGRARIAN SYSTEM OF MUSLIM INDIA.*" By W. H. Moreland. (Cambridge: W. Haffer & Sons, Ltd. 15s. net.)

Mr. Moreland requires no introduction to our readers. His previous works on India under the various Moghal Emperors at once took rank as the standard treatises on their subject. And now he gives us "An Historical Essay" on a highly specialised subject which has, till now, been very obscure and, indeed, in great part impossible to follow. Yet its grave importance, not only as a matter of history, but also as matter for study by the present rulers of India can scarcely be exaggerated. Mr. Moreland carefully guards himself throughout his book from *ex cathedra* statements. Rather does he indicate what the facts before him seem to make most likely, pointing out what evidence is wanting and how it may be possible, by search, to supplement the data which we now possess. These data are still meagre, and what there are have, in the past, been too often put before the student in inaccurate or unintelligible form. It has been Mr. Moreland's first task to tackle all his authorities in the original Persian and to see that his texts are the best available. This, in itself, has thrown much light on dark places and has elucidated many puzzles. Next, he has taken pains to rid his book of all the misleading jargon which has done so much, in the hands of his predecessors, to make their work difficult to follow. He has carefully analysed the different terms used at different times in revenue administration, and has been able to assign definite and intelligible English words to cover each of these conceptions throughout. This, added to the author's very unusual gift of lucid exposition, makes it easy for a reader having no previous knowledge of the subject to read the book with interest and to follow its reasoning without difficulty. What this means when such a subject is concerned can scarcely be realised except by the sufferer at the hands of Mr. Moreland's predecessors, though a reader beginning his studies with this book would, we think, be puzzled that this is so. We can pay the book no higher compliment. Though eminently scholarly and, in no sense, a "popular" treatise, it will interest the layman equally with the expert.

We have been careful to avoid discussion of the matter of this essay, for the simple and adequate reason that the present reviewer feels that he has been sitting at the feet of a master from whom he has greatly welcomed instruction, but whom he feels no desire or capacity to criticise. We fancy that those qualified to do so are few. Mr. Moreland has given us *the* book on the subject and it is no dull treatise. It is a book to be read from cover to cover by all interested in Indian administration. After all, the peasant is the basis of Indian well-being.

C. S-W.

"SARAWAK JUNGLES."

"*THE FIELD BOOK OF A JUNGLE-WALLAH.*" By Dr. Charles Hose. Illustrated. (London: H. F. & C. Witherby. 12s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Hose requires no introduction to students of natural history, to the lovers of Nature, or to those who like a well-written book which takes them away in happy dreams to lands of the Tropics. All these, and many others, will eagerly welcome another work from his pen, stored with first-hand knowledge which few other than he possess, and presented with the additional charm of a delightful style and a whimsical quiet humour. Here you may read of the Porter Crab who carries an oval gelatinous plate with him on which he grows a small sea anemone, carrying it above his head like an umbrella and, no doubt deriving advantage from this odd procedure on account of the protecting sting of its burden. "What," says the author, "the Sea Anemone gets out of it, I cannot say; nor is it easy to imagine how the

partnership can have started. How does the Crab know that the Sea Anemone can be useful to it? and how does he first pick up a young unattached Sea Anemone?" Or of the Ant-Eater, which "is probably a remnant from a pre-historic age, and, I am bound to say, looks the part." Or of hundreds of other animals, birds, reptiles, rivers, forests, mountain and other creatures, not forgetting the human inhabitants of the Jungle, with their folk-tales of their neighbours, the birds and beasts. One short quotation we must allow ourselves. It concerns the Carpenter Bee, "a large and beautiful insect which bores holes about the size of a man's finger in any soft wood—the roof beams of your bungalow for choice—scattering chips and dust all over the floor. If you try to get rid of it, by sending someone up a ladder to plug the holes, the bee simply bores through the beam, singing and humming as it works, and having made its way out, starts the same business somewhere else."

If any of our readers are inclined to cavil at space taken up with notes on matters not strictly coming within the territory of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA*, let them take our advice and read Dr. Hose's book. They will change their mind and thank the reviewer. Our Buddhist brethren urge the necessity, in this age of evil, to acquire merit. This can be done easily and inexpensively, by handing the "Field-Book" on to a boy with a taste for natural history, unless, indeed, a great desire to join the Sarawak Civil Service is deprecated.

Since this review was written, the death of Dr. Hose has been announced. It is very sad to think that no more words will flow from such a genial pen. C. S-W.

WILDS AND WASTE PLACES IN YUNNAN AND SZECHUAN.

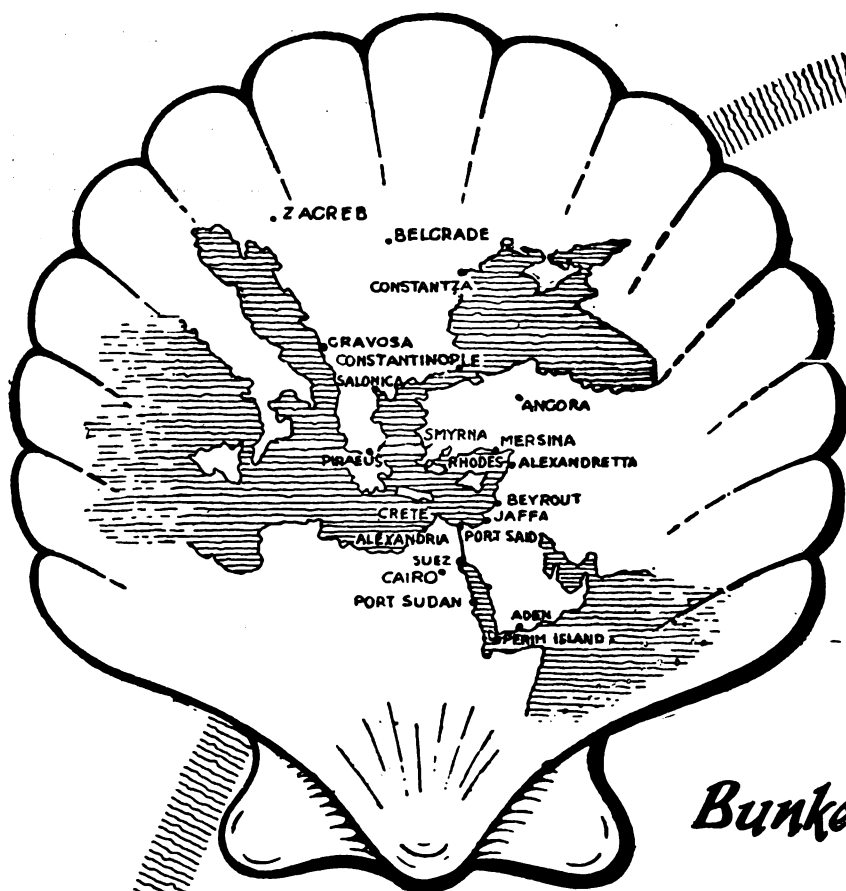
"*TRAILING THE GIANT PANDA.*" By Theodore Roosevelt and Kermit Roosevelt. Illustrated. (Charles Scribner's Sons. 16s. net.)

"Ted" and Kermit Roosevelt have long earned their spurs as travellers and explorers in various parts of the world, and readers of *THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA* will welcome this account of their latest exploits during the present year in territory bordering on the lands in which they are specially interested. The fact that they are now able to present their report on a trek which ended—at Yunnanfu—in May last is in itself indicative of their terrific energy. The book consists of nine chapters written turn-about by the travellers while still on the journey, and all the better for that, and is beautifully illustrated from photographs taken by their companion, Saydam Cutting.

The excuse for the journey was the study of animals in the little-known part of the Provinces of Yunnan and Szechuan and especially the search for a specimen of the Giant Panda, a large bear-like animal known up to 1929 only from a skin secured from a native sixty years ago. Their search involved a long tramp through very difficult country, largely unknown, over many very high passes and through tracts of country where no white man had ever ventured. But fine muscle and stamina, with finer verve, brought them through the physical difficulties, while their natural qualities of human sympathy and understanding smoothed their way with people who might well have proved fatally hostile to others. They had extraordinary luck in avoiding the numerous troops of bandits with whom the country was infested, and they had the satisfaction of returning with their objects duly achieved.

We have every confidence in recommending this book, with its delightful map, to our readers. It is the true quality of adventure, it tells of men and places of which few know anything, and its modest pages unwittingly give us a picture of two fine fellows whom we are glad to know.

C.S-W.



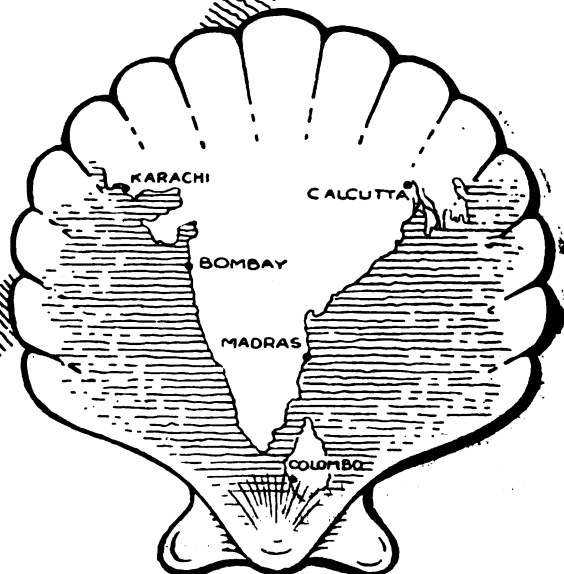
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Messrs. Fratelli Aliotti SMYRNA.
The Shell Co. of Palestine Ltd.
JERUSALEM.
The Shell Co., of Egypt Ltd. CAIRO.
The Shell Co. of Syria Ltd.
BEYROUTH.
The Shell Co. of the Sudan Ltd.
PORT SUDAN.
Messrs. A. Besse ADEN.
Burmah Shell Oil Storage & Distributing
Co. of India Ltd., CALCUTTA.
Burmah Shell Oil Storage & Distributing
Co. of India Ltd., MADRAS.
Burmah Shell Oil Storage & Distributing
Co. of India Ltd., BOMBAY.
Burmah Shell Oil Storage & Distributing
Co. of India Ltd., KARACHI.
The Asiatic Petroleum Co. (Ceylon),
Ltd., COLOMBO.
(Agents: Dalmag Forsyth & Co., Ltd.)

SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Greek Finances.

If one is to judge solely by Greece's Budget finances the conditions of that country are distinctly to be envied. Few Finance Ministers to-day are in the fortunate position of being able to record a series of surpluses, some of them obtained without new taxation, and further to announce remissions of taxation, and M. Maris might well be pardoned if he allowed a note of exultation to enter into his statement last week on the Budget for 1930-31. Dealing with past Budgets he pointed out that that of 1927-28 left a surplus of 590 million drachmæ, and that of 1928-29 one of 545 millions, while it is anticipated that the present Budget will yield a surplus of 616 millions. The Budget for 1930-31 provides for receipts of 10,534 million drachmæ, and an expenditure of 10,525 millions, allowing for a small surplus of 8.7 millions. The expenditure is higher this time because provision is made for the reduction of taxes, notably on agricultural products, for one thing, for higher salaries for Civil Servants for another, and finally for the creation of a reserve fund. It is interesting to note that the Budget contains no provision for the payment of War Debts, as it is anticipated that Greece will have to pay no more under this head than she will receive.

Agricultural Expansion.

In the course of his statement M. Maris dealt with economic developments in Greece, and showed that the productive capacity of the country is steadily being increased. Thus in 1927 the area cultivated amounted to 15,200,000 stremmata, and the value of the crops was estimated at 10,435 million drachmæ, while in 1928 the area cultivated was 15,900,000 stremmata, the value of the crops being 11,556 million drachmæ. For the present year it is anticipated that there will be a larger production, particularly in regard to tobacco and maize. He went on to point out that trade over the same period also shows a marked improvement, and that there has been a notable reduction in the adverse commercial balance. Greece, it must be borne in mind, is still on the threshold of her development, for the numerous important irrigation and other schemes have still to be carried out. The present position of the country, as shown by M. Maris, illustrates the nature of the advance that may be expected when these works have been completed and the refugees are able to add their full quota to the production of the country.

Indo-European Telegraph Company.

Shareholders of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, Ltd., have received a circular informing them that terms have been provisionally arranged for the purchase by Imperial and International Communications, Ltd., of the shares of those who may be willing to sell them. The price offered is £55 cash for each £25 share, and the offer is conditional on its acceptance by the holders of 90 per cent. of the issued shares of the company, or such less proportion as the Communications Company may agree to, within one month from November 22, or possibly within a longer period not exceeding four months. The Directors state that they regard the offer as satisfactory, and they strongly advise all shareholders to accept it. On behalf of the Indo-European Telegraph Company Messrs. Kemp, Chatteris, Nichols, Sendell and Co., and on behalf of the Communications Company Messrs. Deloitte, Plender,

Griffiths, and Co. have considered it, and after a careful investigation have reported that the offer is a fair and equitable one.

Compensation to Directors.

It is provided by the terms of the proposed deal that the Directors of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, other than the Managing Director, shall retire on completion of the sale in favour of nominees of the Communications Company. For so doing they are to be paid compensation for loss of office, the total amount involved being £27,000. A further sum of £30,000 will be set aside by the Communications Company as compensation to the Managing Director for loss of office, but in the event of his being offered, and accepting, office or employment under the Indo Company or the Communications Company this sum will be repaid to the Communications Company. The continued payment of existing pensions to past employees of the company is assured, and provision is also made for the payment of compensation to any members of the company's British and foreign staffs who may lose their employment by reason of the transfer of the control.

Egyptian Market for Cement.

The importance of the Egyptian market for cement, to which I have already referred in these columns, is the subject of emphasis by Mr. Turner in his recent report on Egypt. He points out that the consumption of cement is developing fairly rapidly, and that the average annual consumption for the last two or three years has been about 270,000 tons. For the past year the imports totalled about 270,000 metric tons of the value of £E511,805 as against 224,843 tons and £E472,174 in 1927. Yugoslavia and Belgium are at present the chief supplying countries, but the United Kingdom's share in 1928 was £E101,934, and there is no reason why our share of this market should not be considerably increased.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

At the meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway (a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns) a very satisfactory survey of the company's position was given by the Chairman, Mr. Robert Miller. The gross earnings were the highest on record, this result being due to certain branches of goods traffic. The passenger traffic increased, but the receipts were slightly lower; it is anticipated, however, that the appreciation of increased facilities

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Total Assets	-	-	-	£6,028,832

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A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

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The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day. The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon. Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches. The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

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97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Allar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives. The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

will lead to increased revenues from this source. There was a substantial increase in expenditure, due to a full year's work on the three years' programme of strengthening the track and bridges and the purchase of more powerful locomotives. As regards the outlook it is satisfactory to know that for the first half of the current year the gross earnings show an increase of Rs.25 lakhs, and the Chairman expressed the view that after financing the second instalment of the programme of strengthening the line shareholders may look for a margin of surplus profits for division.

COMMENTATOR.

THE BIRMINGHAM HEAVY INDUSTRIES FAIR.

In more marked degree each year the Heavy Section of the British Industries Fair becomes a national index of industrial enterprise. Not only will the 1930 display in Birmingham be of greater dimensions than ever before, but it is now evident that the new products to be introduced next February will be more numerous in proportion and cover a still wider range of industrial and domestic uses. Among some 600 exhibitors who have provided the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, organisers of the Heavy Section, with advanced information of the goods to be shown, nearly all have one or more articles to bring for the first time to the notice of trade buyers.

These cover every branch of the engineering, electrical, gas, building and hardware industries, and represent research and experimental work which has been in progress practically since the close of the last Fair. While one firm has been busily engaged on improved designs for metal-clad electrical switchgear, giving greater control and safety to operators in factories, mines and power stations, another claims to have solved the problem of driving belts which will take excessive strains on small-sized pulleys. Manufacturers who are world-famous for their measuring instruments will show an entirely new range of industrial visible weighers which give quick self-indications of accurate weights.

Specialists in the maintenance of electrical plant have effected an improvement of windings to stand high temperatures by the use of heat-resisting enamels. A new model of electric arc welder more compact than previous models, and a new rotating electric furnace for melting non-ferrous metals—the only one of this type made in Great Britain—are other features.

An important development in plant for the handling of materials, such as crushers, elevators, screens and belt-conveyors is the serious attention now given to control of feed by the operators, and new apparatus for securing evenness of feed is said to increase the efficiency and life of such machinery by 33½ per cent. and 80 per cent. respectively.

The enormous increase in the demand for gas has brought fresh problems of distribution in regard to altering the pressure from time to time. In this connexion a novel invention of district gas governors, designed to facilitate the alteration of pressures, is of unusual interest. Also in the Gas Section will be seen in operation gas switches—of which models only were shown at the last Fair—stated to be absolutely reliable and incapable of failing.

The National Bank of Roumania has lowered its discount rate from 9½ to 9 per cent. and its rate on loans to 10 per cent.

Holophane, Ltd., of London, have obtained the contract for the complete lighting installation at the new Egyptian University at Ghizeh, Cairo.

The Postmaster-General draws attention to the fact that a considerable proportion of the correspondence posted for transmission to Persia by the Indian Air Mail is insufficiently stamped. The air fee for all correspondence for destinations in Persia is now 5d. per half-ounce, in addition to the ordinary foreign postage. This fee covers air transmission from London by the direct Indian Air Mail to Baghdad or Bushire and thence by air into and within Persia as necessary.

THE ECONOMIC POSITION IN YUGOSLAVIA.

By JOE MANTUANI.

We are often asked whether Yugoslavia's economic consolidation is progressing or no? The sensational reports of bank failures and financial crises in particular have not tended to place Yugoslav economics in the best of lights. In order to see things as they really are, we must regard the country's economic and financial development from a more general point of view, and above all from that of a student of national economy.

Unquestionably Yugoslavia is passing through a commercial crisis, a fate she shares with almost the whole of the rest of Europe. That crisis is mirrored in the activities and attitude of our banks. One proof that this crisis is not so terrible after all is afforded by the payment, precisely at this juncture, of the liabilities of the Slavenski Banka, which failed several years ago; another by our factories, which are in full work. Our export crisis is one of those calamities with which all the Eastern, and especially the South-Eastern, States of Europe have to reckon. Yugoslavia, with her enormous agricultural output cannot, of course, obtain such prices on the world markets as her producers and brokers would wish. Railway tariffs are high, and traffic over-burdened. On the other hand, Yugoslavia is exempt from trouble with some of the other problems which handicap the social and economic development of other countries. The question of unemployment does not loom very large. Compared with its proportions in the great states of the world, we might say that it does not exist. Nor does the question of emigration play a particularly disquieting part. Emigration from Yugoslavia is not so much a matter of necessity as love of adventure on the part of private individuals, because there is still plenty of good, untilled soil in Yugoslavia; there are vast forests, and truly enormous areas of land which could be profitably exploited without much initial expense. Industry is still run on a small scale. Few industries have an output sufficient to meet the home demand. The Carbide Works in Dalmatia form a notable exception. Imports are fairly well balanced by exports. Foreign traffic is far greater on the western and northern frontiers, however, than on the eastern frontier.

The growth of the co-operative system is very marked, especially in the north of Yugoslavia. Tradesmen, peasants, and small manufacturers are well organised with sound financial backing. These co-operatives have their own banks, markets and shows, and their own organised supply which works well, and their influence extends to the large wholesale manufacturers which are largely dependent upon them in matters of supply. In the south the influence of these co-operatives has not yet grown so strong. Beyond all question the change of régime on January 6 definitely cleared up a situation which was very complicated, not only in a political, but also in the economic sense.

Commercially speaking, the purchasing power of Yugoslavia has somewhat declined, but an improvement is to be looked for after the autumn and winter export seasons, when it is likely to be greater than it was a year before, more especially because Yugoslavia already enjoys the new customs facilities agreed upon with several of her neighbours, and the use of a new export harbour, viz., Salonika. The call for agricultural machinery and machinery for working up timber ought to be greater than ever next spring, because the purchasing power of the peasant and manufacturer is likely to have grown. And on this occasion, as on former ones, I should like to draw the attention of British exporters and manufacturers to the big deals which are likely to be concluded here next year, and to the business facilities offered to all importers by the various samples fairs, exhibitions, and public tenders in Yugoslavia.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN GREECE.

The current issue of the weekly report of Hambros Bank, Ltd., contains the following:—

A Greco-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce has been established and is functioning since October 1, 1929 at Piræus. Its object is to further the commercial interests of the respective countries.

A decree fixes at 250 drachmæ per 1,000 Venetian pounds the export contribution of the currants exported during the year 1929-30. A special tax of 150 drachmæ per 1,000 Venetian pounds is also levied, the proceeds of which are placed at the disposal of the Central Currant Association in order to provide funds for the advertisement of the currants abroad. The above contributions are paid to the National Bank of Greece against receipts which are produced to the Custom House authorities in order to obtain the necessary export permit. A tax of 25 drachmæ per 1,000 Venetian pounds is levied on all currants which are sold and stored in the warehouses of the Central Currant Association during 1929-30. The proceeds of this tax will be spent in advertising the currants in Greece.

According to the recently published general statistical marine tables, there have entered Greece during 1928 23,323 steamers, of a net tonnage of 14,653,958 tons, which carried to the country 2,496,466 tons of goods from abroad and 516,582 tons from inland.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce is considering the purchase of a fourth dredger for use on the River Hooghly below Calcutta.

A Near East Market, in aid of the funds of the Church Missionary Society, was held at the Church Missionary House, Salisbury Square, E.C.4, on November 20 and 21. The market was opened on the first day by Lord Mayor and the following day by the Countess of Leitrim.

A meeting of shareholders in Eastern Oil Industries will be held at Mark Lane Station Buildings, E.C.3, on December 17, when resolutions will be proposed for amalgamating the company with Eastern and Overseas Products.

The death is announced, after an operation in a London hospital, of the Rev. Joseph Shepherd, pastor of Islington Congregational Church. He began his career at Buckley, Flintshire, as a printer, and having entered the ministry, was appointed pastor of the Congregational Church at Ripon. Before his call to Islington he resided in South Africa. During the War he was a chaplain in Palestine, and was twice torpedoed.

The Metropolitan Museum of New York recently announced that it had found, at Luxor, a tomb believed to be that of the wife of Amen Hotep II., Queen Meryet-Amun. It is understood that examination has now established the fact that the mummy was the wife of Amen Hotep II., who reigned from 1461 to 1436 B.C. Her coffin is immense, about three times the usual size. It was brought to Cairo some months ago, and the body bore evidence of rewrapping after burial.

The total quantity of petroleum products exported from Roumania during September amounted to 228,734 tons, as against 277,325 tons exported during August. The principal importing countries were as follows:—Italy, 41,490 tons; England, 25,609 tons; Austria, 18,912 tons; Hungary, 18,511 tons; Greece, 16,540 tons; Germany, 16,063 tons; Poland, 15,580 tons; and Egypt, 14,748 tons. Of the total exports 154,201 tons were shipped from Constantza and 44,840 from Giurgiu, while 18,840 tons went from Oltenitza.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Water Mains.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and installation of a system of water mains for the town of Luxor. The principal materials required are 10,850 metres of steel tubes of various sizes from 80 m.m. to 300 m.m. internal diameter, together with specials, 58 sluice valves, 15 hydrants, 7 column hydrants, and 6 drinking fountains. January 7. (D.O.T.)

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery. The contract involves centrifugal well pump and direct coupled electric motor, together with piping and accessories. February 1. (D.O.T.)

Transmission Lines.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of high tension 3-phase overhead transmission lines in Northern Delta, consisting of a main line of about 105 kms. and branch lines of about 150 kms., including all necessary materials for the lines and all accessories. February 27.

Diesel Engines.—The Ministry of Public Works, Mechanical and Electrical Department, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two Diesel engines and accessories. January 4. (D.O.T.)

Direction Indicators.—The British Commercial Secretary at Cairo (Mr. R. M. A. Turner, O.B.E.) has reported a possible opening for the sale of direction indicators for motor buses and taxicabs in Egypt. (D.O.T.)

Electric Generating and Pumping Sets.—The Ministry of Public Works, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of electric generating and pumping sets for the Mankabad Barracks. December 28. (D.O.T.)

THE SUDAN.

Stores.—The Inspector, Headquarters, Egyptian Irrigation Department in the Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of running stores for steamers and launches, chiefly oil, grease, ropes, iron bars, bolts and nuts, electric equipment, files, etc. December 14.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Manchester, December 3; Birkenhead, December 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Markhor for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 7); s.s. Mahout for Calcutta (Glasgow, December 5; Birkenhead, December 14).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Shropshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 11).

British India Line.—S.s. Masula for Bombay (Middlesbrough, December 3; London, December 14); s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Middlesbrough, December 7; London, December 14).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if inducement (Glasgow, December 12; Liverpool and Swansea, December 13); s.s. Bosnia* for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Algiers, Oran, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, December 21; Swansea, December 24). *This sailing is not definite.

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 7); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 21).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Bangalore for Bombay and Calcutta (London, December 6); s.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, December 6).

Prince Line.—S.s. Lancastrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 30); s.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 10); s.s. Korean Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandria, Mersin, and Cyprus ports (London, December 14).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Maronian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 5); s.s. Lishon for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Syra*, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 7); s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, December 7; Swansea, December 12); s.s. Serbino for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 12); s.s. Algerian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, December 28; Swansea*, December 28); A steamer for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, December 30).

*Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

ANCHOR LINE LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

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LARGE STEAMSHIPS, UPPER DECK CABINS.

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*†CASTALIA ... Dec. 10 *†ELYSIA ... Feb. 4
‡BRITANNIA ... Jan. 10 ‡TUSCANIA ... Feb. 11

‡ Leaves Marseilles January 18 and February 17.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares. †Calls Port Sudan.
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ANCHOR LINE,

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, November 26.

There was a somewhat uncertain tone at the opening of business this week in the Stock Markets, but there was a steady improvement as time went on. The most important factors contributing to this improvement were the cessation of liquidation in New York and anticipations of a reduction in Bank rate here, the latter proving well founded on Thursday when a reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was made. Those who had hoped for a 1 per cent. reduction were disappointed, and as the actual change that was made had been well discounted in advance the effect on stock market prices was negligible. Indeed, after the announcement was made prices were inclined to weaken. The result of the Conversion Loan issue, announced by the Chancellor in the House of Commons on Monday, was regarded as satisfactory and the gilt-edged market has been much firmer during the week. There are, however, a number of factors which still obscure the monetary outlook. It had been thought that the New York Federal Reserve Bank would lower its rediscount rate on Thursday, following the reduction by the Bank of England, but no change was made. Substantial amounts of gold are due to arrive here in the next few weeks, but there is yet no sign of France's appetite being assuaged, and in the meantime the Bank of England's gold stock is little better than it was several weeks ago when Bank rate was raised from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Industrials Again.

Last week we referred to some leading industrials which as a result of present market conditions are obtainable at distinctly attractive prices. This may be said of several industrials now. In the country at large the industrial outlook is on the whole promising, and soundly established businesses should be able to continue to do at least as good business in the future as they have done in the past. As it is, after all, the firm business activity which determines dividends, the present Stock Exchange conditions have allowed some securities to fall below their earning power value. Since last week a recovery has already taken place, but some good purchases can still be

made. Dunlop's, for example, which owns or controls rubber plantations and rubber manufacturing plants of various kinds, although it did not do too well last year, which was an exceptionally bad period for the rubber industry, is now once again in a sounder position. Its ordinary shares, whose total nominal value amounts to about £7 million, can be bought to yield £8 13s. per cent., and on the 10 per cent. "C" cumulative preference shares a return of £7 10s. per cent. can be obtained. Yet another well-established and progressive firm is J. Lyons and Co., the caterers, whose ordinary shares yield £4 12s. per cent. and 7 per cent. preference yield £5 19s. per cent. The good appreciation prospects of this firm's shares, it will be seen, is somewhat discounted in the price at which they are obtainable. Finally, Distillers Company may be mentioned, which for a number of years has paid a regular 20 per cent. on its ordinary shares. These can be bought to yield £5 12s. per cent.

Oil Interims.

The announcement of unchanged interim dividends by "Shell" Transport and Trading and its ally, the Royal Dutch Company, accounted for a hardening in the shares, particularly as in the case of the former concern the distribution is made on the substantially enlarged capital. Moreover, the oil industry has of late been showing signs that the worst of the over-production has been seen, though it is as yet far too early to discuss the outlook with confidence. In the last three weeks the average daily output of crude oil in the United States has fallen by 50,000 barrels, 188,000 barrels, and 11,000 barrels, so that the efforts at restriction appear at last to be bearing fruit. It has also been insufficiently recognised that the consumption of oil has increased steadily in recent years. The demand for the first eight months of the year in the U.S.A., for example, was 722,198 barrels, compared with 660,595 barrels in the corresponding period of 1928. Nevertheless, until a continuance of the curtailment of production seems certain, investors would do well to confine their attention to the great producing-cum-distributing concerns, who by the wide range of their operations minimise the risks inevitable in this industry. Among such companies, Shell ordinary return £5 8s. per cent. and Anglo-Persian £3 per cent. The low yield in the latter is accounted for by the fact that although production has been steadily increasing, the vast resources of Persia have as yet been barely touched.

Some Railway Preferences

The last few months have continued to see signs of improved profit-earning possibilities of Home Rails and have maintained the investment attractiveness which they are once more acquiring. There is another reason why the prior charge stocks of the British railways are attractive at the moment. The fall in the Bank rate of three weeks ago, followed by the reduction to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on Thursday, together with other signs, suggests the likelihood of cheaper money in the near future, and with their present yields some well-secured railway preference stocks look attractive. London and North Eastern last year had a balance available for dividend distribution of £7,336,377, which, after meeting prior stocks, left sufficient to cover the dividend on 4 per cent. first preference $2\frac{1}{2}$ times. This well-secured stock can be bought to yield £6 5s. per cent. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway, by many regarded as the most efficiently managed of our railways, last year had £11,965,399 available to pay dividends, and when other charges had been met, enough was left to cover the 4 per cent. preference dividend about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times. The yield on this stock is £5 15s. per cent. Another well-covered railway preference stock is the Southern 5 per cent. preference, whose dividend last year were covered $2\frac{1}{2}$ times, and which can now be bought to give a return of £5 13s. per cent. It will be remembered that all these stocks rank as English trustee securities.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia conferred the Order of Saint Sava upon Dr. Greig, Bishop of Guildford, formerly Bishop of Gibraltar, in whose diocese Yugoslavia is included.

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Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson,
Watson & Co.
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Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros.
& Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.8

NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)**Sofia, November 20.***The Reparations Question.**

The question which occupies attention at present is the settlement of reparations which has been the subject of negotiations for some weeks in Paris. Readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA know the aspects of the question. The enormous sum of 2,225 million gold francs at 5 per cent. interest, fixed by the Treaty of Neuilly as the reparations debt of Bulgaria, was shown to be unrealisable in practice and the Reparations Commission made a first reduction by the conclusion in 1923 of the Stamboliski Agreement, by which the debt was divided into two parts, of which one of 550 millions began to run at once with the same rate of interest, while the other of 1,700 millions without interest would not become payable until after 1953, which was regarded as annulling it for practical purposes. But, as the country is not able to make large annual payments, the annuities which it has paid since then, and which began at 5 millions rising progressively to 10 millions, an amount in force up to 1932, have not even reached the point of covering the interest on the sum fixed, and it was tacitly understood by virtue of Article 122 of the Treaty of Neuilly, that on the approach of the large annuities of 33 and especially of 43 millions which would begin from 1934, and which evidently could not be paid as they exceeded the possibilities of the country, the plan of 1923 would be profoundly modified by a further large reduction.

It is in these conditions that the Paris Committee has

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Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

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PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.
Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.
Tel Aviv: Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

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SYRIA.

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TURKEY.

Constantinople: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency,
18, Rue des Petits Champs, Pera.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Francaise, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel

come to examine the question. But instead of proceeding to a thorough investigation of the capacity of Bulgaria to pay, as was done in the case of Germany, the experts, tied by the final protocol of the first Hague Conference, and especially by the promises made by the Great Powers to their Allies, notably to Greece and Roumania, adopted an opposite procedure, and began by decreeing that Bulgaria must pay a part determined by the deficit on the Young scheme. Thus the Committee made to Bulgaria, after hearing the explanations of her delegates, a first proposal tending to regulate the Bulgarian reparations debt on the basis of the 1923 agreement adding to the sum of 550 millions interest due, making a total of 700 millions, divided into 36 annual payments to remain without interest. The proposal was categorically and without any hesitation rejected by the Bulgarians, who did not believe themselves to be able even to make alternative proposals. Subsequently, however, alternative proposals were put forward and were rejected. At the conclusion of the lengthy negotiations in Paris the Powers ended by making a new proposal based on an average annual payment of 12½ million gold francs, making a total of 450 millions without interest.

If we compare this scheme with that of the agreement of 1923, which provided for 62 annual payments making a total of 2,253,266,000 gold francs, it must be admitted that there is a considerable reduction. But this reduction was found inadequate in view of the exhaustion of the national economy, and the Bulgarian Government refused to accept it even when it was stated that the settlement also included the part still to be paid of the occupation debt expiring in 1934. Then the three Great Powers, Great Britain, France, and Italy, already very perturbed at the attitude of Hungary, decided to bring the matter to an end, and to state by their representatives at Sofia—a step which had all the appearance of an ultimatum—that this proposal was their last word and that they urged Bulgaria instantly to accept it, as otherwise they would revert to the first proposal without any change at all. The Bulgarian Government intended to go to discuss the question and to defend its rights before the Hague Conference. It is doubtful, however, whether the ultimatum leaves open the possibility of this recourse, the three Powers being determined to end the business before the meeting of the Conference.

Every effort is being made at present to obtain at least some slight additional concessions, so as to satisfy inflamed public opinion which has begun to give vent to violent manifestations and hostile demonstrations before the Legations of the Powers which are believed to be the most intransigent, notably France and Italy. There is some irony in the fact that the very day when the country, led less by its politicians than by its business men, workers, and artisans, should have inaugurated a national struggle against reparations should have been chosen by the representatives of the Powers to communicate their ultimatum to the head of the Government. The protest of the business community was particularly stirring. The shops, warehouses, banks, and offices were shut in every town, and the people went to pass a resolution protesting against the treatment inflicted on Bulgaria whose economic and financial state did not permit of the payment of reparations, and inviting the Government and the political parties to do everything possible to bring about the alleviation of an insupportable burden.

Lloyd's agents in Constantinople have been informed by the Post Office authorities there that instructions have been sent to foreign Post Offices stating that telegrams for that city should no longer be addressed "Constantinople." To an inquiry whether the new name of the port as communicated to foreign Post Offices was "Stamboul" or "Istanbul," the reply was given that the Turkish "Istanbul" is the correct name but that "Stamboul" was considered the French way of writing "Istanbul," and that consequently no distinction would be made between the two words, and telegrams addressed "Stamboul" would be accepted and delivered. With regard to letters no change had been made; letters addressed "Constantinople" will be delivered as usual. No change could be made, a high official stated, until the general public abroad had become aware of the new name.

Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

Registration Books.

It seems probable that registration books, which have never been the success expected, will be scrapped before long. These registration books were first brought out in 1920, and optimists said, unhesitatingly, that they would be like a ship's log, that they would absolutely prevent car thieves from getting away with their booty, that if a car was stolen, no one could possibly sell it, and so on. The ordinary motorist was not so sure, and the respective values of the two opinions may now, after nine years, be appraised. Bluntly, the scheme has failed, utterly, and the books are merely a source of irritation, like many other pieces of motor legislation. During recent years official tendency has been in the direction of complication rather than of simplification; there seems no real reason why the ownership of a car should be more full of annoyance than the ownership of anything else.

The whole subject has been tinkered with rather than dealt with, and no amount of registration books will prevent unfit people from driving cars if they want to do so, nor keep reckless and careless drivers off the roads. They add nothing to the safety of the public, and no more cars will be stolen and no more regrettable road accidents will occur if they are promptly scrapped. The only way to deal with undesirable motorists is to make it known to them, as forcibly as possible, that they have certain obligations towards other road users and to leave it to the police—to motor cycle police as soon as such a body can be created and organised—to enforce upon the almost negligible number of road hogs the observance of ordinary care in driving.

Atmospheric Wear.

Professor A. M. Lowe, who has done so much useful, if not always properly appreciated, work in connexion with motoring, writes to the technical Press to say: "I have often wondered if a greater immunity from atmospheric wear and tear upon cars could be secured by choosing substances which do not readily combine to form a battery when dipped into the relatively acid water produced by rainfall in large cities. If cast iron, copper and even zinc are all exposed to rain, and, worse still, are allowed to remain in contact with each other, it is only to be expected that electrolysis in some form of other, will take place. Most changes—if not every change of state which takes place in the world—are due to electrical action, although we are as yet unable to define its precise nature. When I read that a bridge has been completed by the driving in of a silver rivet, I am reminded that this metal is the last which should be chosen for such a noble purpose. In the presence of sulphur, silver commonly turns a dirty black, as in the case of a half-crown carried in the pocket with a piece of rubber. The coin of the realm is hardened by an admixture of other metals, and I must explain that if any metals could be obtained in a state of chemical purity, electrical action might be difficult to secure. Even if the rivets were poured into place for the convenience of whoever presses the button, cuts the tape or breaks the bottle of champagne, the difficulties of the engineering department would not be at an end. Silver has the rather quaint habit of "spitting" when it is cast under certain circumstances and conditions, for soon after it apparently solidifies it may spurt out in the manner of those delightful serpents which we light at Christmas time."

There is a good deal in what Professor Low says, and there is no doubt that, in car work, as well as in other directions of engineering practice, we do place different metals in altogether unscientific proximity with the result that electrical action takes place as soon as acid rainwater falls upon them. What we are accustomed to regard as

ordinary corrosion and rust is frequently caused by a number of miniature electrical batteries being brought into action, batteries that owe their inception to a little want of thought on the part of the car designer.

Cold Weather Precautions.

As soon as really cold weather sets in, there will probably be the usual number of frozen radiators and cracked castings. Many owners take the precaution of draining off the radiator water before putting the car up for the night and fill up with warm water, to get easy starting, when they take it out again. Others install some form of heating in the garage or hang some form of portable lamp inside the bonnet of the car after they have finished driving for the day. There is much to be said in favour of this method of dealing with the trouble, and there are many designs of such lamps obtainable, some using ordinary paraffin and others running on electricity. Many owners might hesitate before hanging a lamp inside a car in fairly close proximity to the carburettor, but with a good make of lamp there is no danger. Most lamps of the kind are designed to hold sufficient oil for several days' use, and in the long run these will probably be found most convenient. In bad weather, it is by no means a pleasant task to wander down to the garage each day to refill a lamp that has an oil container only capable of holding twelve or fourteen hours' supply of oil. If power is laid on to the garage, electric heaters are in every way the most suitable for the work. Where external heating is impossible, and it is considered advisable to drain the radiator, care must be taken to see that water is not trapped, by an air lock or other cause, in the cooling system. Cases have been known where the drain cocks were fitted too high to allow the water to drain away from the lower connexion between engine and radiator, and if that is the case, as can be ascertained by careful inspection, a new hole should be drilled and tapped, in the correct position, and a new drain cock fitted. Comparatively few motorists nowadays seem to adopt a precaution which was often taken, and which was always efficacious, in the old days, which was to add about a quarter of a pint or more of glycerine to the cooling mixture. There are a number of anti-freezing mixtures, all of them useful, which are now on the market for use in a similar way, but glycerine is about as good as anything that can be used.

Miscellaneous.

Owners of Clyno cars will be interested to hear that R. H. Collier and Co., Ltd., Coventry Road, Yardley,

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.08½
Athens	Drachms to £ ..	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.38
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.18½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—29/32
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.87½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	818½
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.88½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—29/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1.042½
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.87 29/32
Paris	Francs to £.....	124.21	123.86
Prague	Kronen to £.....	164.25	164½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	93.13—.16
Sofia.....	Leva to £	673.659	674½
Teheran	Krans to £	48	58
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.68
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 7/16—9/16

Birmingham, are prepared to deliver all ordinary Clyno spares without delay. They have compiled a spare parts price list dealing with the 11 h.p., and the 12-28 h.p. models, and they will send a copy of this to any reader interested. They are also compiling a list in connexion with spares for the 9 and the 12-35 h.p.

It is understood that Mr. Chas M. Lomax has been placed in control of Chrysler Motors, at Kew, and also of Dodge Bros. (Britain), Ltd., at Acton, following the resignation of Mr. Chas. Macaire who so long and ably filled the post of managing director of Chryslers. Mr. Lomax has been treasurer and a director of Chrysler Motors since 1919.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN SYRIA.

Syrian commerce in general has suffered from the failure of the cereal crop in 1928, following only fair agricultural returns in 1927 (says an article in the United States "Commerce Reports"). The shortage of cereals necessitated heavy imports of foreign wheat and flour, to the detriment of other imports, and simultaneously reduced the purchasing power of the population. This decline in buying power, followed by a general tightening of credit by the banks, rendered the position of many merchants difficult and resulted in numerous bankruptcies. During the latter part of the year, however, conditions became more satisfactory, and recent reports point to favourable crop returns for 1929. Budget operations indicate a small surplus, and note circulation has expanded. Motor traffic continues to increase, with further improvement and extension of the existing road system. The foreign trade situation has shown little change, though purchases from the United States continue to increase.

Agricultural returns in 1928 were generally lower than in 1927 because of the drought and the damage from locusts. Cereals suffered the most, and the yield was sufficient only for a quarter's consumption necessitating the importation of large quantities of wheat and flour, in contrast with normal conditions when a small surplus is available for export. The fruit crop did not approach the previous year's output, although the orange crop was normal. Production of olives was about one-half that of the previous year. To encourage this important branch of agriculture, the Government purchased from Italy 15,000 olive shoots and sold them to farmers at half price. Silk culture continued to improve, 3,350 metric tons of cocoons being produced as compared with 3,185 in 1927 and 2,960 in 1927. The growth of tobacco is expanding, with a gradual increase in sown area. Cotton is cultivated mainly in the State of Syria, the total yield for 1928 being estimated at 1,200 metric tons as against 1,500 in 1927. Sheep raising forms another important branch of industry, as indicated by the growing exports of wool.

Although Syria is primarily an agricultural country, some industries have shown steady progress. Notable among these is the textile industry, where developments have brought about a decline in imports of textile materials, and some export to Egypt, Iraq and Turkey. The tanning industry also is being gradually expanded. The steady growth in imports of modern machinery to replace

the primitive equipment heretofore used was particularly notable in 1928.

Syrian exchange during 1928 was practically stable, the Syrian-Lebanese paper pound averaging 0.783 dollar as against 0.785 dollar for the preceding year. In the interior, Turkish gold and silver continue to serve largely as the currency of commerce, silver remaining about constant at 11 mejidichs to the Turkish gold pound which is worth about 4.40 dollars. The use of Syrian paper currency, however, is being encouraged by the authorities, who offer a more favourable discount rate. During 1928 discount rates written in Syrian paper currency have averaged from 6 to 6½ per cent., and for bills written in Turkish gold from 8½ to 9 per cent.

The use of motor transport for both passengers and freight has increased steadily, resulting in a general extension of the existing road system and offering serious competition to the railroads. At the close of 1928 the road from Latakia to Aleppo, via Idlib, was approaching completion, and a road between Latakia and Alexandretta was under construction. In the Damascus area improvement were made on the main roads, and a strip of about seven kilometres of asphalt road was completed from Damascus to Doumar on the Beyrout Road. In the Lebanon district, the Beyrout-Nahr el Kelb and the Beyrout-Khalde roads were asphalted during 1928 for a total distance of about 40 kilometres. Lack of funds, however, continues to handicap extensive work on the road system of the country. The trans-desert rout, Beyrout-Baghdad, continued to grow in importance with both passenger and freight traffic steadily increasing.

Railroad service on the Aleppo-Constantinople road has passed the experimental stage, and the journey is now being made in about 48 hours with comfortable sleeping and dining accommodation.

SILK INDUSTRY IN THE SUDAN.

The October report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government, in referring to work done at Tembura, Bahr el Ghazal Province, states that a further supply of white and black mulberry seed was received from the Imperial Institute, London, in February, and large nurseries were made from the seed both at Tembura and Yubo, and did well. Some of the seed was also sent to Wau and Meridi. In addition to seed beds, large quantities of cuttings from the young plants put out in 1928 now cover an area of about 20 acres. Four hundred trees are planted to an acre and some of the bushes are very fine. Cuttings were also taken to Meridi and many thousands to Yubo, where there are about 10 acres under mulberries. All these plants and bushes are, of course, still young and they will require another two years to attain a good size and produce a large commercial "leaf" supply for feeding silkworms in bulk. It has now been proved that mulberries can be grown in Bahr el Ghazal Province, and all that is now necessary is a large commercial "leaf" supply, which will doubtless be achieved. An incubator ordered from London unfortunately arrived at Tembura broken, so it was not possible to hatch out in bulk the silkworm "seed" received from the Imperial Institute. The "seed" was found suitable, and a certain amount of worms were fed and the silk was afterwards wound off. A new incubator and dryer are being obtained, and it is hoped to proceed with the experiments next year.

Following the Greek Government's protest to the Straits Commission concerning the delays to which Greek ships in transit in the Dardanelles were subjected by the Turkish authorities the Commission has taken up the matter with the Turkish Government and there are no longer any delays.

The crude oil production of the Roumanian fields during October amounted to about 430,000 tons. The output of the principal operating companies was as follows (in tons):—Steaua-Romana, 94,535; Astra-Romana, 79,150; Phoenix Oil, 42,291; Sirius, 37,434; Creditul Minier, 34,272; Romano-American, 31,597; Concordia, 19,892; I.R.D.P., 15,168; Petrolul Romanesc, 15,235; and Colombia, 14,752.

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Near East Markets

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The following cabled reports have been received by Barclays Bank (D. C. and O.):

EGYPT.

Alexandria, November 18.

Cotton.—During the past month the market has on the whole displayed a bearish tone, the high Bank Rate in England and the general financial conditions in Egypt being largely responsible. The heavy fall in security prices on the New York Stock Exchange also had its repercussion locally, with a discouraging effect on the cotton market. As had been anticipated, the difference between Sakellarides and Upper Egyptian narrowed considerably and Sakels now stand at 27.45 dollars, with Uppers at 19.29 dollars. This factor has resulted in a steadily increasing interest in Sakel cotton and a corresponding decrease in Uppers, the tendency being accentuated after the close of October, when, forward shipments for that month having been completed, there was a noticeable falling off in the demand for Uppers. New reports confirm the size of the Egyptian cotton crop, which is now estimated at about 8,000,000 kantars, a figure ensuring an ample supply of this cotton for the world's needs. Arrivals from September 1 to date are 3,229,766 kantars, compared with 3,673,897 kantars for the corresponding period last year, while exports amount to 1,372,740 kantars against 1,804,678 kantars. Stocks are 2,924,232 kantars compared with 2,972,299 kantars a year ago.

Cottonseed.—The demand has fallen off considerably and prices have declined to around P.T. 85 per ardeb. Arrivals from September 1 to date are 1,483,598 ardebs, compared with 1,486,455 ardebs in the same period last year, while exports amount to 658,957 ardebs against 911,008 ardebs. Stocks are 961,296 ardebs compared with 1,072,104 ardebs. Local consumption has been 220,016 ardebs against 260,124 ardebs a year ago.

Cotton Goods.—Despite the weakness of cotton, the demand for cotton goods has been fair, and the tone of the market has been very steady.

Flour.—The demand for flour of all varieties has been satisfactory, but owing to the nervousness of the wheat market, prices have ruled irregular and, on balance, have declined. Stocks are large, but they are in the hands of strong holders and quantities afloat are light.

Sugar.—The market has shown a gradual improvement. Arrivals from all sources have been abundant, but the demand for local consumption and for export has been satisfactory.

Rice.—Spot supplies of imported rice are scarce and the market has followed the decline of Rangoon. Egyptian rice is active, but owing to an abundant crop prices have been easy.

Gunnies.—Business has been unusually quiet and arrivals, combined with stocks in store, are more than ample to meet the inquiry for cottonsacks.

Cereals.—Stocks of cereals are decreasing, except in maize. The quantities in shoonahs and barges are as follows (in ardebs): wheat, 148,500; beans, 24,000; lentils, 21,500; barley, 26,500; maize, 12,500.

Stocks and shares.—Quotations generally have been lower, except for Egyptian Government stocks.

THE SUDAN.

Khartoum, November 16.

All markets have been inactive and there has been very little movement of any kind, but an improvement is said to be expected in the near future. The demand for piece goods has been weak, with declining quotations and heavy stocks. Some dealings in the new gum crop at high prices are reported, but, pending a clearer indication of

the position, foreign buyers are not operating freely. Arrivals to date have been fair and are expected to be larger in December. Adequate sales are reported for the new crop of sesame. The crop of groundnuts has been good and average exports to Egypt and the Continent are anticipated. Coffee has been dull, with a small demand, and quotations have declined to P.T. 350 per kantar.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, November 14.

Trade has been dull and the effect of the August disturbances is still being felt. Importers, however, are placing orders, although on a much smaller scale than formerly. Direct shipments of oranges to the United Kingdom to date include 25,508 cases for Glasgow and 23,000 for Liverpool. The Colonial goods market is very quiet. Prices for flour and cereals remain unchanged. Government revenue for the first eight months of the current year was £P1,471,612 and expenditure £P1,164,578.

THE ROUMANIAN MARKET.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended November 16:—

Grain.—Last week's stagnation was, if anything, accentuated this week. In spite of very low quotations from this side, sales abroad were impossible. Maize, which was slightly in demand recently, was likewise neglected, and what few shipments of this commodity took place were all in fulfilment of old sales. In the circumstances, and in view of the accumulation of tonnage, rates of freight declined from 15s. 6d.-15s. 9d. as same were a fortnight ago; 14s. and even lower has been accepted for steamers requiring completions, whilst large parcels were booked for end November beginning December shipment at 14s. 3d. In the meantime, owing to the increased daily arrivals of grain from up-river and the approach of winter, prospects of an improvement in freights is not unlikely. At Constantza the situation became worse, and steamers requiring cargo there had to accept as low as 7s.

Timber.—For Syria and Alexandria the demand for space continued and freights were maintained. For other destinations, however, the demand was weaker and shippers easily obtained space at reduced rates, some small vessels for Greece having been obliged to accept low rates to complete their cargoes. Present rates are: Syria and Alexandria, £11; Greece, £7 10s.; Italy, £10/£10 10s.; South France and North Africa, £10/£11. A parcel of 100 waggons for Rotterdam has been booked at £11 10s.

Weather and Crops.—The mild moist weather of the last few weeks has continued, but the rain has been more frequent and occasionally heavier. The latest report issued by the Ministry of Agriculture indicates excellent conditions for the autumn sowings throughout the country, the only exception being a few districts in Central Bessarabia, which still complain of insufficient humidity.

Sulina.—Bar depth, 24 feet, which has been maintained notwithstanding that boisterous weather has continually hampered dredging operations. River depth, 24 feet. There has been a considerable rise in the river level during the week and the minimum depth is now not less than 24 feet in the navigable channel.

Navigation Dues.

On November 11 the Commission of the Danube issued a Bulletin containing the following modifications:—

1. Article 4 of the Tariff of Navigation Dues is modified as follows:—Every sea-going vessel having a draft not exceeding 23 feet which owing to insufficient depth of water on the bar would be obliged to lighten either entering or leaving, will be allowed a reduction in dues to the extent of gold francs 0.075 per ton for each 6 in. lightened, provided that the reduction shall in no case exceed 50 per cent. of the dues. In the cases provided for by Article 4 of the tariff, no reduction in the dues is allowed for fractions of a foot lightened less than half a foot.

2. This modification of Article 4 of the tariff will come into force from November 1, 1929.

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Constantza.—This week about 10,500 tons of grain arrived from the interior and over 20,000 tons were shipped to the Antwerp/Hamburg range. Ten vessels loaded about 36,000 tons petroleum products, and six took oil fuel for bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, November 9.—Owing to the continued drop in grain prices abroad fresh transactions have been restricted. There are about 1,600/1,800 tons Antwerp/Rotterdam/Hamburg in the market, but cargo offering for other destinations is insignificant. The weather has been variable, alternating between sunshine, rain, and fog, with a mild temperature very satisfactory for autumn sowings.

SUDAN GUM ARABIC MARKET.

Messrs. Boxall and Co., of Khartoum, report as follows for the month ended October 31:—

Arrivals in Kordofan stations of gum of the 1928/1929 season were almost nil during the month: they amounted to 8 tons only, as against 126 tons last year, a shortage of 118 tons or 93 per cent. The total arrivals of Kordofan gum from the beginning of the season to date amounted to 10,980 tons, as compared with 16,540 tons for the corresponding period in the 1927/1928 season, a shortage of about 5,470 tons or 33 per cent. With the shortage of inferior Hashab estimated at about 2,000 tons, the total shortage in Hashab gums as against last season would amount to date to 7,470 tons.

El Obeid prices fell considerably, but considering the insignificance of the arrivals sold at that market (2 tons for the whole month), it will be easily realised how little of an indication the El Obeid prices are at present. In any case, prices of spot goods abroad have eased in sympathy with the speculative prices for new crop gum quoted from this end.

Demand on the whole has been small. The repeated reductions of prices quoted for new crop have generally rendered buyers chary of placing their orders, and these two factors, small demand and lower prices, reacting on each other resulted in still lower prices and smaller demand.

New Crop.—Nine kantars (about 8 cwt.) of new crop gum have been brought to the markets. The quantity is in any case too small to form any indication as to when the new crop gum will start coming in sufficiently large quantities to be of real interest or whether the bulk of the crop will be early or late. It might be recalled here that in previous years the new crop arrivals generally started towards the end of November/beginning of December.

The prices of Talha (ready goods) fell 3s. per cwt. during October.

In the course of his Budget speech, M. Maris, Greek Minister of Finance, stated that in Athens there was one shop to every 32 inhabitants.

Shell Company (Red Sea), Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a nominal capital of £5,000 in £10 shares. The objects are to carry on the business of producers, refiners, storers, transporters, suppliers, sellers, and distributors of petroleum and other oils and any products thereof; shipowner, etc.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Negotiations are pending for a commercial treaty between Roumania and Hungary.

The Egyptian State Railways have given a contract for buffers to Turton Platts Company, Ltd., Sheffield.

The Bengal and North-Western Railway have given a contract for 22 locomotives to the A. E. G. Company, Berlin.

It is officially announced that the Rt. Hon. Viscount Goschen, G.C.I.E., C.B.E., has been appointed a Director of Westminster Bank, Ltd.

Mr. Arnold John Hugh Smith, a director of Hambros Bank, and Mr. J. H. Hambro have joined the Board of the British and Continental Banking Company.

A tram survey has been begun by the Eastern Bengal Railway for a new broad-gauge railway line to link up Syndria Ghat with the -alukhali-Bhateapara Railway.

The profit of the Anglo-Belgian Company of Egypt for the year ended July 31, 1929, was £4,000. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 6d. per share, less tax, to place to reserve £4,500, and to carry forward £1,157.

The Directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended September 20 last at 4s. per share, free of income tax, payable on and after December 16. The transfer books will be closed from December 2 to December 14, both days inclusive.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended October 6 amounted to Rs.13,41,405, making the total from April 1 Rs.3,89,85,471, as compared with Rs.3,51,84,178 for the corresponding period of the previous twelve months.

The revenue from the various monopolies in Yugoslavia in the first half of the current year amounted to 992.8 million dinars, as against Budget estimates of 981.3 millions. All the receipts, with the exception of those from petroleum, showed a considerable surplus over the estimates.

The South Indian Railway has given contracts in connexion with their Madras electrification scheme to Siemens Bros. and Co., Woolwich, for overhead transmission lines, including supports, insulators, conductors, and fittings, and to Siemens-Schuckert, Germany, for overhead contact and distribution lines.

The directors of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation have decided to construct a tunnel under the Hooghly River in order to be able to supply the southern part of the company's licence area on the Howrah side of the river. A contract has accordingly been placed for the construction of a tunnel. Mr. H. H. Dalrymple-Hay is consulting engineer, and the contractors are John Cochrane and Sons, of 39, Victoria Street, Westminster. It is estimated that the work should be completed by mid-summer, 1931.

The Council of the Ottoman Debt announces that the documents of title for arrears of the debt (coupons, scrip, and drawn bonds, with the exception of lottery bonds) can now be deposited for exchange into bonds representing the arrears. A full description of the documents to be exchanged is given on the listing forms. These can be obtained at the Council of Foreign Bondholders, 17, Moorgate, E.C.2, for series "A" (loans payable in sterling), and at the Ottoman Bank, coupon office, 123, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, for series "A," "B," and "C" (loans payable either in French francs or sterling). British income-tax at the rate of 20 per cent. will be deducted from the nominal amount of the converted interest, unless the relative documents of title are accompanied by an affidavit for exemption.

At the first meeting of the Alexandria and Cairo committees of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt held after the resignation of Lord Lloyd of Dolobran from the post of High Commissioner for Egypt the following resolution was passed:—"The two committees of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt unanimously record their very sincere regret at the retirement of Lord Lloyd of Dolobran from the post of High Commissioner for Egypt. They consider that during his tenure of office Lord Lloyd in an exceptional manner and in extremely difficult circumstances notably upheld the dignity and prestige of the British Empire, and, in addition to furthering the maintenance of good order and general prosperity of the country, unsparingly devoted himself to the advancement of British interests in Egypt, especially in the domains of commerce and education. So great, indeed, was his energy and zeal that he neglected no opportunity of acquainting himself with the needs and activities of the various British communities domiciled in Egypt, and whenever possible of initiating or supporting any scheme for their benefit. In particular they wish to place on record their very real appreciation of Lord Lloyd's great and never-failing interest in the work of this Chamber, and the fact that while he held the post of High Commissioner very considerable expansion both in membership and, they believe, useful activity was achieved, due in a great measure to his constant encouragement and untiring enthusiasm. The inspiration of his example has had far-reaching effects, and will long be remembered by the members of the British Community in Egypt."

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 20 :—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Only moderate fluctuations have been experienced in this market during the past week, and the more settled tendency in outside commodities has had a beneficial effect on the undertone, which has shown a decidedly firmer tendency than that recently prevailing. This in turn has reflected favourably on the trade outlook, and, as a result, more business has transpired in fine yarns, with a corresponding increase in the offtake for actual. In view of the fact that spinners have the assurance of very ample supplies, there is nothing in the present situation to warrant the belief that the trade are going to stock themselves with cotton for distant delivery. At the same time, there is no doubt that Sakels are regaining their old-time popularity with consumers, and, provided premiums remain at their present reasonable figure, a consistent demand can be looked for with some degree of confidence. In contrast to previous occasions the action of the Egyptian Government to stabilise prices has not been adversely criticised locally, the general view holding that the stipulated basis is a reasonable one. Generally speaking, interference with the normal laws of supply and demand reacts in rather a disconcerting manner; in the present case, everything depends on a steady demand and the maintenance of values in other varieties. Straddle differences, either against Alexandria or America, show very little change on the week; near cotton in our own market continues to hold well, the current position still running at a premium over January. We are still of the opinion that price movements will be restricted; on the one hand the potential buying power of the Government will prevent anything but a moderate decline, whilst consolidation of any upward movement can hardly be anticipated until more cotton has passed into trade channels.

Upper Contract.—Only a moderate amount of business has transpired in this market during the past week, and, mainly as a result of a firming up in American values, prices on the week show advances of 25 to 17 points for near and 20 to 29 points for distant positions since we last wrote. Trade interest has been rather restricted, and spinners have only been interested in cotton for close delivery. The current position has shown strength, and has closed up further with later deliveries. The market has latterly developed a healthier undertone, but it appears too early yet to anticipate any sustained appreciation in values.

Egyptian Spot.

More interest has been displayed in actual cotton during the past week, and, although much of the inquiry has failed to develop, prices all round have hardened by some 30 points. There is a general feeling of relief that the decline in cotton has been stayed, for the time being at all events, but confidence in prices is slow to return after the big drop we have experienced, and in view of the obviously unsettled conditions which still prevail in many of the world's biggest markets. The best feature, at the moment, seems to be the healthier conditions ruling up country. This is the quarter whence the first improvement should come, and, with prices at the present reasonable levels, it augurs well for the future.

Sakels have been in improved request, but it has been chiefly the medium and lower qualities which have benefited.

Uppers.—The usual demand for cotton 10 off to 10 on has continued, but buyers have been more cautious, and this week rather more interest has been shown in the better grades. "Off" and "inferior" cotton has frequently figured on the inquiry board.

Pilion has been in only moderate request again.

Nahda, Maarad, White, and Fuadi, etc.—More business has taken place at somewhat irregular prices.

Tokar Sakel.—Very few sales have been reported, and the demand, on the whole, remains very dead.

Sudan Sakel.—Slightly more business has resulted. Prices have remained firm.

C.i.f. business.—On the whole, business has been disappointing in this section, but we believe that an improvement is not far away. Last week's forwardings reached the large figures of 12,090 bales Sakel and 2,808 bales Sudan Sakel.

Spot Sales.—These have been estimated at 1,700 bales Egyptian and 450 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel have been advanced 30 points, those of Upper 20 points, and of Pilion 25 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 15.10d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.70d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 11.60d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company report for the week ended November 14 :—Since our last report the futures market has been rather quiet and featureless. The week's summary of price movements is as follows :—Sakellaridis: November, 27.45 dollars, 0.32 dollars down; January, 28.07 dollars, 0.13 dollars down; March, 28.53 dollars, 0.07 dollars down; May, 28.00 dollars, unchanged; July, 29.12 dollars, 1.13 dollars down; November N.C., 20.05 dollars, unchanged. Ashmouni: December, 19.27 dollars, 0.28 dollars down; February, 19.65 dollars, 0.07 dollars down; April, 19.88 dollars, 0.14 dollars down; June, 20.17 dollars, 0.14 dollars down; October N.C., 20.50 dollars, 0.21 dollars down.

Company Meeting.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

Record Gross Earnings.

The seventy-first ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Ltd., was held on November 21 at the company's offices, Gresham House, London, E.C. Mr. Robert Miller (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary, Accountant, and Registrar (Mr. R. C. F. Volkers, C.I.E.) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—The gross earnings have increased to Rs.918.56 lakhs and are the highest on record. Passenger traffic was steady and the numbers carried were higher than in any previous year. The slight falling off in receipts is unimportant, as it may safely be assumed that the facility for travel now made possible by the introduction of third class week-end return tickets at reduced fares will gradually be more and more appreciated by the public and result in increased revenue to the railway. As regards goods traffic, although the tonnage of coal carried failed by a small percentage to reach the peak figure of the previous year, the earnings were better by some Rs.18½ lakhs. This is the net result of a decline in receipts from short-distance traffic and a considerable increase in receipts from long-distance traffic in the shape of coal carried for foreign railways, due, doubtless, to a better appreciation of the wastage inherent in the transportation of coal by sea and also to the hardening of sea freights in recent years. As regards the decrease under general merchandise, it will be seen from the report of the Directors that the majority of the variations from last year's figures are attributable to the rise and fall in demand created by the excess or shortage of crops, as the case may be, in our own or other areas respectively, as the result of excessive or deficient rainfall. The large decreases under the heads foreign railway material, limestone, and manganese ore fall under a different category. The first two resulted from the complete closure of the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Tatanagar for a period of four months, which automatically reduced the importation to the works of rail-borne raw material and the export from the works of finished articles such as rails, etc., under supply to foreign railways. Traffic to and from the Tata Iron and Steel Works was resumed on their reopening and has fully recovered from its temporary decline.

The falling off in the traffic from manganese ore arises out of economic causes, namely, the increasingly severe competition met with by Indian ore in the markets of the world, from ore produced in other countries, especially Russia. The railway is endeavouring to arrive at a suitable formula for lightening the freight on Indian ore to port of exportation; but railway freight is not the sole factor involved in cheapening the cost of Indian ore, and, if that ore should fail eventually to compete successfully with foreign ores, it will be due to causes which the railway alone is powerless to avert.

Working expenses have increased from Rs.561.50 lakhs to Rs.681.85 lakhs, or 21.43 per cent. The expenses of administration, maintenance, and working were normal, and the increase is due, almost entirely, to a full year's work on the three years' intensive programme of strengthening the track and bridges and placing on the line more powerful locomotives, in order to fit the railway to deal effectively and economically with the substantial additional traffic confidently expected in the near future. In the address given at last year's meeting of shareholders it was stated that this programme has the approval of Government, whose interests in the matter are identical with ours.

Although the direct result of this additional expenditure is the absence of surplus profits for division, a resolution will be put before the meeting to pay from the reserve to the holders of ordinary stock a dividend which, together with the guaranteed interest, will bring the return for the year on each £100 of ordinary stock up to the usual figure of £5.

As regards the future, the prospects are favourable. The first six months of the current year show an increase of Rs.25 lakhs in gross earnings, and, given a continuation of favourable conditions, there is a reasonable expectation that, after financing the second full year's instalment of the intensive programme of strengthening the line, there will be a margin of surplus profits to divide.

Though the practical application on the railway of the terms of the Washington Agreement and Geneva Convention, which have now become law, will place an additional burden on the revenues of the railway, confidence in its earning power continues unabated. Growing industrial activity and agricultural development are apparent all along the line and the traffic in minerals is increasing. The export of coal to China continues to go well. Active measures are being taken by a body associated with the coal industry to popularise the use of soft coke for domestic purposes and thus to make the inferior classes of coal, which at present are unable to bear the cost of trans-

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The resolution was seconded by Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., and unanimously adopted, and the proposed further dividend was approved.

We regret to announce the death on November 13, at the age of 70, of Mr. F. P. Archbold, Chairman of Watson and Youell. During his long connexion with Danube shipping business, Mr. Archbold never lost an opportunity of furthering Anglo-Roumanian interests, and his loss will be deeply regretted by numerous friends in Roumania, England, and elsewhere.

According to the official statistics the external trade of India for the six months, April 1 to September 30, 1929—the first half of the Indian official year—compares favourably with that of the corresponding period of each of the two years immediately preceding. Exports and re-exports aggregated nearly Rs. 160½ crores, against Rs. 162½ crores in 1928, and Rs. 155 crores in 1927. The value of the imports was almost the same as during the first half of 1928-29, namely, Rs. 121 crores: in 1927 it was rather more than Rs. 123 crores. The total visible balance of trade, in favour of India for the six months amounted to Rs. 27½ crores. This total is arrived at by combining the balances of transactions in (1) private merchandise, and (2) treasure on private account. For the six months April to September 1928 the corresponding total was nearly Rs. 26 crores, and for 1927 it was rather more than Rs. 17½ crores.

Bulgaria 4½ per Cent. Loan, 1909.—Coupons due December 1, 1929, may now be presented at the counting-house of Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co., 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3, between 11 and 2 o'clock.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Nov. 25	Railways.		Prices on Nov. 25	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Nov. 6.
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	80½	Assam-Bengal ...	...	91½	3½% Government Paper ...	...	68½	
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	70½	Bengal Doonars ...	...	182½	Banks			
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	85½	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	87	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	1,372	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94 ...	79½	Egypt Delta Light Riv. ...	...	4	Bank of India ...	...	99	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	28½	Nizams Gtd. ...	...	264	Central Bank of India ...	...	17½	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	74½	Ottoman (Smy. T. Aid) ...	...	42½	Coal.			
Do. 5 p.c., 1881 ...	70	Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	...	65½	Baraboni ...	...	6 as	
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	70	Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	...	55	Bengal ...	...	505	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	69	Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	...	82	Burrakur ...	...	16	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	69	Southern Punjab ...	...	191	East Indian ...	...	28½	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	69	South Indian ...	...	116½	Equitable ...	...	39½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ...	69½	Rubber.			Pench Valley ...	...	44	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	69½	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	6/-	Raneegunge ...	...	62	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	73½	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	19/-	Standard ...	...		
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	99½	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	29/32	Cotton.			
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	86½	Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...	15/-	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	33½	
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	100 7/16	Keptigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	1/-	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	763½	
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	81	Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	27/-	Bowreah ...	...	392	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	68½	Shipping.			Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	175	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	45½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	...	8½	Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	2	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	79½	Cunard ...	...	23 3	Century ...	...	32½	
Sudan 3½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	106½	Furness Withy ...	...	36 6	Central India ...	...	48½	
India 3½ p.c. ...	63 5/16	Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	1	Elgin ...	...	91	
Do. 5 p.c. ...	53½	P. and O. Deferred ...	...	53 9	Khatau Makanji ...	...	87½	
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	100	Tea.			Muir ...	...	337	
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	84½	Assam Co. ...	...	123/32	New Ring ...	...	161	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	20xd	Bengal United Tea Ord ...	...	1½	Phoenix ...	...	323½	
Banks.		Bramapootra ...	...	30	Svadeshi ...	...	41½	
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	7½	British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	2½	Jute.			
Bank of British West Africa ...	315 16xd	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	11/16	Alliance ...	...	493	
Bank of Roumania ...	80/-	Carolina ...	...	37/16	Barnagore ...	...	276	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl. ...	26 9	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	4½	Budge Budge ...	...	528	
Chartered Bank of India ...	18½	Consolidated Estates ...	...	2½	Clive ...	...	56½	
Eastern ...	6½	Darjeeling Co. ...	...	2½	Dalhousie ...	...	525	
Hambros ...	9½	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	2 9/16	Delta ...	...	535	
Ionian Bank ...	6 11/16	Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	2½	Fort Gloster ...	...	899½	
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	10½	Dooloomram Tea ...	...	19/32	Gourepore ...	...	435	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	16½	Doom Doom ...	...	311/16	Howrah ...	...	56½	
Lloyds ...	60 9	East Assam ...	...	3½	Kamarhaty ...	...	610	
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	30½	Empire of Ind. ...	...	1½	Kanknarrah ...	...	521	
Do. B ...	33	Halem Tea ...	...	1½	Khaddah ...	...	653½	
National Bank of Egypt ...	33	Imperial Ind. ...	...	25 32	Kinison ...	...	1,065½	
National Bank of India ...	46½	Jhanrie Tea Association ...	...	2½	National ...	...	29½	
Ottoman Bank ...	11½	Jekai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	3½	Standard ...	...	437½	
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	77 1/16	Jorehaut ...						

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	613	SPECIAL ILLUSTRATED SUPPLEMENT		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE —		Products of the Near and		Notes and News ...	639
A Business Government in		Middle East ...	625 637	The Week's Finance ...	641
Yugoslavia ...	615	SPECIAL LETTERS —		Engineering Topics ...	643
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ..	621	Iraq ...	616	Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	644
THE WEEK AT HOME ...	622	Egypt ...	618	The Roumanian Market ...	644
		Bulgaria ...	618		
		Calcutta ...	619		

Notes of the Week.

Marking Time in Egypt.

With less than three weeks to run before the General Election it is inevitable that the Egyptian Government should hesitate to expose itself to the charge of having committed the country to a vast public work which has been the subject of prolonged controversy, and accordingly the calling of tenders for the construction of the Gebel Aulia Dam has been once more postponed. It would seem as if a particularly malignant fate were dogging the inception of this important scheme, but Adly Pasha's Cabinet would clearly be presenting the next Government with a grudge against it, if it took action in the matter on the eve of the election. Unfortunately, the delay may cause the postponement of work on the Dam for a whole season, for it is unlikely that the new Parliament will settle the question without considerable discussion. The Dam has long been a matter of keen controversy between experts, while it has its political aspect in so far as it is a work to be carried out by the Egyptian Government in the Sudan. In the circumstances the further delay in calling for tenders may be regarded philosophically, as it is clearly better that a work of such vital importance to Egypt should be undertaken with some degree of unanimity than, when once begun, it should be subjected to interruption for political or technical reasons. Better fortune has attended the opening of the new Stadium at Alexandria, although it will have been a personal disappointment to King Fuad that his project for the first meeting of the Pan-African Games could not be carried into effect. These Games fell through, as it was found that not enough countries in Africa were in a position, financial or athletic, to compete in them. The opening ceremony, accordingly, on November 17 took the form of a Pan-Egyptian gathering, at which nearly seven thousand members of different sporting associations, European and Egyptian, were present, in addition to a vast concourse of onlookers of many nationalities. Egypt is largely indebted to King Fuad for its new Stadium, and in due course may expect to see it the venue of a meeting of the Olympic Games—a goal which, it is known, the King had in view when he helped the Alexandria Municipality to plan a Stadium of the present proportions.

Turkey and Russia.

The course of Russo-Turkish relations has provided the foreign observer with an interesting study ever since the foundation of the Turkish Republic. During the earlier days of the struggle for independence it seemed as if Turkey, setting her face for the time being against European friends, and forced to rely on Russian help, would prove no match for Soviet diplomacy and must in the end find that she had won independence only to surrender it to Russia. Those who looked for such a development, including possibly the Soviets themselves, were, however, quickly undeceived. Turkey's man of destiny proved well able to take care of himself and of his newly-formed Republic. Without resort to any action on which the Soviet Government could fasten as a cause for quarrel, he gradually freed the country from the danger of financial and economic dependence on Russia which had threatened it, until the two States faced one another on terms of perfect equality. From this point it has seemed as if the Soviets were anxious to take their revenge either by spreading Communist doctrines among Turks or by pressing home as far as they dare on Turkey their affected indifference to her fate or friendship. Often in difficult circumstances the Ankara Government has had to keep a leash on itself and still more on its followers. Particularly has this been the case during the last twelve months, when on the strength of a trade agreement between the two countries the Turks have tried to push their trade in Russia, only to find their agents subjected to intolerable treatment and their goods to confiscation. The Turkish Government still kept its head, however, and now at last Russia has been brought to sign a *modus vivendi* for six months, which places the Turkish export trade under the ægis of the national banks, which will presumably be exempt from the sharp practices at Soviet hands to which the ordinary Turkish exporter was subjected. For the sake of Turkish trade it is to be hoped that the new arrangement will be found to work satisfactorily.

Palestine: The Voice of Conciliation.

To judge by the comments which we made last week upon the desirability of a fresh and unofficial attempt between Arabs and Jews to arrive at some understanding, the ground needs intensive cultivation before any seeds of reconciliation can ripen in it. One has to listen with

the sharpest ears, in fact, to hear the voice of compromise anywhere. Beside the general muteness, the wise counsel of such men as Professor Einstein, Dr. Ruppin, Dr. Magnes (Chancellor of the Hebrew University), and Dr. Hugo Bergman (of Tel-Aviv) is a still small voice indeed. So far as we know, no definite move has been made from the Arab side in the direction of a fresh appreciation of the situation. And if the outlook is discouraging from that quarter, what shall be said of Zionist organs of opinion, official and unofficial, that would represent the advice of such men as we have mentioned as springing, not from high motives of humanity, but from temerity, from a truckling and cringing spirit? The argument being used on both Arab and Jewish sides is, apparently, that the Report of the Palestine Commission of Inquiry must be made the bargaining counter. From the purely political or diplomatic point of view this argument may be sound. But we deplore its use, if only because it must tend to perpetuate the lack of friendship existing between two Semitic peoples. Supposing, for instance, that the Commission's Report is in the main adverse to the Arabs—is the Zionists' cause really advanced by subsequent whoops of delight and stiff-neckedness in relations with the Arabs? Supposing the Report comments unfavourably on the Zionists—will the Arabs be the more inclined to tolerate the new immigrants and all their doings? No: it is not until the Arab and the Jewish people in Palestine extricate themselves from this attitude of wishing to pile up a total of scoring points that real hopes of peace can be said to exist. "The Jews of Palestine," says the *New Palestine*, the official Zionist organ in America, "are willing to go half way to meet the Arabs." Well, let them prove their willingness now; and if there is no response from the Arabs, they will know better than they know now where the sympathies of the people of the Mandatory Power belong. We would fain believe, however, that at a "half-way house," the Arabs might not be found so unreasonable. It is certain, in any case, that arrogance and fear, however they be divided or shared between Arab and Zionist in Palestine, can never of themselves produce the understanding between the two people that is desired by the best minds on either side. And what are tactical advantages as compared with a settlement?

Straws in the Wind.

To the optimist the situation is not impossible, even though every other observer seems to think the Palestine problem is an insoluble one. There is something in the wind, though whether it will pass away with the wind we cannot say. The *Manchester Guardian*, for instance, last

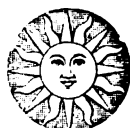
week contained a most temperate leading article which emphasised the necessity of compromise. This Liberal organ, which, be it remembered, has constantly and, indeed, very splendidly upheld the Zionist ideal, said: "The right of the Arabs in Palestine is a right of long-continued occupation and overwhelming numerical superiority. That is as good a right as the other (the Jewish), and it must be protected. This introduces at once an element of compromise into the situation. If both rights are valid, sacrifices on both sides may be necessary if justice is to be done." Now the Arabs are very far from refusing to recognise the connexion of the Jewish people with Palestine: it is only upon the conditions of their entry that they show antagonism. Surely something constructive can be made out of their willingness in such recognition? Certain Zionists, we notice, have taken fright at the notion of reducing the political ambitions of the Jews in Palestine to such an extent that the land became only a "spiritual centre" for the Jews: the *Davar*, indeed, goes so far, in a closely worded article in its English Supplement of November 15, to suggest that this slogan of "Spiritual Zionism" is indulged in by enemies of the Jewish people. Is not what happened rather this: that whereas a few years ago all forms of Zionism were anathema to certain Arabs and Englishmen, it is now recognised that the Jewish community in Palestine is not only a local fact but also a world focus? Whether these "neo-Achad Haamists" are entirely disinterested in an unimportant matter, and in any case the solution of the Palestine problem is not one for dogmatism. What is quite certain is that, whether justifiably or not, it is the political ambitions of the Zionists in Palestine that have caused alarm among the Arabs. That alarm can be decreased, not by Government assurance, but by the Zionists' own conduct. Has not the time come for a more precise definition, in the interests of the Zionists themselves, of a "National Home?" Achad Haam's spiritual soul, it is said, cannot live without a political body. Admit that; but of what dimensions is that body to be? Could not Zionists themselves help to clarify the issue here? Naturally the vagueness obtaining on that definition stimulates their hopes; but it also stimulates the Arabs' fears. And what real solution can there be until those fears are dissipated? That is the crux of the affair, besides which unchallengeable statistics, admitted benefits, official impartiality, and the rest of it, count but little.

Indian Universities.

Lord Irwin's speech at the Conference of Indian Universities reminds us that the origin of these Universities is to be traced in the Dispatch of his grandfather, Sir Charles Wood, in 1854. The Universities in the three Presidency towns were established in 1857: a sufficient indication that steps for the uplift and education of India did not begin with the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 and the assumption of government by the Crown. As Lord Irwin indicated, the chief functions of a University are the formation of character and the maintenance of a high standard of examination. Although the Viceroy was too tactful to say so, it is generally agreed that the Indian Universities have not achieved these objects. This has doubtless been largely because the model taken, unfortunately though perhaps inevitably, was the affiliating and examining London University, and not the unitary and teaching Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. There are now eighteen Universities in India, of which five may be said to be unitary and teaching, though their resemblance to Oxford and Cambridge is in other respects remote. Better equipment and a higher standard of teachers are required before real progress can be made, and before the degrees of Indian Universities can be recognised at Oxford and Cambridge. This refusal of recognition is undoubtedly a hardship to individual students: but it must be remembered that Oxford is equally intolerant of the degrees of the modern Universities of England; nor can it be reasonably maintained that the standard of the Indian Universities is yet so high as to demand recognition.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1929.

A BUSINESS GOVERNMENT IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Eleven years ago, on December 1, 1918, the union of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was formally established, and the anniversary is appointed as a day of national celebration for Yugoslavia. This year it would appear that the official celebrations have evoked a more genuine response among the Yugoslav people as a whole than has been the case for many years. It is not that the idea of complete separation has been favoured by any single unit, but the internal dissensions of the Kingdom have left little room for appreciation of the advantages of union, still less for the making of full use of its potentialities. Last Sunday found the nation entering upon its twelfth month of enforced freedom from political squabbles. During this period it has experienced diverse emotions. The initial relief was quickly followed by a sullen resentment, when with a heavy hand the Dictatorship showed that it meant business; this feeling in turn gave way to an attitude of expectancy, from failure to understand the working of the Dictator's mind, and paved the way for considerable disappointment when, as it seemed, nothing happened apart from the consolidation of the Dictatorship. On October 3 the country was taken by surprise by the drastic change which abolished the thirty-three counties and over-centralisation of the Vidovdan Constitution, and divided Yugoslavia into ten administrative units, while holding out the promise of a more generous measure of local autonomy. The former emphasis on the three main divisions of the nation into Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was proscribed, and the Kingdom officially took the name of Yugoslavia. As, on January 6, when King Alexander abolished constitutional government, there was no doubt that his action was courageous; it remained to be seen whether it would prove wise as well. In the light of past history it was a bold move to expect the people on the word of command to think of themselves, and to act as Yugoslavs, not as Serbs or Croats or Slovenes; but the King shrewdly provided them at the same time with fresh interests and with a measure of the decentralisation that had been desired by all save the Serbs of Old Serbia. The event suggests—there has been no time for proof in the matter—that the King has been wise in his generation. The old political instincts, after being suppressed for nearly a year, have responded with alacrity to the calls of local government, and promise to find in the latter, at least temporarily, the safety-valve that was so badly needed.

Thus, it happens that this year's commemoration of the Day of Union has been celebrated under happier auspices than any of its immediate predecessors. A significant example has been set by the Zagreb municipality in registering its approval of the Government's measures and of the new administrative division of the State, and in condemning the action of those Croat leaders who, having fled abroad, have been conducting from foreign territories campaigns of vilification against their own country. Croatia has been under the Dictatorship the big question-mark, just as it was the crux of the political problem before January 6 of this year. The identification of all symptoms of unrest with Communist intrigue in the north or *komitaji* activity in the south did not entirely carry conviction, and a situation seemed to be establishing itself in

Croatia that was as difficult to explain abroad as it must have proved embarrassing to the authorities in Yugoslavia. If now, as is claimed, the latter have been able to run the trouble to earth and to satisfy themselves that it has been of quite narrow proportions, any overtures at this time from representatives of Croatia will be gratifying to the Government and should prove of value to the country as a whole. Although King Alexander has shown that he sets more store on his own interpretation of the Yugoslav character than on any tentative advice that foreign well-wishers or critics may tender him, there has been nothing in his Majesty's action to suggest that he has gone back on the spirit of his Proclamation of January 6 last, or, indeed, that he is not using it as the guiding principle of the Dictatorship. Parliamentary life, it must be supposed, remains, as he then declared it to be, his ideal, but the maintenance of the unity of the people and the safeguarding of the unity of the State were "the most imperative law" for him and for all. As parliamentary life, instead of developing and strengthening the feeling of national union, had provoked moral disorganisation and national dissension, he was constrained to seek new methods of work and to open new avenues in an effort to realise as quickly as possible the administration and organisation of the State in the manner best suited to the general interests of the people and the interests of the State. It is, therefore, logical that the capacity of the people to use local autonomy for the furthering of the interests of the country as a whole rather than the narrow interests of parties should be tested by the King before there is any serious talk of the restoration of constitutional government. The resolution of the Zagreb Municipal Council should mean that in the most critical part of the Kingdom the decision had at last been taken to offer whole-hearted co-operation to the Government in an attempt to make a success of King Alexander's policy for the eventual renewal of parliamentary institutions.

While it is true that the Yugoslavs cannot be expected to take kindly to an indefinite suspension of constitutional government, their experience in the past will have brought home to them the folly of allowing the fetish of party politics to prejudice the real interests of the State. Helped by a bountiful harvest, the Dictatorship has been able to offer the people openings for their activities in various directions other than political quarrels and intrigues. Even when important legislation was submitted to Parliament under former régimes it was problematical whether any Government would last long enough to carry it through, and it could be regarded as certain that there would be no real effort to carry it into practice, unless officials found in it a prospect of personal advantage. During the current year many important measures have been put into execution. Special attention has been paid to the improvement of agriculture; the Privileged Agrarian Bank has been brought into existence and should materially improve the lot of the peasants by affording them facilities for agricultural loans at a reasonable rate of interest; the Law for the Encouragement of Agriculture, promulgated last August, has initiated an attempt to place the care of agriculture on a scientific basis and to co-ordinate the work that had previously been entrusted to, but had been neglected by, three different authorities. Not the least useful feature of the new administrative system is that it brings the people into closer touch with the Administration, and abolishes the former anomaly of the reference of the smallest matters to Belgrade for decision, with all the attendant encouragement given to the bribery of official and unofficial middlemen. Increased attention, moreover, is being paid by foreign capital to Yugoslavia, and during the present year there has been a marked expansion of the number of business enterprises in which British financial interests are represented. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the statesmanship of which the new régime has given evidence will be loyally supported by national patience and co-operation until such time as Yugoslavia can return to normal constitutional procedure without impairing the economic development of the country.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



IRAQ.

Baghdad, November 13.

Parliament.

The King opened Parliament, with the customary ceremony, on November 2. The Speech from the Throne began with the announcement that the aspirations of Iraq were now about to be realised, Great Britain having agreed to support her candidature for admission to the League of Nations in 1932 without restriction or proviso. The King then paid a tribute to the late Sir Gilbert Clayton as a "faithful medium in expressing Iraq's aspirations," and spoke of his death as a calamity for the country. He referred with pleasure to Iraq's friendly relations with neighbouring countries, notably Trans-Jordan, with which it is hoped soon to conclude a Treaty of Amity, and Persia, with which Iraq has been on much more friendly terms since the signing of the Agreement of August, 1929. At home, agriculture had improved, though it had suffered from lack of demand and fall in prices, as well as from natural pests. Peace and order were well maintained and had been undisturbed throughout the year. The Government had now to deal with proposals for the new treaty on a basis of complete independence, and to prepare to shoulder the full responsibility of governing the country.

The Budget would aim, the Speech continued, at such economies in the expenditure of the State as would provide money for useful schemes of development. A National Defence draft law, enabling the Government to undertake the sole and independent defence of its own frontiers, would shortly be submitted to Parliament, as well as a number of other important laws, such as those dealing with the Civil Service and with the Penal Code. The establishment of national and agricultural banks, the foundation of an Iraq coinage, and the furtherance of education were among other important questions to be dealt with by Parliament. The Speech ended with a prayer for divine guidance.

After the King's departure from the House, the ex-Minister of Education moved that before electing the President and Vice-President, the Chamber of Deputies should observe a ten minutes' silence, as a protest against the Balfour Declaration and in sympathy with the Arabs of Palestine. It was pointed out that no other business could be dealt with before the elections, and these were accordingly proceeded with, Taufiq Beg Suwaidi being chosen as President and Jamil Pasha ar Rawi Vice-President of the Chamber. A five minutes' silence was then observed, and a proposal was carried that the House should address to the League of Nations, the British Cabinet, and the Inquiry Commission in Palestine telegraphic protests against the Balfour Declaration. A silence of five minutes was similarly observed in the Senate.

Suggestions of Reform.

Reform is in the air, and the new Government is simmering with proposals for changes in administration. Unfortunately, our politicians are only too ready to assume that progress and change are synonymous; none the less, the young State of Iraq is entering on a deeply interesting and important stage of its development, and all its friends rejoice that so wise and experienced a patriot as Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Saadun is now in charge of its destinies.

It has been suggested that the draft Anglo-Egyptian Treaty should serve as a model for the new treaty to be concluded with Great Britain after Iraq's admission to the League of Nations. At a meeting of the Progressive Party, Sir Abdul Muhsin pointed out the need, if this suggestion is adopted, of bearing in mind the great differences—geographical, economic, and political—between Egypt and this country. He then referred to the inclusion in his Cabinet, as Minister of Finance Minister, of Yasin Pasha al Hashimi, the "live wire" of the People's Party; the Prime Minister explained that his Government aimed at serving the best interests of the nation, irrespective of party differences. A vote in favour of Yasin Pasha's appointment was passed.

Several sweeping reforms have been introduced by Naji Beg Suwaidi, the new Minister of Interior. One is the withdrawal of all British Administrative Inspectors from the provinces, with the object of giving to Iraqis a greater share in the internal administration of the country. It is proposed that the Inspectors be stationed in Baghdad, and be sent from time to time into the districts on tours purely of inspection. This very considerable change is still under discussion. Three new directorates, those of Interior, the Municipalities, and the Tribes, are to be inaugurated, working independently under the Minister. Changes in the municipal system are also contemplated; mayors of small towns are to be appointed by Government instead of elected by their fellow-townsmen as hitherto, and are to be assisted by councils similarly appointed. (This will have the effect of removing illiterate town-councillors, but can scarcely be considered a democratic move on the part of their not always more literate representatives in Parliament).

The abolition or amendment of the Tribal Penal Law, which differentiates between townsman and tribesman in punishing breaches of the law, is also under consideration in Parliament.

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Relations with Turkey.

Raouf Beg Chadirchi is to succeed the late Subih Beg Nashat as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Angora, and is expected to take up his appointment at once. Raouf Beg was at one time Minister of Finance, and has held several other important appointments, but of late years has abandoned politics for the practice of his profession as one of Baghdad's best-known and most successful lawyers.

Very cordial messages were exchanged between King Faisal and Mustapha Kemal Pasha on the recent anniversary of the inauguration of the Turkish Republic.

Visit of the Amir Abdullah.

The Amir Abdullah of Trans-Jordan has just left Baghdad after a visit to his brother, King Faisal. His Highness made a tour of the Holy Places of Iraq and was enthusiastically received by the faithful, particularly at Najaf, where pan-Arab feeling was exuberant. At Baghdad the Amir visited the Al al Bait University, inspecting the higher theological classes; he also inspected units of the Iraq Army, and of the Baghdad Boy Scouts. The order of the Two Rivers, First Class, has been conferred by King Faisal upon his brother.

The Air Mail.

The tragic loss of the Imperial Airways liner, *City of Rome*, in the Gulf of Genoa, followed in the very next week by delays of both the outgoing and incoming aeroplanes, has sadly blotted the clean sheet of the Company as a rapid, reliable, and almost incredibly punctual carrier of mails. The passengers in the *City of Alexandria*, which reached Baghdad last Saturday (instead of, as usual, on Thursday) had thrilling tales to tell of the aeroplane's taking refuge from a Mediterranean gale in the harbour of Mersa Matruh and damaging her floats when crossing the bar. Some of the mail bags had been immersed in sea water, but fortunately very few letters were damaged, and the mail was distributed in Baghdad late on Saturday.

General News.

Armistice Day was celebrated here by a short service at the British War Graves Cemetery, when the two minutes' Silence was observed and wreaths were laid on the Stone of Remembrance. The Amir Ghazi and the Acting High Commissioner were present. Flanders poppies were sold in aid of Earl Haig's Fund at the British Club.

The rank of the German Consul in Baghdad, Herr Litten, has been raised to that of *Chargé d'Affaires*.

The construction of the new canal which is to water the Latafiyah Estates is proceeding satisfactorily, the work being carried out by the Iraq Department of Irrigation at the expense of the company. The first crop will probably be planted next autumn, and cotton will be sown in the following spring. A very large number of shares in this

undertaking, it may be remarked, are held by Iraqis, and the number is increasing.

Last week was witnessed the departure, at the end of two years' service in Iraq, of some 1,500 members of the Royal Air Force, whose places are to be taken by drafts from home.

A Baghdad poet, who has published anti-religious writings in the local Press, offending "the feelings of Muslims throughout the world," is to be proceeded against by the Ministry of Interior.

November 16.

The Prime Minister's Death.

This letter was sealed and ready for post when the terrible news of the Prime Minister's death by suicide plunged all Baghdad into gloom. The loss is an irreparable one; not one of her national leaders could Iraq so ill-afford. The influence of Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Saadun, since first he took office as Minister of Interior in 1923, has been consistently on the side of moderation, justice and proportion. An ardent patriot and Nationalist, he was yet enabled by his breadth of mind to look beyond the frontiers of Iraq and see her in relation to the world. Perhaps none of his many friends and admirers, British and Iraqi, realised how great had been the strain of the last few months, when to him fell the thankless task of "putting on the brake," of opposing logic and reason to whirlwind enthusiasm, while yet sympathising fully with all the highest hopes of his country. But his last letter makes it clear that what finally drove him to despair, was not so much the hostility of his opponents—for he was a strong man—as the cravenness of his own followers, who were passive when they should have supported him by word and deed in his opposition to the extremists.

The Prime Minister attended a meeting of the Progressive (his own) Party on Wednesday afternoon, and on returning home wrote a letter to his eldest son, who is a student of engineering at Birmingham. He then walked on to the verandah of his riverside house, and shot himself through the heart. The letter, which was written in Turkish, may speak for itself:—

To my dear son, on whom I rely.

Forgive me for the crime I am committing against myself. The truth is that I am heart and soul weary of this life. I have found in it no pleasure, no satisfaction, and no honour. The nation expects service, but the British do not agree to our demands.

I have never had sufficient support. The Iraqi people, who are demanding independence, are weak, powerless, and very far from independence, yet they have been unable to appreciate the advice given them by men of honour like myself.

They have thought me a traitor to my country and a servant of the British. What a great calamity! Be sure that I have always been sincere, and prepared to endure any sacrifice for the sake of my country. I have suffered with forbearance all possible insults and contempt. I have endured this for the sake of the sacred land where my fathers and grandfathers lived in grandeur.

My son, my last counsel to you is that you should be kind to your younger brothers who will now become fatherless; respect your mother, and be loyal to your country; secondly, that you should remain absolutely loyal to King Faisal and his offspring.

Forgive me, O my son!

ABDUL MUHSIN SAADUN.

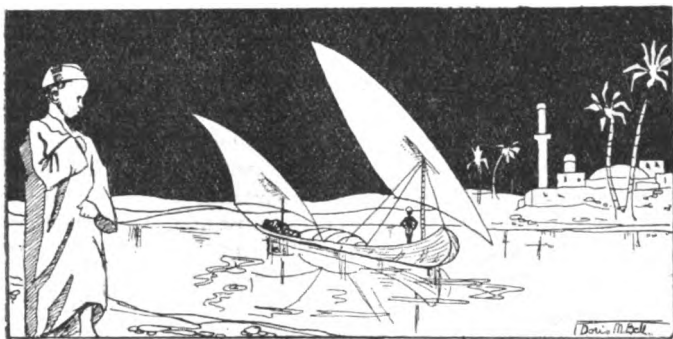
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EGYPT.

Cairo, November 23.

The Alexandria Stadium.

The Stadium, which the Alexandria Municipality has erected, was inaugurated on Sunday last by King Fuad. It was a wonderful gathering, illustrating the cosmopolitan character of the population of Egypt, and particularly of her commercial capital. Over 22,000 spectators—almost the capacity of the Stadium, which has been designed to hold 25,000—were there, and practically every nationality was represented. The inaugural ceremony opened with a march past of the sporting clubs of Egypt and of the schools of Alexandria. Some seven thousand participated, each section with its banners, and conspicuous among the schools were Victoria College and the New British Boys' School. Afterwards there were Olympic sporting events, and a football match between Cairo and Alexandria, won by the latter (the King presenting to the captain of the winning team a magnificent cup), and the show ended with a gymkhana by the Alexandria mounted police bearing lanterns. As dusk had fallen, this last was very effective.

It is to be hoped that the Royal act will end the run of ill-luck that has dogged the Stadium ever since its inception. In the first place there was considerable trouble—even legal action—in connexion with the great lottery arranged by the Municipality for raising the £100,000 required to meet the balance of the cost of construction, which has amounted in all to £130,000. Then when the Stadium had been completed, the "African Games," which were intended to constitute the inauguration, had to be abandoned owing to certain international difficulties. But last Sunday at the Stadium, which has been constructed on the site of the ancient Olympic Stadium of the Ptolemies and possesses one of the finest racing tracks in the world, various nationalities were united in friendly rivalry, and there is no reason why it should not constitute the centre around which the sporting enterprise of the country could revolve, and so by the encouragement it affords and the good relations which this should engender among the many communities that go to make up this country's cosmopolitan population, justify those who conceived it.

Egyptian Diplomatic Posts.

The decree retiring Sadek Pasha Henein and Mahmoud Samy Pasha, respectively Egyptian Ministers at Rome and Washington, has come as no surprise. There is no political significance in this decision. It has long been mooted, and is due solely to considerations of a nature personal to the two men concerned. Before he went to Rome Sadek Henein Pasha was Under-Secretary of State for Finance, and he is an authority on economic and

financial questions. Mahmoud Samy Pasha, who is an engineer, has held the posts of Under-Secretary for Public Works and Communications. Both are still comparatively young men, and will, no doubt, find occupation in their own country in the spheres for which their capacity and training really fit them. It is understood that Sadek Wahba Pasha, son of the aged ex-Premier Yussef Wahba Pasha, who recently tendered his resignation of the post of Minister at Brussels, will be appointed to Rome, and that he will be succeeded by Sesostri Bey Sidarouss, who has only just taken up his appointment at Athens after having been for so long *Chargé d'Affaires* in London.

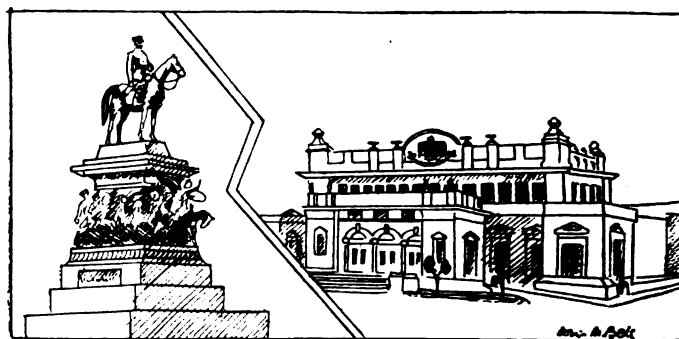
It is expected that there will very shortly be a series of transfers and new nominations to the Legations and Consulates, but no decision has been taken with regard to Washington or London. In connexion with London, there is much talk of Mr. William Makram Ebeid's being nominated, in view of the work he was able to do for the *Wafd* during his recent visits to England, but nothing has yet been decided, and it is not improbable that London will be left vacant for a further long period owing to the difficulty of finding anyone suitable who can be spared from Egypt.

Al Azhar.

The scheme for the reform of religious education in general, and of Al Azhar in particular, looks like being still-born. The Rector, Shaikh Mustapha El Maraghi, resigned, owing, it said, to some objection on the part of the Palace to the delay in promulgating the decree which has remained at the Palace, and his place has been filled by a man, Shaikh El Ahmadi, of the Tanta seminary, who although an excellent *Alim*, is not inclined towards modern ideas, and so is not likely to press for the execution of his predecessor's scheme.

Chrysanthemum Show.

The annual Chrysanthemum Show of the Royal Horticultural Society, held last week-end in the grounds of the Royal Horticultural Society, was a great success. It was opened by the Minister of Agriculture, Wassef Simaika Pasha, and was visited later in the day by Lady Lorraine. The exhibition, which included flowers and plants, revealed what great progress horticulture is making in this country.



BULGARIA.

Sofia, November 20.

Political Brigandage.

There is in existence, among the Agraro-Communists who have emigrated into Yugoslavia, a certain number of bandits who frequently cross the frontier into Bulgaria in order to terrorise the population and to upset the political situation and the régime established after the anti-Agrarian *Coup d'état* of June 9, 1923.

The most dangerous of these bandits unquestionably is the notorious Dotcho Ouzounoff. So far the Bulgarian police have been unable, despite organised search parties, to capture him. On November 9 this brigand's band, which had at first operated in Central Bulgaria, appeared in western Bulgaria and attacked the train from Barkovitz to Ferdinandovo. Pillage of this local train, in which there were only a few passengers, for the most

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part middle-class people, was not much gain to the bandits, though it is not material profit that they are really after.

This affair caused much alarm in Bulgaria. Everyone was scandalised at the ineptitude of the police, and suggested diplomatic representations in Belgrade, as there exists an extradition agreement by which the Yugoslavs ought to hand over these bandits to the Bulgarians.

New Serbo-Bulgarian Negotiations.

In this atmosphere of suspicion, even of hostility, a new Serbo-Bulgarian conference began on November 16. This conference at Sofia is specially engaged to find a solution of the problems which the Bulgarian delegation at Pirot formerly refused to discuss, because they were not included in their terms of reference and they had no relevant instructions. They concern the liquidation of bilateral properties and the establishment of a neutral zone along the frontier between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. On the first point, Bulgaria has promised partly to liquidate the situation where the proprietors themselves would consent to the change; but the Yugoslavs insist on a radical liquidation by way of compulsory expropriation—which would result in de-populating these regions and of "Serbising" them, while the present inhabitants of Bulgaria would become a charge on the Bulgarian Government. Such a solution the Bulgarians absolutely reject. The second problem would appear to be not less insoluble. The Yugoslavs wish for a forbidden zone of ten kilometres in which only the inhabitants and the troops and functionaries could move. To this the Bulgarians reply that such a régime would completely paralyse the economic life of all the localities in the zone and even this bordering on it. They propose, consequently, either a neutral zone such as that established between Yugoslavia and Greece, where the population is only required to have personal cards of identity to facilitate control by the police, or a "dead" zone one kilometre wide, five hundred metres on either side.

The conference has had several sittings, and it will be seen how far apart are the rival points of view.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 14.

The House of Commons Debate.

Attention here, this week, has naturally been concentrated on the debates in the two Houses of Parliament, and mainly on the debate in the House of Commons as the more important of the two. The speech of the Secretary of State for India is felt to have been the weakest, and has deepened the impression that I spoke of last week—that there are not brains enough behind the present handling of Indian affairs. Consider, people are saying here, such a thing as the line the Secretary of State took in dealing with Mr. Lloyd George's attack. It might be dismissed, he argued, for Mr. Lloyd George speaks for but a handful in the House. What does it matter how many or how few a man speaks for, if his points are good; if what he says is unanswerable? Mr. Lloyd George did make one unanswerable point; namely, that the Viceregal pronouncement had had a bad consequence, one irremediable; it had opened a way for the Indian leaders to demand the grant of Dominion Status immediately, or in the very near future. The Viceroy, if he was to say that the goal of British policy in India was the attainment by India of Dominion Status, should have been most careful to emphasise that in the opinion of the British Government there must be a period of transition; how long a one none can say.

Another weakness in the attitude of the Secretary of State is his thinking that the improvement in public feeling in India on the morrow of the pronouncement is

certain to endure and deepen. What if it does not endure? What if greater expectations have been aroused in the Indian leaders and the people than can be fulfilled? What if the delay should cause new distrust of the British Government to breed? What if there should be an irreconcilable difference of opinion between the Government of India and the Indian leaders as to who should be invited to the conference? Will the Government concede the point that the leaders have already tried to make that those of "Congress mentality" should be the strongest represented? What if the Government feel unable to grant the political amnesty that has been demanded, and if that should lead to exacerbation? What if the Round Table Conference, a body the choice of the personnel of which must be the British Government's, a body, then, that the British Government can be accused in India hereafter of having packed, declares its opinion that it will never be possible to grant India Dominion Status? That is the opinion of many of my Indian friends, judges and men of that calibre. If Indian public opinion at the end of 1931, and this is easily conceivable, is even worse than it was last September, what on earth will have been the profit in the temporary improvement of that opinion in November of 1929 and a few months that followed? That is what many of us are saying here.

Indian Expectations.

What expectations have been aroused in the Indians? This little story will show. An Indian, unusually burly for one of them, was walking on the platform of a railway station a few days ago. Approaching him were an Englishman and an Anglo-Indian, talking to each other. The Indian insisted on their making way for him, and, as he passed between the two, he jostled one of them with his shoulder, not roughly but enough to show his temper. Then he said, loud enough for all around to hear: "Dominion Status! I'm free!" What if the



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Round Table Conference should declare that the recently expressed opinion of the Nawab of Bhopal is such a one as must be acted upon? I quoted it in my letter of September 26. Let it be quoted again: "The fact is that the people's ignorance of modern and progressive ideas makes them an easy prey to bigoted conservatism, which leads to most deplorable communal strife, and creates a feeling of aversion in their minds to the initiation of elementary social and other reforms. Their opposition to their education, and their obstinacy against the adoption of modern medical, sanitary, and scientific methods, stand in the way of their political progress. You cannot alter these conditions by a wave of the magic wand. You need centuries of persistent and honest work. . . ." Do the Viceroy and the Secretary of State think that at the Round Table Conference the Nawab of Bhopal and those who share his opinions will hold their peace? They know they must not. They know how little political power should be given to people who are medieval enough in their ways of thinking not even to dare to enter a tailor's shop and order a suit of clothes without "consulting" their holy beads; who will turn back at the door, if the "oracle" is against their entering the shop.

Wise Words.

The wisest words, we think here (I speak, of course, of the few whose opinion is really valuable), were Sir John Simon's, and the restraint with which they were uttered—not a word too many—is held to have added to their value. I may not, by saying that, have prepared you to hear that we consider these to have been his most valuable words: "It is useless to pretend that the incidents leading to this debate have not for the time being added to our own difficulties, through no fault of our own, but in fact." (I may say that in the report of the speech in my newspaper two sentences are run into one. My correction may not be right.) Those, we do think, Sir John Simon's most valuable words. It is hoped that their lesson will be taken to heart at the India Office.

Unwise Words.

The worst thing that can be done is for any one in a prominent position to say words that might afterwards be quoted against him. A politician is apt, in the heat of his desire to score a point in debate, to say things with little consideration of all they commit him to. Mr. Lloyd George said a thing that has committed him far farther than he can have realised at the moment of speaking. It is a consolation to us to think that it was he, a greatly discredited politician, one not likely to return to office, or not for long, who spoke the words, and not such as Mr. Baldwin. The words in question are these (they were spoken in interruption of the Secretary of State, who had just said that the Viceroy's statement was "explicit and clear"): "If it were clear, it would be clear to these extraordinarily able men who are the Indian leaders." That should not have been said. What would now prevent the Indian leaders, if they had Mr. Lloyd George to negotiate with, from pointing out that he had admitted their possession of extraordinary ability? Does not their whole case for the grant of Dominion Status, now or at an early date, rest upon their sincere belief in their ability? Does not the whole of the opposition, in India itself, the opposition to the granting of any considerable measure of political power to the present leaders, rest upon an unshakable opinion as to the incapacity of the Indians for practical affairs? It is the opposition, mark you, of Indians such as the Nawab of Bhopal and many of my own Indian friends as much as of English officials and merchants.

No one should venture to say a word about the Indians and their capacity or incapacity for practical affairs, who has not worked for years amongst them. A Commissioner whom I met earlier this year told me that in his younger days he once took over charge of the chairmanship of a municipal board from an older civilian. The older man advised him never to oppose any scheme brought forward

by an Indian member of the board, however silly and impracticable it might appear to him, but to smile upon it and the proposer, and to suggest that a sub-committee be appointed, with the proposer as chairman, to work out the details. "If the scheme is a childish thing," the older official said, "and it is certain to be, the committee will one day drop the matter in silence, and you will hear no more of it." The most active Indian on that board, the man who brought forward most of the silly schemes, is now the leader of a party in the Legislative Assembly. He will be one of those, beyond a doubt, invited by the Prime Minister to the Round Table Conference.

THE LATE PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL.

The death of His Highness Maharaja Chandra Shamsher Jang Bahadur, hereditary Prime Minister of Nepal, recalls the interesting series of articles contributed by Brigadier-General the Hon. C. G. Bruce to THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA last summer on the history, customs and national characteristics of the inhabitants of that somewhat mysterious and little-known country.

The office of Prime Minister, to which H.H. General Sir Chandra Shamsher Jang Bahadur succeeded in 1901, is held in perpetuity by a member of his family. The succession is determined by special rules, and involves powers that have made the Prime Minister, since the accession of the great Jang Bahadur about 1847, the virtual ruler of the country, while the Sovereign is little more than a figurehead.

The following extract from the article by General Bruce in the issue of May 9, describes in simple and impressive terms the notable services which the late Prime Minister rendered to the British Empire both during and after the Great War and the close and cordial relations which subsist between the two Governments:—

"From that date (the Mutiny, in the crushing of which Nepal's contingent of some 10,000 men took a most active and useful part) our relations with Nepal have never looked back. When the Great War broke out in 1914 the Maharaja who is now in power, H.H. Sir Chandra Shamsher Jang Bahadur, telegraphed to the Indian Government placing the whole power of the State at the disposal of the King-Emperor. We had at that time some 20 battalions of regular Gurkha troops and some eight battalions of military police and others already serving the Indian Government. During the War 33 battalions of regular troops were kept up to strength, the military police and others were also supplied with recruits, losses of all sorts were made good, and last, but not least, a contingent of some 12,000 Regular Nepali troops were sent down by the Nepal Government for the internal defence in India. Labour Corps were also raised and actually during the whole war some 200,000 men came from Nepal to assist the British Government, an almost inconceivable contribution from so small and poor a State, especially when it is considered that only a portion, possibly a quarter, of the inhabitants of the whole Nepal Kingdom, belong to what is known as military tribes.

"Over and above this, His Highness supplied the Indian Government with an enormous quantity of logs for use as sleepers in Mesopotamia, a most valuable contribution; also blankets, spices, and, as a personal gift from himself, some 36 machine-guns. Such has been the result of the good feeling established between the British Government and Nepal and such has been the result of the continual employment of these subjects of the Nepal State known to the Army as our Gurkha troops. It is a very remarkable instance, almost unique in history, of a State not tied by treaty to another, going to the utmost possible limits in self-sacrifice, both of men and goods, solely from the sympathy between the two. In 1921 a new and far more satisfactory treaty was completed and the British Resident in Nepal has, after 100 years, been raised to the status of Envoy. Nepal, however, has always kept itself to itself, and probably from its own point of view this is quite correct."

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

December 5, 1929 (New Style).

November 22, 1929 (Old Style).

Rajab 3, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Kislev 3, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Major and Mrs. Philip Magor have left for Egypt, and will not return to England until April.

Shah Wali Khan, Afghan Minister-designate to Great Britain, left Kabul on December 2 for London.

Sir Harry Malet sailed from Tilbury on November 29 in the P. and O. s.s. Mantua for Bombay.

The Earl of Feversham has abandoned his visit to India, and will remain at Nawton Towers, Yorkshire.

Lord Ebury and the Hon. Elizabeth Grosvenor arrived in London on November 30 on their return from India.

The Hon. Anne Farrer left London on November 28 to join the Kaiser-i-Hind at Marseilles on her way to Bombay.

Lady Honour Guinness leaves 11, St. James's Square to-day, for Marseilles, where she will join the P. and O. s.s. Mantua for India. She will be away until the spring.

Sir Edwin Lutyens, R.A., left 13, Mansfield Street on November 28 for Marseilles, where he joined the P. and O. s.s. Kaiser-i-Hind for India. He will be away until the beginning of February.

Nobile Carlo Alberto Straneo, Secretary to the Italian Embassy in London, has been transferred to Teheran, where he will be temporarily in charge of the Italian Legation.

The Earl of Inchcape will open the annual bazaar of the Missions to Seamen, London Ladies' Association, which will take place at the Hyde Park Hotel on December 10, at 2.45.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby will leave London on December 12 for Marseilles, where they will join the Ranpura on the following day on their way to India.

Captain G. F. Gracey, who has for many years been General Secretary of the "Friends of Armenia," has been appointed as Overseas Delegate of the "Save the Children" Fund.

A dinner will be held at the Langbourn Club on Tuesday, December 10, when Mrs. Arthur McGrath, F.R.G.S. (Mrs. Rosita Forbes), will speak on "Modern Arabian Nights." Admiral Mark Kerr, R.N., C.B., M.V.O., has kindly consented to take the Chair.

The Prince of Wales received at Buckingham Palace on November 26, on behalf of the King, Lieut.-Colonel Nawab Sir Umar Hayat Khan (upon his appointment as a Member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India), who left for Bombay two days later on four months' leave of absence.

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A meeting will be held of the Near and Middle East Association on December 6, at 9.30, to hear M. Georges Cattaui, Secretary to the Royal Egyptian Legation, lecture upon "L'Egypte: Ses Traditions et sa Renaissance." Sir Thomas Arnold will preside. The meeting will take place, by kind permission of Lady Newnes, at 55, Prince's Gate, S.W.

The next three lectures to be given to the Royal Asiatic Society, 74, Grosvenor Street, W., will be delivered on December 12, December 16, and January 9, respectively, each at 4.30 p.m. They will be by Professor S. Langdon, on "Results of the excavations at Kish, 1928-29, by the Herbert Weld (for Oxford) and Field Museum Expedition"; by Mr. J. P. Mills, on "The Chittagong Hill Tracts"; and by Mr. H. A. R. Gibb, on "The Origins of Arabic Poetry." To the first two of these lectures there will be lantern illustrations.

THE CYPRUS DELEGATION.

Bishop Nicodemus of Kitium and Mr. Stavrinakis, who, with Mr. Zenon Rossides as Secretary, have constituted the Cyprus Delegation which came to England to support a Memorial for union with Greece, submitted by the Greek-speaking elected members of the Legislative Council, left London on November 27 on their return to Cyprus. The British Government's reply to the Memorialists, it is understood, will be transmitted through the Governor of Cyprus.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Conservatives and the Government.

If anything could make it appear to the outsider that the Conservative Party have made up their minds that the Socialist Party are destined for a longish period of office, it is the slackness with which Conservative members attend debates in the House. This slackness is generally of little consequence, from the point of view of disturbing the equanimity of the Government, but it does seem to mean that the Conservatives are not even prepared to perform the first duty of an Opposition.

Last week this listlessness was manifested in a remarkable way. Mr. Baldwin (who is most assiduous in attendance) and Mr. Lloyd George had agreed to oppose a certain provision of the Unemployment Insurance Bill. This provision was generally disliked; even Labour members had professed dislike of it. When it came to voting, however, the Liberal Party turned up in force, but fewer than half the Conservatives were there. The majority of the Ministerialists was about seventy.

It cannot be that the explanation was in the fact that the amendment came from a Liberal member. The matter was one of national importance; the Conservatives had had a three line whip to secure their attendance; and yet—the amendment failed.

As a matter of fact, the Conservatives are unconsciously playing the Liberals' game by this skipping of their duties. Already it is being claimed that by far the most effective opposition to the Government comes from the Liberals, who are earning not a little kudos in this way. The claim is not quite true—witness the excellent speeches of three young Conservative members last week on this Unemployment Insurance Bill, Major Elliot, Mr. W. S. Morrison, and Mr. Oliver Stanley—but it is quite true that, whether inevitably or not, Mr. Lloyd George has gained both personal and party prestige during the last few weeks.

Road Traffic.

It is not long since I commented upon the recommendations of the last Royal Commission on Transport, and already, last week, a Road Traffic Bill has been introduced to give effect to these recommendations. To-day, it is calculated, there are over two and a half million motor-vehicles on the roads, and the number increases annually by nearly a quarter of a million. Annually, also, over six

thousand people are killed in motor-accidents, and over a hundred and sixty thousand injured.

What, then, does the Road Traffic Bill? The most prominent feature of it, perhaps, is the abolition of the speed limit for the light, privately-owned car. This sounds perilous, but actually it is sound. For, by the imposition of very heavy penalties upon reckless driving, by the insistence on the physical fitness of the driver, and by other conditions attaching to the licence, a premium is put upon careful driving. Continental countries, I believe, have abandoned the speed limit—but they are generally quicker there to recognise a fact: I mean the fact that the speed limit is constantly ignored by motorists.

Of course there is much more in the Bill than this, but it is upon the proposed abolition of the speed limit that controversy is raging, and will rage in the two Houses of Parliament.

November Rains.

There is an old rhyme, which I have forgotten, to the effect that in England the wet and the dry on the whole balance themselves, and, sure enough, after the threatened drought of the Summer, have come the rains of November. In many parts of the country, indeed, floods are reported, and in practically all parts there are fields and stretches of road under water.

It was, in fact, a quite extraordinarily wet November. London had double the average amount received, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire had nearly eight inches each, while Devon, Cornwall, and Wales had between ten and fifteen inches. Rivers are in flood, and the distress in places is acute. Already the Thames has been declared in a state of flood, and those who live on its lower banks look anxiously at each tide.

November was a trying month, partly owing to its mildness and its unusual amount of sunshine. It is not common to complain of sunshine in England, but when it produces a muggy atmosphere the Englishman is apt to complain of anything. The month is, I suppose, generally the most unpopular of all.

The Water-Bus.

Our humourists have their serious uses. It may be doubted whether anyone could have raised such interest as is now being shown in the scheme to use the Thames for passenger-traffic—both as a means of relieving the congestion of the streets and for its own delightful sake—as has Mr. A. P. Herbert, who, though he is on the staff of *Punch*, is one of our worthiest humourists.

Mr. Herbert has many practical men on his side in his advocacy of a greater use of London's water-road, and his project has been so earnestly taken up that the London County Council, whose progressive impulse is not always overwhelming, is said seriously to be considering whether the relatively few thousands of pounds necessary for the construction of motor-buses, piers, and so on, could not be handsomely invested in this way.

The fact that in those dim days, long before the War, the L.C.C. steamboats on the Thames did not pay is held to be quite irrelevant. Those cumbersome affairs were unpunctual and shelterless, but we could easily change all that. In speed a water-bus could compare favourably in many places with a taxi; and how much more pleasant a way of travel! There really seems a good prospect of our having buses on the "London River" in a few years' time.

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A DEBATE ON PALESTINE.

Under the auspices of the Union of Democratic Control a crowded meeting was held on November 25 at Livingstone Hall, Westminster, upon Palestine. Professor Brodetsky, of the Zionist Executive, was to have stated the Jewish case, and Jamal Beg al Husaini, Secretary of the Supreme Muslim Council, stated the Arab case. Mr. J. Wicksteed presided. The Zionist spokesman, however, was unable, at the last moment, to speak on a subject into which matter still *sub judice* might be introduced, and the Rev. Maurice Perlzweig, of the Liberal Synagogue and Hon. Secretary of the English Zionist Federation, took his place.

Mr. Perlzweig said the whole civilised world had followed with anxious interest certain recent events in Palestine, and all men and women of good will had been shocked by events on which he could make no comment while a Commission of Inquiry was trying to discover who was responsible for them. But nothing that had happened or could happen would deflect his people by a hair's breadth from the goal they had set before them. The Zionist movement, he said, was not a new movement: it began in 70 A.D. The Jews had never recognised the justice of the inevitability of the Destruction of the Temple. They had never accepted their defeat or admitted that anyone had the right to exclude them from the God that was sacred to them. Through eighteen centuries they had been determined to reconstitute the Jewish national home in Palestine. Zionism was part of their life.

He traced the modern Jewish colonisation of Palestine from the 'eighties, through the stimulus given to the movement during the War, when leaders of all the British parties expressed their sympathy with the Zionist ideal and the Balfour Declaration pledged the help of Britain. No other document in history had been so carefully considered before its promulgation or had received such wide international agreement before it became law as that which granted the Mandate to Great Britain.

"It is part and parcel of the fundamental policy of the Zionist movement," he declared, "that we must work in close co-operation and harmony with the Arab people." And he quoted a letter written in 1919 by Amir Faisal to a Jewish Professor at Harvard University—a letter from which, he added, the Zionists gained the impression that the Arab difficulty was overcome.

Describing the work of the Zionists in Palestine, Mr. Perlzweig said the Jews had poured fourteen million pounds into Palestine; every acre they owned had been bought in open market and paid for to the utmost reasonable limit. They had brought education into the country, and had built up a complete system from the kindergarten to the University. They had afforested the hills, drained the swamps, turned the wilderness into gardens, established a sanitary system, and built hospitals, and these benefits were shared by the Arab population. It was said that these things were paid for by the British taxpayer, but not a single penny had been drawn from anything but Jewish funds for the Jewish National Home. Palestine was now the only country in the Near East where finances could be regarded in a real sense as stable.

"We believe there is room in Palestine for both races," he said. "Sicily, a land equal in area to Palestine, supports three and a half million people, and in Palestine there are less than a million. We are anxious to work together, but two things are essential—moral disarmament and the mandate."

Jamal Beg al Husaini said that two main points must be stressed—first that the Arabs were not up against the Jews as Jews, but that they complained of the aggressive predominance of the political Zionist. Arabs had lived side by side with the Jews on amicable terms in Mesopotamia, Syria, and Egypt. There was no truth in the rumour spread by anti-Arabs that the Palestine Arabs were using anti-Zionism as an anti-British campaign. The Arabs had good faith in England, and hoped through her to obtain their rights.

Before the War the proportion of Jews to Arabs in Palestine was one to nine, and now it was one to six. He complained that while in Syria, Trans-Jordan, and Iraq local government existed under the Mandatory Power, in Palestine the Mandated and Mandatory Governments were the same. Under Turkish rule Palestine had enjoyed wide self-government, but under the Mandate the democratic system had been abolished. A sham Constitution had been offered in 1922 in which the Arabs found the utter frustration of the hopes they had entertained during the War.

The Zionist programme might be reduced to two points—immigration and lands. The Jews must come to Palestine and lands must be available for them. The Balfour Declaration said the migration of Jews must not be so great in volume as to exceed the capacity of the country to absorb the new arrivals. This condition, he said, was not being observed. He quoted official figures in proof of his assertion that the influx of Jews was excessive, and he claimed that Arabs suffered in consequence.

He told how a British Company formed to provide Jerusalem with electric light accepted the tender of Arab contractors. The Jews of Jerusalem, he said, made such a "row" about this, threatening to

boycott the Company unless it employed Jewish labour at a high rate of pay, that the Company began to employ Jewish workmen—to the exclusion of the Arabs.

Another complaint was that pressure was used to oblige Arab peasant proprietors to sell their land, and that much of the increase of crime during recent years was due to the dispossession and unemployment of these men.

Again, he said, great numbers of Arabs who had left their families and gone to America in the hope of becoming prosperous were now refused passports to Palestine and had to remain in exile. "You may imagine," he said, "the feelings of Arabs when they see emigrants coming in from Russia, Poland, and Roumania, and their own relatives who have been abroad are prohibited from entering."

THE ELUSIVE ACCIDENT TO THE ORIENT EXPRESS.

When the Orient Express was found to have been delayed on November 21 in the neighbourhood of Tzaribrod, the Yugoslav town near the Bulgarian frontier, it seems to have been considered necessary to fit the incident into the requirements of political propaganda. Accordingly, the first reports of the incident, emanating from Belgrade, represented the train as coming from Constantinople to Paris and as having been attacked between the Bulgarian frontier and Tzaribrod. Suitable details of casualties that did not occur were also given. Other reports pointed to the direction of the train being eastwards, but left the locality of the outrage vague. The first Bulgarian version was that the train was on its way from Belgrade to the Bulgarian frontier when bombs exploded under it at a point some five to seven kilometres west of Tzaribrod and consequently at least ten to twelve kilometres from the frontier. The question of responsibility for the outrage was left open, but it was supposed that bandits operating on Yugoslav territory were the perpetrators. There was, however, no evidence to show that the perpetrators were ever seen by anyone, still less that the direction subsequently taken by them was detected. The hour of the accident was given variously as 7.40 p.m. and 10 p.m.—in any case at a time calculated to lessen visibility for all but Balkan journalists domiciled in their respective capitals. Here the incident might be left, were it not for the fact that from Bulgaria now comes the statement that, according to the evidence of the train officials, there were no bandits and no attack. A truck belonging to a goods train, so runs this version, had left the rails, blocking the line, and the Orient Express had been obliged to make a long detour in order to continue its journey. Hence the delay in its arrival at Sofia. Belgrade can hardly be expected to take lying down this unwarrantable incursion of railway officials into journalistic preserves.

The Hon. P. W. M. Ramsay, the new British Minister to Greece, presented his credentials to the President on November 30.

Athens University was closed for a number of days last week in consequence of a violent outbreak by students, in which they destroyed furniture and pelted the police with various missiles.

A force sent by the Imam to arrest a new prophet at Haga, in the Yaman, who had gained many adherents by the "miracles" he performed, deserted and joined the prophet. The Imam last week dispatched another force.

Leaders of the Yugoslav *sokols* (athletic-political organisations on lines similar to those of the *sokols* which played a prominent part in Czechoslovak liberation) left last week for Belgrade to discuss the fusion of the *sokols*.

A Beyrout message states that the mode of maintaining security on the Turco-Syrian frontier has been settled as provided by the Angora protocol of June 29, and that a French delegation will shortly visit Angora in connexion with Customs details, railways, and sequestered property.

The Military Attachés of the Allied countries, led by the Yugoslav Minister in London, and accompanied by officers of the British Legion, placed a wreath of Flanders poppies on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey on November 28 on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the founding of the F.I.D.A.C. (Federation of Allied-Ex-Service Men).

SINHALESE SELF-TAUGHT

By Don M. de Zilva WICKREMasinghe, M.A.

Epigraphist to the Ceylon Government.

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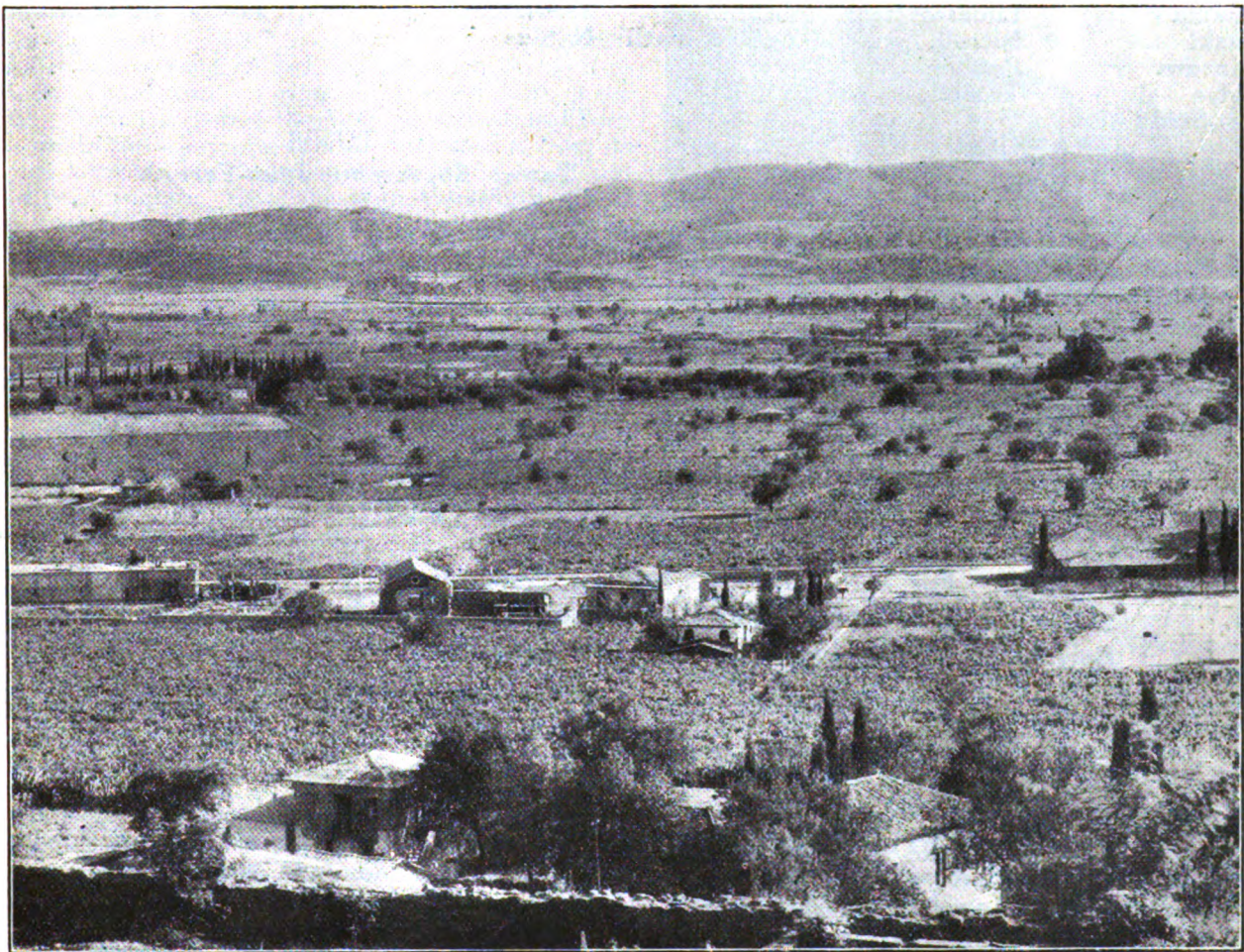
of the

Near and Middle East

Supplement to "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

CONTENTS :

GREEK CURRANTS	627	SUDAN GUM	633
THE DRIED FRUIT INDUSTRY		IRAQ DATES	635
OF SMYRNA	631	PALESTINE'S ECONOMIC POSITION	637



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GREEK CURRANTS

Early Days.

It is difficult to be certain whether the ancient Greeks cultivated the currant as it is known to-day. It is conjectured, however, that the fine small grape with the thin skin, grown in Greece, and referred to by Pliny in the first century of the Christian era, could be none other than the currant. It is also surmised that, prior to this, the thick wine of the ancients must have been made from these grapes, which are known to have been preserved in their dried state. In the dark ages no mention of currants is recorded, and it is not until the fourteenth century that the real history of currants begins, although at this time a considerable trade with western Europe already existed. In England, where the first consignment of currants arrived in 1340, a licence was required for trading in the commodity. Many references to currants occur in the next two centuries under various names, such as "Raisins de Corauntz," "Reysins Corent," "Reysens of Corent," "Reysonsoff Corent," "Currens," "Corens," etc. It is not, however, until 1592, when an exclusive licence for trading with "The Great Turke," granted eleven years previously by Queen Elizabeth to Alderman Osborn, was transferred to the Levant Company, that we get the present-day spelling "of the small fruits called currants, being the Raisins of Corinth."

Habitat and Cultivation.

The "grape of Corinth" requires a particular combination of soil and sunshine and sea breeze to enable it to prosper. Consequently it grows in very few parts of the world. Until just before the War no success had been achieved in the many attempts to transplant it from its original home on the shores of the Gulf of Corinth and the Ægean Islands. Since the War Australia has been fairly successful, but Greece still holds a quasi-monopoly, as it grows about nine-tenths of the world's production, that is, about half a million tons, of the fresh currant grapes. Of these over three hundred thousand tons are dried by evaporation in the sun, the tonnage being thus reduced to eighty or ninety tons of dried fruit, which are exported, with the exception of about two thousand tons for home consumption. The remaining two hundred thousand tons are devoted to wine-making, the lowest grades being converted into industrial alcohol, a large percentage of which is used in Greek villages for lighting purposes. The area under cultivation amounts to about a hundred and fifty thousand acres.

Currants, as well as being delicious, are one of the healthiest of foods, having an exceedingly high calorific value. It is estimated, indeed, that one pound of currants has all the food value of over a pound and a half of perfectly cooked steak. In preparation currants undergo no chemical process; the grapes are dried solely by the heat of the sun. The currant grapes are naturally seedless, and they contain such a large percentage of sugar that, after they have been dried to the extent that only about twenty per cent. of water remains, the sugar acts as a natural preservative. The currants in their dried form contain between 65 and 75 per cent. of fruit or invert sugar, that is, sugar in its most valuable form; they also contain valuable mineral salts, which cause them to act as the necessary gentle laxative essential for good health.

In Greece, the currants grow along a narrow strip of coastline some two hundred miles in length, extending from near the eastern extremity of the southern shores of the Gulf of Corinth and down the western coast of the Peloponnese. This strip of land is generally only a few miles wide, rarely reaching double figures. Currants

also thrive on the islands of Zante (Zakynthos) and Cephallonia, where they still command sunny slopes caressed by sea breezes, and it is indicative of the peculiar requirements of currants that their quality is practically dependent on the district of the growth, so much so, in fact, that they are marketed under the denomination of their district of origin, as well as by the size of their grading.

The various growths in ascending scale of quality are as follows:—(a) Provincial (the south-western coast of the Peloponnese); (b) Pyrgos; (c) Amalias; (d) Patras; (e) Zante; Gulf and Panariti; (f) Vostizza. Experts in the trade can always differentiate the locality of origin at sight.

The Vicissitudes of the Industry.

The Greek currant industry is now organised by the Central Currant Office, which seems to have found a solution of the incessant crises that the industry had been undergoing for the previous fifty years as a result of over-production. The over-production had been caused in the first place by a law of *amorcellement*, which created small-holdings and a peasant-proprietor class. One effect of this had been a more intensive cultivation and a larger



SHADE AND SUN-DRYING.

crop from the same acreage. The resultant over-production was aggravated during the eighties of last century by a sudden and transient demand by France for wine-making purposes. The French vine had been attacked by phylloxera and half the crops ruined. The French wine-makers turned to currants for salvation, and within three years they imported over seventy thousand tons of currants in a single year. This did not last long, however, for the French vineyard owners imported American stock, immune from phylloxera, on which the French vines were then grafted. The French, however, discovered that the currants that had been hailed as saviours in the hour of need were now their worst enemy, for they offered an excellent substitute at a very much cheaper rate. They did not cease to agitate, therefore, until they had succeeded in inducing Parliament to impose ever-increasing customs duties that finally exceeded £30 a ton, while prohibitive regulations dealt with the sale of Greek currants in France. The sudden demand from France had reacted on the supply in Greece, and a considerable increase in the area of cultivation resulted. The Greek Government undertook to find a solution for the troubles.

of the currant industry arising from this state of affairs during 1895-99, and a special Currant Bank was created with the object of placing the fate of the problem in the hands of the growers themselves (1899-1904). Ultimately the enterprise was handed over to a new organisation, "The Privileged Company" (1905-1924). This company, in exchange for certain defined concessions, undertook to pay the duties to the State on currants, and to carry out the necessary publicity campaigns for increasing the consumption, and further to buy all surplus produce at previously fixed prices, so as to guarantee a minimum sale price to the growers. None of the above expedients obtained any measure of success, and Greece had her own experience of the inefficiency of Government interference in commercial enterprises. The Currant Bank came to an end, for although nominally in the hands of the growers, it was in point of fact in the hands of people having no direct interest, who were too prone to utilise it as a political organ. The Privileged Company achieved no greater success, for in certain instances its interests would seem to have been in direct opposition to the interests of the growers whom it was supposed to protect.

During the period of the existence of the "Privileged Company," however, an evolution was taking place in the industry which ultimately became the paramount factor in the situation at the time of the termination of the Privileged Company's charter in 1924. This factor was the marked development of the associations formed among the currant growers. These associations not only undertook commercial transactions, but also indulged in the co-operative wholesale supply of various prime requirements, as well as in the supply of credit. They, therefore, became associations of great financial importance and formed the basis of agricultural credit, upon which a new organisation with solid foundations could be created.

The Central Currant Office.

In 1925 the Central Currant Office was constituted, with a Council of thirteen members, appointed by the Ministries of Finance, National Economy and Agriculture (1 each), the National Bank of Greece and the Privileged Company of General Warehouses (2 jointly), the vine growers (1 member), the currant dealers (2 members), and the currant growers (5 members). The main functions of the new body, which did not exist, as its predecessors did, merely to absorb surplus production, are as follows:—



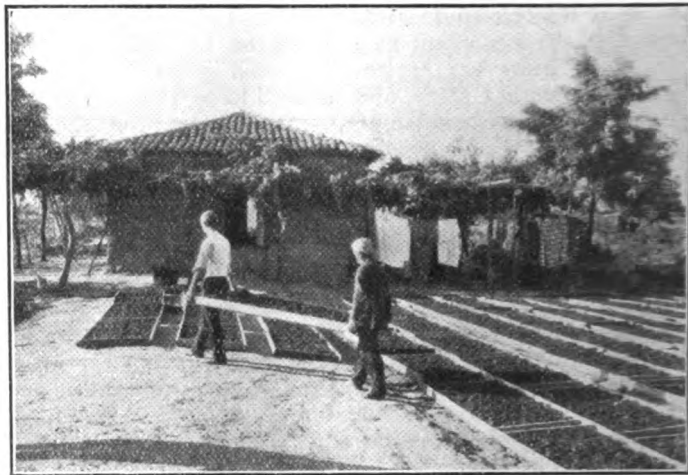
A VILLAGE IN THE CURRANT-GROWING DISTRICT.

1. The dissemination of information concerning the latest methods of cultivation, with the object of lowering the costs of cultivation and improving the quality. Towards this end the C.C.O. has established a central agricultural institution at Pyrgos for research work in all its aspects. This good work is backed by credit on the most favourable terms, so that the necessary implements and means of cultivation can be supplied to the growers and the latest methods be put into practice.

2. Systematic propaganda and advertising in the countries of consumption, as well as in potential consuming countries.

3. The rendering of effective service to the industry from the first stages of production up to the actual marketing. This includes systematising commercial supply and the organisation of export credit, etc.

4. The careful control of the output, according to the principles of the most successful cartels, so that the



SUN-DRYING OF CURRANTS.

industry is not subject to sudden and dangerous fluctuations.

In addition to the above functions the Central Currant Office gives unstinted support to the co-operative currant growers' associations, in the conviction that only through those bodies can it fulfil its programme, because the co-operative associations are the best channels for the education and equipment of the growers. These associations, which to-day number over nine hundred, contain over thirty thousand members, and it is reckoned that about half a million people in Greece depend directly for their livelihood on the currant industry.

Methods of Drying.

Perhaps one of the spheres in which the greatest progress has been achieved by the new organisation is in the drying process. Here are some of the new methods which have come into vogue and between them now constitute the universal practice. The currants may be dried: (1) on strips of paper 4 feet wide, rolls of which are purchased like wallpaper. This paper, in addition to preventing the earth from becoming mixed with the fruit, creates heat from underneath as well as from above; (2) on racks or trays with wooden or wire bottoms, which can be laid on the lawns for sun drying or piled upon each other for shade drying. Many of these trays have been provided to the growers through the credit system of the C.C.O. (3) By hanging the bunches on the vines themselves. This is not practised very much. (4) By hanging the bunches on wire frames in special shade-drying sheds. Another sphere of equal importance, where the Central Currant Office has done wonders, is in the realm of sanitary conditions. Regulations having the force of law have been issued dealing with the question of hygiene. All workers must now produce certificates of good health, issued by the competent authorities at regular defined intervals; all factories must have stone or cement flooring—to name two provisions that exemplify the new regulations. Finally, the Central Currant Office holds that it is not only necessary to supply merchandise of the best quality, but also to bring the merits of the products before the consumers in all countries by comprehensive advertising campaigns.

Some Currant Statistics.

The area devoted to currants in Greece is now carefully controlled. In 1921 it stood at 666,123 *stremmata* 166,531 acres. (1 *stremma* = a quarter acre, approxi-

ately); the high-water mark was reached in 1924 with 785,021 *stremmata*; in 1925 the area was 726,801, in 1926 it had fallen to 641,995, and in 1927 and 1928 was 614,819 and 617,953 *stremmata* respectively, and now stands more or less stabilised in the neighbourhood of these latter figures.

Of the 617,953 *stremmata*, or 154,490 acres, under the currant vine in 1928 the Peloponnese contributed 567,584 *stremmata*, the province of Achaia-and-Elis being responsible for 300,404, and Messenia for 215,188 *stremmata*. The total production in the Peloponnese amounted to 159,450 metric tons, Achaia-and-Elis contributing 75,659, and Messenia 54,465 tons. During the 1927-8 season Greece exported 181,126,830 Venetian pounds of currants (1 Venetian lb. = 1.05 lb. avoirdupois), of which Great Britain took 124,542,454 lb, the Netherlands and Germany being Greece's next best customers with 19,751,132 lb. and 17,658,794 lb. Ven. respectively.

The Currant Advertising Campaign.

The advertising campaign for currants started in September, 1926, and has thus now completed three years



YOUNG CURRANT VINES IN PYRGOS.

of its existence. It has been successful, or at least it has satisfied its organisers, which fact is after all the best criterion of its success, especially when satisfaction is well backed by statistics. The interesting fact of the campaign is that it has been conducted on educative rather than on reminder lines. The organisers came to the conclusion that the post-War demand for currants differed somewhat from that of pre-War times. The British housewife did not devote so much time as heretofore to home cooking and preferred to buy whenever economically possible goods ready-made and ready-cooked. In addition, therefore, to educating the housewife in the various uses of currants and trying to persuade her to buy as much and as often as possible from her grocer, the C.C.O. has

set out to persuade her to buy as many currant cakes, buns, scones, biscuits, etc., as possible, as well as to get the currant bread habit. In this connexion it was considered that the best propaganda was to provide her with currant commodities of such quality that, once tried, they would recommend themselves to the extent of creating a continued demand. This plan necessitated the creation of an organisation to secure that the proper education should be given for the attainment of such quality. A Technical Advisory Bakery Committee was formed, constituted out of the chief bakers of the country, all, with one exception, Past-Presidents of the National Association of Master Bakers, the one exception being one member who, having won over 4,500 prizes, medals and cups in bakery competitions, is considered as the Champion Baker of the World. This Committee, in conjunction with the advertising experts, has organised series of annual competitions in various currant goods throughout the country, and these have had an exceptional measure of success and strong support. It must be borne in mind that it is estimated that in England there are some thirty-three thousand bakers, no small number to influence. Yet the competitions have worked wonders, and quite recently the expert judges estimated that the poorest entries in many classes were to-day better than the prize-winning entries in the early competitions. This policy of education has, undoubtedly, been a wise one; for, although it was on the whole not one calculated to bring too quick results, it is one to bring results of a more permanent and enduring nature. From the above it must not be thought that the campaign has been confined to this direction; the educative campaign of competitions is merely a somewhat dominant keynote, which has had the appropriate backing of Press and poster campaigns, as well as the modern devices of advertising, such as film propaganda, the issue of specially written currant songs, etc., not to mention the issue of elaborate sales helps and retailers' propaganda. Over two million recipe books alone have been issued, and over thirty thousand retailers have been annually supplied with advertising matter, which they have in each case asked for themselves, either by letter, or at the various trade exhibitions throughout the country where the C.C.O. has participated.

The Greeks are to be congratulated on the efficient way in which they are now handling their currant trade. They have profited by the misfortunes arising from previous mistakes, with the result that the currant industry may to-day claim to be one of the most successful examples of rationalisation in industry.



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The Dried Fruit Industry - - - of Smyrna - - -

Smyrna is probably best known outside Turkey as the home of the important dried fruit industry, though as a matter of fact, besides sultanas and figs, the district produces valuable crops of cotton and tobacco. It is the most fertile region of Asia Minor, which readily responds to the attention of the cultivators. It has been said appositely of another neighbouring country that it is only necessary to tickle the ground with a hoe for it to laugh with a harvest, and this is true in almost equal measure of the Smyrna district. The changes and chances of Near Eastern politics have laid a heavy hand, however, on its productivity, and it is a tribute at once to the inhabitants and to the nature of the soil that, despite all that has happened since 1914, the region has largely been able to recover its peace-time activity.

Besides sultanas and figs a variety of other fruits are grown in the Smyrna district and its hinterland, notably, red and black raisins, almonds, walnuts, etc., and the export trade in fruit alone, through the port of Smyrna, amounts to between seventy and eighty thousand tons a year, with a value of over two and a half million pounds. Dried fruit is responsible for considerably more than half of the total exports.

Qualities of the Smyrna Sultana.

The Turkish sultana is the best known of all raisins, and enjoys the highest reputation on the world markets. It is the product of a small variety of the yellow grape which has been cultivated for many centuries exclusively in the Smyrna region. A seedless fruit, the Smyrna sultana is unsurpassed for its delicacy of flavour and sweetness. At the beginning of the last century the vine was cultivated mainly on the seaboard districts of Karaburun, Vurla, Chesmé, and Phoea. The vineyards were on sloping ground rising to a few hundred feet above the sea—ground which the fruit has shown to be particularly suitable for its cultivation, and it is of interest to point out that up to the present time the finest fruit has come from this area. In the course of time vineyards were planted in other parts of the province, notably in the Nymphaean Valley and the plains of Magnesia, regions also specially favourable for the vine. In other localities such as Menemen, Kassaba, Salihli, and Akhisar the cultivation of the vine was undertaken, but the fruit from these regions is, on the whole, below the standard.

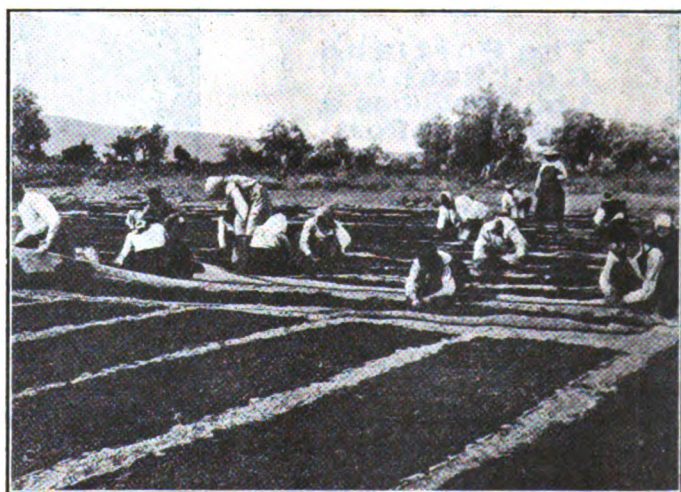
Naturally, the vineyards demand ceaseless attention. The vines are pruned and trimmed in February and March, and subsequently the soil is ploughed and must be kept free from all growths. Sulphur is sprinkled on the vines as the leaves develop and the fruit appears, and the vines also have to be sprayed with a sulphate of copper solution, in the event of wet weather, to guard against blight and mildew. About the end of July the grapes are nearing their maturity, and the beautiful golden bunches when cut are dipped in a solution of boiling water, potash, and pure olive oil; and are then spread on sheets of cardboard in the drying sheds for five or six days to be thoroughly dried in the hot sun. The raisins are then collected into heaps, and when the stalks

have been removed the fruit is ready for the market. The drying period extends from the end of July to the middle of October, and for the success of the crop it is essential that the weather conditions during that period should be good. This year this has unfortunately not been the case, and, as recorded later on, the current crop of sultanas has been seriously affected.

SULTANA YIELDS, 1903—1928.

	Tons.		Tons.
1903 ...	65,000	1916 ...	33,000
1904 ...	34,000	1917 ...	27,000
1905 ...	54,000	1918 ...	25,000
1906 ...	27,000	1919 ...	29,000
1907 ...	42,000	1920 ...	16,000
1908 ...	55,000	1921 ...	31,500
1909 ...	52,000	1922 ...	38,000
1910 ...	42,000	1923 ...	34,000
1911 ...	22,000	1924 ...	45,000
1912 ...	53,000	1925 ...	29,500
1913 ...	59,000	1926 ...	33,000
1914 ...	37,000	1927 ...	49,000
1915 ...	44,000	1928 ...	52,000

It will be seen that in this period the yields have varied very greatly, ranging from the high level of 65,000 tons reached in 1903 to 16,000 tons in 1920. For the period 1903-1913 the annual average yield was about 46,000 tons, but, as was to be expected, the average for the period 1914-1924 shows a very considerable falling off, the figures being 37,700 tons. From 1925 onwards the output shows a steady improvement, but this season will mark a further time in all branches of agriculture, and in view of the setback, for, while the estimated yield was 65-70,000 tons, weather conditions during the drying period have been such as to reduce the production to about 50,000 tons, of which over one-third consists of rain-damaged fruit. The weather during the whole of September is said to



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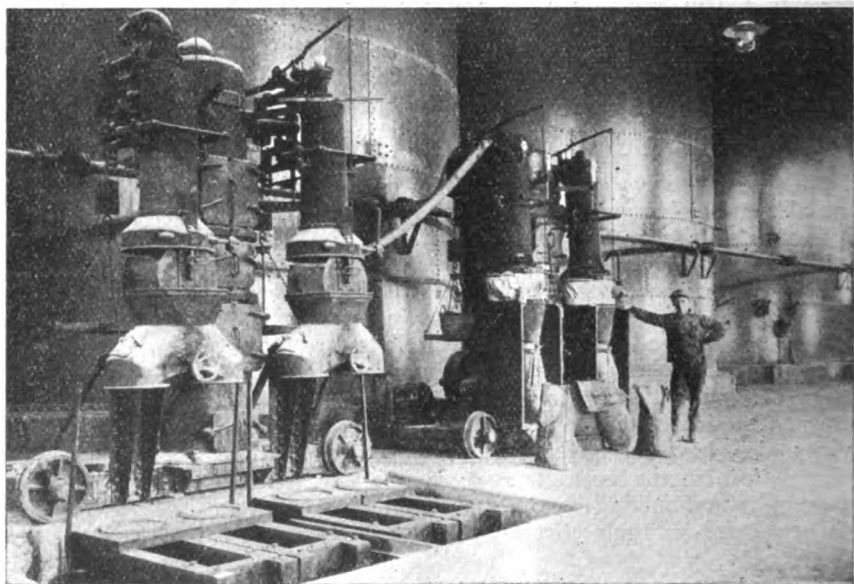
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Filling Sacks at Haifa Factory.

have been worse than any within memory. This is one of the dispensations which have to be faced from time to time. Efforts the farmers have been making in recent years, it may be taken for granted that, except in years of further disastrous experiences, increasing annual yields of sultanas may be anticipated.

Government Assistance to Industry.

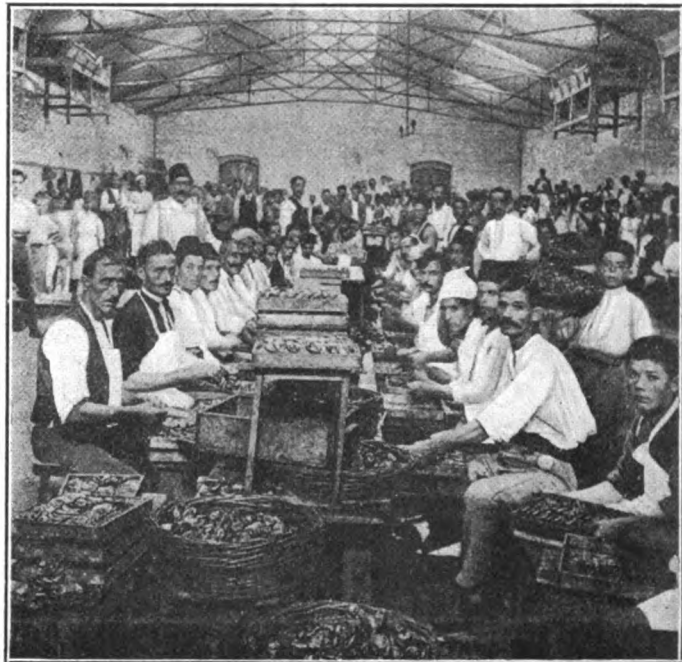
The Turkish Government is unsparing in its efforts to help and educate the farmers and to encourage the planting of new vineyards; the agricultural banks are annually increasing their financial assistance, and small co-operative societies are being established in all districts to facilitate the cultivation, transport, and marketing of the produce. As regards the packing of sultanas and figs, in connection with which some criticisms were forthcoming a few years ago, which were speedily shown to be unfounded, the methods are improving year by year, and the Government, Municipal, and Health Authorities have introduced a series of regulations, and are exercising a severe control over all packing establishments. All labourers have to be medically examined and given a certificate before they can be employed in any establishment, while medical and sanitary inspectors are attached to every packing house throughout the season, and no effort is spared to make certain that the fruit will be manipulated under the most sanitary methods.

Smyrna Figs.

The figs of the Smyrna district are as famous as the sultanas, and the mention of the district instinctively brings both to mind. Like the sultana vine, the fig tree is indigenous to Asia Minor, and is found in all countries on the Mediterranean sea-board. It is in Anatolia, however, that the finest qualities are found, and whether it be the peculiarity of the soil or climate that gives Turkey her advantage in this respect, the fact remains that so far no other country has succeeded in producing figs of the quality of those grown in the Smyrna district. The fig-growing area is approximately the same as the vineyard area, the most famous region for figs being the Meander Valley. The fruit grown in this neighbourhood is thin-skinned, is very sweet and of an aromatic flavour. Other fruit regions are found along the banks of the Cayster River, and in the districts of Odemish and Ephesus, but the fruit of these orchards is not of the wonderful quality of those of the Meander Valley.

As in the case of the vineyards the fig trees are the object of the most careful attention. Early in the year

when the figs ripen, and the fruit is left in the sun to be thoroughly cured. It is then sorted into various grades, packed in sacks, and sent to Smyrna to the packing



THE PACKING OF FIGS IN BOXES.

houses. The yields of figs from 1908 to 1928 are as follows:—

	Tons.		Tons.
1908 ...	23,000	1918 ...	18,000
1909 ...	22,000	1919 ...	21,000
1910 ...	28,000	1920 ...	22,600
1911 ...	21,000	1921 ...	19,000
1912 ...	19,800	1922 ...	22,000
1913 ...	20,900	1923 ...	24,500
1914 ...	22,000	1924 ...	23,000
1915 ...	17,000	1925 ...	19,000
1916 ...	18,000	1926 ...	27,000
1917 ...	15,000	1927 ...	30,000
		1928 ...	32,000

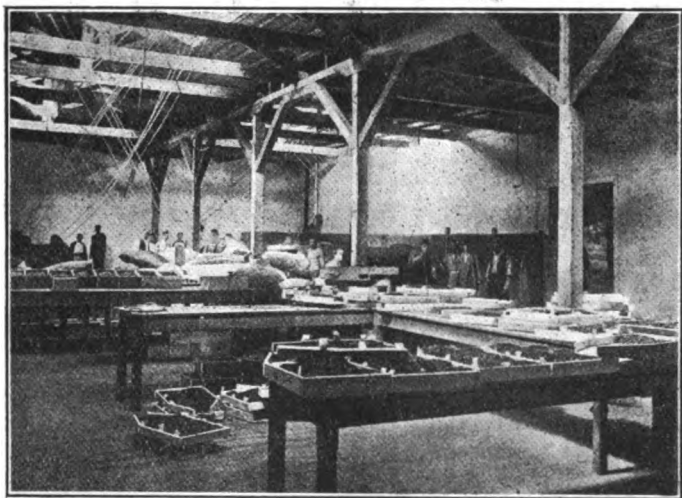
As these figures indicate, the production of figs is now on the upgrade, but, as in the case of sultanas, this season's crop will show a marked falling off owing to the terrible weather conditions. It is estimated, indeed, that 50 per cent. of the fruit is so badly damaged that it is unfit for packing and export.

As pointed out above, the greatest care is taken in manipulating and packing the fruit, and the methods of packing are constantly being improved. Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., the well-known firm of fruit packers, imported two years ago a large and vacuuming plant capable of dealing with 120 tons of fruit daily, and report that they have found the vacuuming of figs an indispensable operation for maintaining the quality of the fruit.

SUDAN GUM.

The true Gum Arabic of European commerce comes from *Acacia Senegal*, Willd., a low tree with grey bark and flexuose branches. Two or three grades of this gum are recognised:—1. Gum Senegal, from the French African Colony; 2. Kordofan or Turkish Gum, with its various sub-divisions; and 3. Inferior qualities, known to the trade as Suakin Gum, Sennar, Blue Nile, Barbary or Morocco and Mogador Gum. These latter are derived mainly from *Acacia Arabica*.

Kordofan Gum, known in East Central Africa by the name of *hashab*, comes from the mountainous tracts of Kordofan, almost in the same latitude as Senegal. It



SAMPLES OF SULTANAS IN ONE OF THE PACKING STORES OF MESSRS. C. J. GIRAUD AND CO. AT SMYRNA.

the land is furrowed, and trenches are dug round the trees. The young fruit is fertilised by the Capri or wild fig, strings of which are hung in the orchards in May, and on the success of this process the outcome of the harvest is very largely dependent. August is the month

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occurs in round lumps, often as large as a walnut, or in irregular broken pieces, pure white, very much fissured, especially on the surface. It is this gum that is most frequently used for medicinal purposes. The Kordofan trade is centred on El Obeid, the gum being brought to the market there from varying distances, which may range up to eighty miles. The gathering of the gum crop usually begins about a month after the rains have ceased, that is, in September, but the "season" of major activity is from February to April, when there may be almost daily arrivals at El Obeid. The trade is supervised by the Sudan Government, only licensed brokers being allowed to buy gum in the open market, and no purchases may be made until the gum has been brought into the market. The average total Hashab crop during the years 1923 to 1928 was about 20,000 tons, the amount reported for the first nine months of the current year being 15,568 tons.

Bombay, it may be mentioned, was at one time the centre of distribution for gum arabic imported from the Sudan. The trade, however, now reaches Europe direct. The gum known in Indian commerce as *Tragacanth* comes from *Astragalus Heratensis*, Bunge, a Persian shrub, common in the stony soil of the Harirud Valley and Khorasan, at an altitude of 3,000 feet (Watts' "The Commercial Products of India"). It is used in India, Persia and Turkestan mainly in the stiffening, glazing and facing of local fabrics. Gum *Tragacanth* is also the chief species emanating from Asia Minor.

Gum arabic, if boiled with dilute sulphuric acid, is converted into sugar galactose, and in moderately strong nitric acid is changed into saccharic, tartaric and oxalic acids. The finer qualities serve as an emollient or demulcent in medicines, and are used in the manufacture of confectionery. Gum figures also in calico-printing and in all other industries where a mucilage is required. The inferior qualities are used for the purposes of an adhesive paste, and as an ingredient in whitewash and mortars and in paints used for wall distemping.

IRAQ DATES.

Iraq and Palestine are alike in their dependence on a fruit for the staple article of their export trades. Without the Jaffa orange the trade of Palestine would still be relatively insignificant, while the importance of the date to Iraq may be gauged from the fact that it represents on an average 30 per cent. of the value of the total exports. Naturally, dependence on one item has its limitations, for neither the orange nor the date can bring absolute prosperity to the respective countries, but in each case there are other products which promise ultimately to take the leading place in the export trade.

As happens with all similar crops, the value of the date harvest has varied considerably from year to year. For 1926-27 the value of the exports was Rs.16,845,000 out of a total export trade of Rs.46,089,000; for 1927-28, Rs.18,493,000 out of Rs.61,541,000; and for 1928-29 Rs.16,153,000 out of Rs.55,741,000. The date crop of 1927 was particularly good, but that of 1928 fell below the average owing to adverse weather conditions. The present year's crop, however, is reported to be up to the level of that of 1927. The chief markets for Iraq dates are provided by the United Kingdom, India, the United States, Arabia, and Persia.

Climatic conditions in Iraq are very favourable for the cultivation of the date palm, but the country cannot be said to have much advantage in this respect over the numerous other regions which grow date palms, and in at least one case the yield of dates is many times higher per date palm than it is in Iraq, while the quality is also considered to be superior. The remedy for this is in the

hands of the Iraqis, who need to adopt far more scientific methods to keep up with their competitors in the production of this fruit. Date palms can be grown anywhere in Iraq provided they can be watered and tended. Consequently every town in Iraq has its belt of date palms, but the most important date-growing region is along the Shatt-ul-Arab from the Persian Gulf to Qurna, and in this area the date groves in Iraq territory are estimated to extend over about 140,000 acres. Next to this prolific region comes Baghdad where there are some twenty miles of date gardens beside the Tigris. Altogether it is thought that there are about 30,000,000 date palms in the country.

Curiously enough, the very finest dates do not come from the Gulf region or from Baghdad, but from Mendali and Badra, some way to the east and north-east of Baghdad. Naturally, in view of the outstanding importance of the crop, the date gardens, as a whole, receive considerable care, but, as already indicated, it is evident from developments in other countries that much more might be done in this respect. It is usual in the Shatt-ul-Arab region to turn a quarter of the ground each year to a depth of four feet, while the remainder of the land is lightly gone over. The date palm regions require plenty of water, which explains the extent of the date gardens in that region where irrigation presents no difficulty. In other parts where the normal river flow is not available for cultivation, water has to be brought to the land either from the river or from wells.

The normal harvest time for dates is in September. There are four stages in the ripening process, known respectively as "chimri," "khalal," "ratab," and "tamar." Some dates are fit for consumption at the second stage, and these are much in favour with the Arabs, while all dates are edible at the third stage. The "tamar" stage marks the maturity of the crop, and it is these dates which are exported to Great Britain and other countries to serve as an addition to the Christmas delights of the table. As soon as the fruit has been removed from the trees these are severely pruned in preparation for the next season's crop.

There are more than 130 varieties of dates in Iraq, the principal of which are "Sayers," "Halawi," "Khahrawi," and "Zahidi." Of these four varieties it is curious to note that that which gives the biggest yield provides the poorest dates. The yield of this variety, the "Zahidi" is 126 lb. per date palm as against 44 lb. for "Halawi," 37 lb. for "Sayers," and 30 lb. for "Khadhrawi." Dates of the best varieties are picked singly, while the others are cut in bunches.

Supervision of the Trade.

Since the inauguration of the Iraq Health Service, much has been done to improve the conditions of the date-exporting industry, especially with reference to packing. Some sanitary supervision has been exercised ever since the British Occupation, but in 1927 a Date Inspection Department was instituted, to work under the Health Officer at Basrah. Date packing stations are registered and licensed, medical inspection of packers, their families and dwelling places is carried out, the storage of the fruit before and after packing is regulated, and the use of clean boxes, to be fastened down on the day of packing, is insisted on. As a certificate of freedom from infection is exacted by most of the countries to which dates are exported, the withholding of such a certificate is sufficient penalty for breach of the Department's rules.

The Egyptian Government having expressed some fears as to the possibility of cholera germs being exported with the dates in times of epidemic, a very interesting experiment was carried out in 1928 by the Iraq Health Service. A number of dates, ready packed for export, were inoculated with living cholera germs, and these were examined at Suez by the Egyptian Public Health Department. No living cholera germs were discovered. It is supposed that the large element of sugar in dates acts as a safeguard.

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Palestine's Economic Position

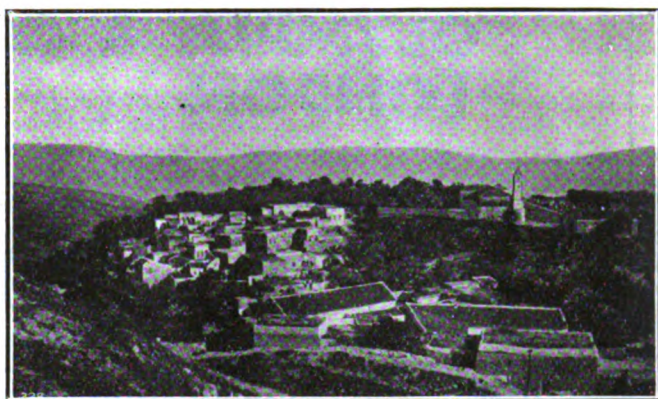
This has been an unfortunate year for Palestine, particularly so when it is borne in mind that the country was beginning to recover from the economic depression, which had made its influence so strongly marked on the emigration statistics. Last year the harvest in Palestine was poor, as was the case in so many other parts of the Near East, with the consequence that the depression was intensified. The one thing needed to bring about an improvement in the position was a really good harvest this year, and, as it happened, the past harvest was plentiful, and so the outlook in August was for the development of a much more prosperous period. Then followed the unfortunate disturbances which again altered the situation for the worse. It would, however, be a great mistake to attribute too great importance to the interruption in trade and commerce which naturally ensued. The worst effect was the blow to confidence, but even that was not very lasting as can be illustrated from the progress of the building industry. There was a falling off in activity for about a month, but subsequently there was a resumption of building, and it is expected that the production of cement by the Portland Cement Co. (Nesher) Ltd. (most of which is utilised in the country) will amount to about 70,000 tons this year as against 60,000 tons last year. Outside Palestine this company finds its chief market in Syria, but the local demand is such that the need for finding extensive outlets abroad may be said not to have arisen yet. The company is making innovations and improvements with a view to a greatly increased production in 1930. The building activity which now appears to be in evidence suggests that confidence is rapidly being restored, and, if only the political situation remains tranquil, the conditions favour substantial economic progress. A year ago the country's great stand-by, the orange crop, fell considerably below expectations, and the smaller exports of oranges, as well as of other crops, made a marked impression on the export trade. The figures for the total exports of 1928 were £P1,864,800 as against £P2,280,810 for 1927, those for Palestine produce alone being £P1,487,207 as against £P1,899,259. Of this decrease oranges were responsible for £P189,126, the exports totalling 2,202,435 cases as against 2,658,249 cases. For the whole of the 1928-29 season the exports totalled 1,580,544 cases against 1,996,195 for 1927-28 and 2,024,730 cases for 1926-27. This year the orange crop is good, and it is expected that the exports will be in excess of two million cases. It is known that the United Kingdom will be importing about 300,000 more cases than last year, while the German market for oranges is developing in a remarkable manner, sales of 300,000 cases having already been made for that destination, as against a total of 190,857 cases for the previous season. This development of the European market for oranges will be good hearing for the Palestine growers, for the constant extension of the area under orange groves, which will soon be making its influence felt on the production figures in a marked extent, calls for a corresponding extension of outlets if the industry is to remain a remunerative one.

The Orange Industry.

The principal economic development since the War has been the expansion of the area under orange groves. The dangers involved in an undue dependence on one commodity are only too obvious, as the history of several countries shows, but Palestine had no other course to adopt than to concentrate on orange production pending the development of other sources of national wealth, and reliance on a commodity such as the Jaffa orange does

not carry with it quite the same degree of risk that some other products of the soil do. For one thing the crop may be affected as in the 1928-29 season by climatic conditions, but even so the yield is very good and a leading rôle is still played in the export trade. In the case of other commodities, such as maize, there may be an entire cessation of exports, a development unimaginable except in the case of some far-reaching calamity as regards the Jaffa orange. Then Palestine is happy in the comparative absence of competition. Cyprus is the only other region producing the Jaffa orange, and the expanding demand for the fruit on the world markets is such that neither Palestine nor Cyprus need have any immediate anxiety as to the prospects of disposing of the annual crop.

The present area under orange groves is estimated to be between 80,000 and 90,000 dunums. The rate of increase since 1922 has been very remarkable. At the close of that year the area was no more than 32,000 dunums, at the beginning of 1924 it was 34,000 dunums, while at the end of 1926 it amounted to 42,000 dunums, or approximately 10,000 acres. A further 18,000 dunums were added in 1927, while 1928 saw the area brought up



SAFED : A CENTRE OF JEWISH AGRICULTURAL COLONIES.

to 70,000 dunums, of which roughly 30,000 dunums represented Jewish plantations. In estimating the production of oranges in the next few years it has to be borne in mind that there has not been time for the large increase in the area to have a pronounced effect on the yield. From the season of 1930-31 onwards a large increase in the output is to be expected, and this will become more pronounced over a long period of years. For the new Jewish groves alone the increase in production from 1930 to 1940 is put at over 1,400,000 cases. Taking into account the expansion that may be looked for from non-Jewish groves it is obvious that the oranges available for export will soon be double the present total. The area available for orange cultivation is estimated at 280,000 dunums, so that between 190,000 and 200,000 dunums remain on which oranges can be grown. As has already been pointed out the market for Jaffa oranges is expanding, but while for the next few years there may be no difficulty in disposing of the crop it is obvious that an unlimited expansion of the industry will be fraught with very real dangers. There must come a time when the production of oranges reaches a limit beyond which it will not be safe to go. But that time is not in the near future, and when the orange groves of Palestine are yielding the maximum that can be safely obtained the country will probably be in the happy possession of other important industries which will have broadened the basis of her national economy.

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or
The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce,
Birmingham, England.

Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

A Products Supplement.

With this issue we publish an Illustrated Supplement dealing with some of the outstanding products of the Near and Middle East. The choice of subjects may be styled arbitrary, in so far as it does not claim to be exhaustive; but the products chosen have in each case an important bearing on the national economy of the country concerned, and the interest in them is more or less world-wide.

Turkish Exchange Weakness.

For some time considerable weakness has been shown by the Turkish exchange, and last week there was a further sharp depreciation, the rate at the time of writing being 1.065 as compared with 1.042½ a week ago. Taking into consideration the factors which are mainly responsible, it is evident that grounds exist for the view that the process may continue some way further, as it is difficult to see what the Turkish Government can do in the existing circumstances to give adequate support to the exchange. The principal cause of the exchange weakness has been the failure for two years in succession of the harvest, with a consequent falling off of exports and an increase in imports, as it was found necessary to supplement the home grain resources. The comparative failure of the sultana and fig crops this year owing to the unprecedented climatic conditions has been a particularly serious blow, for, as shown in an article in our Supplement this week, these commodities have become very important since the War. Another factor, transient in its effect, it is true, but all the same very important, has been the great increase in imports to avoid the operation of the new Customs Tariff. Lastly, we have Turkey's obligations under the Debt agreement which increase the demand for sterling, and as a result of these factors together, we have the present exchange weakness.

P. and O. Results.

In view of the difficult shipping conditions the satisfactory results again reported by the P. and O. Company pay a great tribute to the strength of this concern and show what may be expected when a real revival of trade takes place. Including the amount brought forward, the balance for the year ended September 30 last amounts to £943,967 as compared with £923,029 for the previous year and £918,001 for the year ended September 30, 1927. It is proposed to maintain the dividend at 12 per cent., tax free, the amount required for this being £551,102 as against £514,435 on the previous occasion. The report briefly reviews the company's operations, and it is stated that the freight and passenger earnings have shown an increase during the past year, while there has been a considerable reduction in expenditure.

Southern Punjab Railway.

The Southern Punjab Railway is being acquired as from the end of the present year by the Secretary of State for India, and last week the Board of Directors issued a statement regarding the purchase. Under the terms of the contracts the money is payable in sterling within four months from the date of the termination of the contracts, namely on or before April 30, 1930, together with interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on amounts outstanding after December 31, 1929. The Secretary of State has now intimated that he will pay £1,000,000 on December 31, a further £2,300,000 on March 31, and the balance

on April 3. This will enable the Board to provide for the repayment of the whole of the Debenture capital amounting to £1,000,000 maturing on December 31, without having recourse to a temporary loan, and to make arrangements for the repayment of the £2,300,000 4 per cent. Preference stock at par on or about March 31, and for a first distribution in respect of the Ordinary stock on or about April 30. With regard to the Preference stock, the Board propose to pay a full six months' dividend for the period October 1 to March 31. With regard to the Ordinary stock it will not be possible to make a precise estimate of the amount of the capital assets that will be available for distribution until all outstanding assets have been realised and all necessary adjustments made. Assuming, however, that the full premium on the Sutlej Valley Railway is earned, as there is every reason to expect will be the case, the Board, however, hope that the amount available will be sufficient to allow of a total distribution of about £210 per cent., of which about £195 per cent. would be paid on or about April 30.

The Balkan Harvests.

More detailed figures are now available for this season's crops in the Balkan countries, and it is possible to gauge more accurately the difference that the larger crops are likely to make to economic conditions in that part of the Near East. Until a comparatively late period of the season there was reason to believe that bumper crops would prevail generally, but adverse weather conditions intervened and affected the crops to a considerable extent, but even so, most of the crops are better than those of the previous year, while the production of maize is far in advance of the 1928 figures. Yugoslavia's production (in thousands of bushels) is: for wheat, 96,949 as against 103,294; rye, 8,847 as against 7,527; and oats, 25,114 as against 25,236; while it is estimated that the yield of maize will be nearly up to the record of 148 million bushels obtained in 1924. The figures for Roumania are: for wheat, 92,113 as against 115,544; for rye, 13,067 as against 11,483; for barley, 117,170 as against 69,403; for oats, 92,483 as against 67,546; and for maize 251,330 as against 108,541. Bulgaria has not fared so well as Yugoslavia and Roumania, though in her case, too, maize shows a substantial increase. The figures are: for wheat, 37,432 as against 50,691; rye, 8,574 as against 9,220; barley, 9,296 as against 15,744; oats, 9,314 as

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against 7,210; and maize, 29,881 as against 18,293. As I have already pointed out, the low prices ruling for cereals on the world's markets will not enable countries like Roumania and Yugoslavia to obtain all the benefit that they might reasonably expect to obtain from their crops this year, but it is certain that Roumania, in particular, will benefit appreciably from the harvest, and that the result will be a marked increase in the purchasing power of the peasant population.

COMMENTATOR.

THE DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows for the month ended November 30:—

There is nothing very inspiring to report with regard to November trading, there having been less than usual of the activity generally associated with this pre-holiday period.

When, however, one contemplates the disastrous state of affairs prevailing in other markets there is no need to look on the black side of the position, but rather to be thankful that it has been no worse. The world has been passing through a season of financial strain, in which enormous losses have been suffered, and though there may not appear to be any direct connexion between Wall Street speculations and declines in security values, nevertheless it must be recognised that these upheavals do affect the values of all commodities, and we can congratulate ourselves that our own particular market has felt it to so slight an extent. The restraining influence has been very marked, buyers showing no inclination to anticipate their requirements, but the fact that they are carrying little or no stock makes the outlook more favourable, once the disturbing factors are out of the way.

Currants.

Greek.—The period since our last report has passed with no material change in values, and only a moderate amount of business, no weight of fruit changing hands. Some pressure to effect sales of the lower grades was manifest, due to soft condition through insufficient drying, but holders of good to fine descriptions are disposed to await the renewal of demand, and for these, prices remain unaltered. Sales comprised Pyrgos, 38s. to 38s. 6d.; Amalias, 39s. to 40s.; Patras, 42s. to 43s.; Choice, up to 46s.; Gulf ordinary, 46s. to 52s.; fine shade dried, up to 56s.; Zante, 42s. to 43s.; Vostizza, 53s. to 58s.; fine, 60s. to 65s.; Smalls, 54s. to 57s. S.s. Gerano, Bactria, and Kavak arrived with further supplies. The pleasing feature of later arrivals has been the attractive appearance of Gulf, both as regards quality and condition. Quotations:—Pyrgos, 38s. to 38s. 6d.; Amalias and Patras, 39s. to 45s.; Zante, 42s. to 43s.; Gulf, 44s. to 56s.; Vostizza, 53s. to 65s.

Sultanas.

Smyrna.—An extremely quiet tone pervaded the market during the month, buyers finding it quite impossible to make progress or induce the country to operate, and practically no headway has been made with the small stock in first hands. Rain-damaged has been freely offered on a c.i.f. basis at declining values, but the disappointing out-turn of the bulk of parcels purchased to arrive has discouraged further commitments. Sales were:—Fair qualities, 40s. to 42s.; Good, 50s. to 58s.

Cretans.—Finest grades, 70s. to 75s.; lower grades, slow at 52s.

Greek.—Further supplies are to hand and business was done at: Ordinary, 37s. to 38s.; Fine, 74s. to 75s.

Figs.

Further arrivals per s.s. Manchurian, Roumelian, and Kavak met a good reception for best parcels, but some lots showed a certain

amount of unsoundness and necessitated a quick sale at reduced rates, which accounts for the big range in prices. Sales were:—Large boxes, 58s. to 82s. 6d.; small boxes, 75s. to 90; Locoums, 115s. to 122s. 6d.; Genuines, 34s. to 40s.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Asphalt.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of 6,800 metric tons of asphalt for the Tanzim Department, Cairo. February 3. (D.O.T.)

Bedsteads.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of iron bedsteads. December 28. (D.O.T.)

Water Mains.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and installation of a system of water mains for the town of Luxor. The principal materials required are 10,850 metres of steel tubes of various sizes from 80 m.m. to 300 m.m. internal diameter, together with specials, 58 sluice valves, 15 hydrants, 7 column hydrants, and 6 drinking fountains. January 7. (D.O.T.)

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery. The contract involves centrifugal well pump and direct coupled electric motor, together with piping and accessories. February 1. (D.O.T.)

Transmission Lines.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of high tension 3-phase overhead transmission lines in Northern Delta, consisting of a main line of about 165 kms. and branch lines of about 150 kms., including all necessary materials for the lines and all accessories. February 27.

Diesel Engines.—The Ministry of Public Works, Mechanical and Electrical Department, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two Diesel engines and accessories. January 4. (D.O.T.)

Direction Indicators.—The British Commercial Secretary at Cairo (Mr. R. M. A. Turner, O.B.E.) has reported a possible opening for the sale of direction indicators for motor buses and taxicabs in Egypt. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Glasgow, December 17; Manchester, December 24; Birkenhead, December 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Markhor for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 7); s.s. Mahout for Calcutta (Glasgow, December 5; Birkenhead, December 14).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Shropshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 11).

British India Line.—S.s. Masula for Bombay (London, December 14); s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Middlesbrough, December 7; London, December 14).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bothnia for Gibraltar, Malta, Corfu, Patras, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Glasgow, December 13; Swansea, December 13; Liverpool, December 14); s.s. Bantria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Algiers, Oran, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, January 18; Swansea, January 21).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 7); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 21).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Burdwan for Calcutta (London, December 20); s.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, December 20).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 10); s.s. Korean Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus ports (London, December 14).

Ellerman and Papavanni Lines.—S.s. Lisbon for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 7); s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, December 7; Swansea, December 12); s.s. Serbino for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 12); s.s. Algerian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, December 28; Swansea*, December 28); A steamer for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Glasgow, December 30). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbarv) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS, UPPER DECK CABINS.

MODERATE FARES.

RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*†CASTALIA ... Dec. 10	*†ELYSIA ... Feb. 4
‡BRITANNIA ... Jan. 10	‡TUSCANIA ... Feb. 11
‡ Leave Marseilles January 18 and February 17.	

*First class passengers only. †Special low fares. ‡Calls Port Sudan.
† First and Third class passengers.

T.S.S. TUSCANIA 17,000 tons leaves LIVERPOOL Feb. 11. MARSEILLES Feb. 17. Carrying FIRST Class and THIRD Cabin passengers.

ANCHOR LINE,

48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, December 3.

The Stock Exchange has passed a more quiet week, but the general tone has been disappointing. There was further liquidation in the more speculative markets, and although the volume of selling was much smaller than in recent weeks, there appeared to be less resisting power. Gilt-edged stocks were irregular at first, but were better towards the end of the week, on a slight improvement in the monetary situation and an addition to the Bank of England's stock of gold. A fairly good set of traffic returns failed to stimulate the Home railway market. In the industrial market the Horne group of companies was flat on the announcement of Mr. Horne's bankruptcy, while the international group, as already mentioned, suffered from liquidation. Oil shares reacted after last week's advance, and a cold reception was given to the proposed exchange of Anglo-American Oil for Standard Oil preferred stock.

The Horne Group.

The group of companies with which Mr. Henry S. Horne, who this week filed a petition in bankruptcy, was connected have for some time been under a cloud, and rumours of impending trouble had for several weeks been current in the City. The general investing public, too, watched with anxiety shares such as the Associated Anglo-Atlantic, quoted at 49s. 6d. earlier in the year, fall to 3s., and Carmelite Trust, which in six months fell from 22s. to 2s. 3d. The group consists of three sections: the Red Triangle cement and brick manufacturing companies, now amalgamated into the Allied Cement Company; the finance or trust companies, British Cement Products, Associated Anglo-Atlantic, and Carmelite Trust, and finally, the newspaper business of Anglo-Foreign Newspapers. The finance companies to a greater or lesser degree are concerned with newspapers, pulp, and cement. There is no doubt that very sound technical skill has been put into the trading and manufacturing side of the business, and it is chiefly the finance section that is in difficulty. Investors may take this as a helpful guide in assessing the prospects of the group.

Tin Restriction.

The task of bringing order and method into the world's tin production, which was started in earnest a few months

ago, when the Tin Producers' Association was formed, is being carried on with vigour. At a recent general meeting of this organisation, which numbers 160 companies among its members, certain resolutions in the direction of restriction were adopted. The key position in the industry is the smelters, and it is proposed that the output from the smelting works should be limited by agreement and below the present capacity. The producers contend that the system of competing companies is antiquated and that the producing groups should now act together. These are bold suggestions in a problem made difficult because of the various countries concerned. But at a time when plans for replacing competition by international agreement are making progress in more complicated industries, such as coal, iron, and steel, the task of the Tin Association, although difficult, should not be considered impossible. That restriction is desirable is admitted in many quarters. In the Federated Malay States, for example, new mining licences are not being issued; and consumers, too, view with approval any reasonable attempt to stabilise prices. Industrial rationalisation on this scale is accomplished neither quickly nor easily and cannot be successful, as the Rubber Restriction failure showed, unless it is complete. A recovery in the price of the mineral and the corresponding hardening of tin shares is, therefore, not to be expected in the immediate future, however successful the Tin Producers' schemes may ultimately be.

Satisfactory Industrial Reports.

Several well-established industrial firms have recently declared satisfactory dividends, showing, incidentally, how Stock Exchange share quotations can occasionally lose touch with values properly corresponding to earning capacity. Tate and Lyle, the sugar refiners, afford an example of this. The net profit just declared, for the year ended September 30, amounts to £586,582, as against £464,852 for the previous period. This was arrived at after providing £150,000 to general reserves, £50,000 to depreciation account, the same as last year, and £100,000 against £60,000 last year to investment reserve. The ordinary shares received an interim dividend of 4 per cent., which, with a final dividend of 11 per cent., makes 15 per cent. for the year, against 12 per cent. last year. In a different field of industry a satisfactory report has recently been issued by S. Smith and Sons, motor accessory manufacturers. Trading profits for the year ended August 3 at £164,793 are nearly £4,000 more than last year. The preferred ordinary shares are to receive a dividend of 17 per cent. and the deferred ordinary 37½ per cent., being the same as last year, but on an increased capital. While the progress over last year is perhaps not as great as might have been hoped, it is none the less indicative of a sound financial position, which is also borne out by the balance-sheet. The preferred ordinary shares of this company can be bought to yield about £9 per cent. The yield on Tate and Lyle ordinary is approximately £7 8s. per cent.

The Egyptian State Railways have given a contract for 15,000 tons flat-bottomed rails to David Colville and Sons, Glasgow.

The offices of the P. and O. Company's main and branch lines at present established at the Royal Albert Docks will be closed at the end of this year and new combined offices opened at the King George V. Dock, Sheds Nos. 2 and 4, on January 1 next. The general increase in size of the vessels of the P. and O. fleet since the War necessitates the more frequent use of King George V. Dock, which is capable of taking the largest liners using the port of London.

Ruston-Bucyrus has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £800,000 in £1 shares (400,000 "B" ordinary and 400,000 "R" ordinary). The objects are to acquire (a) that part of the undertaking of Ruston and Hornsby devoted to the manufacture and sale of excavators, and (b) the business carried on by Bucyrus-Erie Company in certain parts of the world, and to manufacture and deal in machinery of all kinds. The first directors are: W. W. Coleman, Colonel P. D. Ionides, R. W. Newberry, and Sir Archibald J. C. Ross, K.B.E., deemed to have been appointed by the "B" ordinary shareholders, and Colonel J. S. Ruston, G. R. Sharples, J. H. W. Pawlyn, and V. W. Bone, deemed to have been appointed by the "R" ordinary shareholders. The chairman of the Board will be elected by the "B" directors.

INDIAN AFRICAN SERVICE

Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

RANGOON, CALCUTTA, and COLOMBO
TO BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON
PORT ELIZABETH, MOSSEL BAY, and CAPE TOWN.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.

Wireless Telegraphy.

ORIENTAL AFRICAN SERVICE

Passenger and Freight Service from

HONG KONG, BANGKOK, SINGAPORE & MAURITIUS
TO SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.

Wireless Telegraphy.

Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained
 from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Shrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.

MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Hattenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £610,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:— Chief Office in Persia—TEHERAN.
Abadan Bushire Kerman Pehlevi
Ahwas Dizful Kermanshah Resht
Barfrash Duzdab Masjed-Suleiman Shiraz
Birjand Hamadan Meshed Sultanabad
Bander Abbas Isfahan Mohammerah Tabriz
Burujird Kazvin Nasratabad (Seistan) Yazd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):— Bagdad, Basra, Kirkuk.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

Head Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN.

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £1,000,000
Capital Paid up - - - £600,000
Reserve Fund - - - £250,000
Total Assets - - - £6,028,832

HEAD OFFICE:

25-31, MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

GREECE.

Central Office, Athens. 28 Branches and Agencies.

EGYPT.

Central Office, Alexandria. 10 Branches and Agencies.

CYPRUS.

Central Office, Nicosia. 4 Branches and Agencies.

Every form of International Banking Service.

THE BRITISH BANK FOR THE NEAR EAST

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

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LONDON, E.C.4.

Branch—11, CALEA VICTORIEI BUCAREST.

Directors:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
C. De CERJAT, Esq.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.
Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO

A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£4,000,000	Paid-up Capital	£2,000,000
Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£3,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden	Calcutta	Columbo	Lahore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe	Uganda.
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticoria	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

Head Office — SOFIA — Founded in 1865

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, 522,000,000 leva

97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

Steam Treatments.

The subject of high temperature work has come to the front lately, and in connexion with many industries the point is being raised as to whether it would be advantageous to raise either the temperature or pressures of certain steam treatments or to carry out certain operation at higher heats. Naturally the higher temperatures used in the treatments of metals are the results of careful research work and, incidentally, they require special apparatus for their measurement. One of the most interesting forms of this is based on the fact that when a junction of two dissimilar metals is heated and current of electricity is generated, the strength of it varies with the temperature, in direct ratio.

The earliest form of this metal thermometer was designed nearly a hundred years ago, the metals used being platinum and iridium. It was found at an early date that special electrical instruments should be used with such a couple in order that accurate results should be obtained. The first really satisfactory heat measuring device of the kind was composed of platinum and an alloy of platinum and iridium, but before long it was found that a more satisfactory alloy for the second metallic element was a mixture of platinum and rhodium. This was more stable and reliable at temperatures of above 1,000 degrees Cent. This alloy is still regarded by many engineers as being the best that can be used, although there are in use many thermo-couples composed of other metal alloys. The high cost of platinum and rhodium alloy has driven those who manufacture such instruments for commercial use to seek for cheaper metals or alloys which will give almost as good results in practice, and consequently a good deal of research work has been done in connexion with junctions of various grades of iron and nickel, nickel and copper, iron and constantan and copper and constantan; most, if not all of which cannot be used with certainty on temperatures of higher than 800 degrees Cent. Nickel and constantan also make a good element for comparatively low temperature use.

For furnace work it is necessary to protect these couples from the gases present in the furnace or flues, and so they are built into insulating sleeves, generally of porcelain, with an outer protective sleeve of steel. Steel sheaths cannot be used, however, for temperatures higher than 1,100 degrees Cent., and where these are likely to be met with, outer sheaths of fireclay are used.

Naturally, variations in the temperature of the cold junction of such a couple would effect the current obtained through the heating of the hot junction, and compensation for this has to be incorporated in the design of the instrument by which its temperature is kept constant. Where work of a high degree of accuracy is required, even such small variations of temperature as may take place near the registering instrument have to be taken into account.

Sewage Work.

Information is just to hand of a case—not in this country—where a piece of gross carelessness, coupled with ignorance on the part of the superintendent of a sewage disposal plant, endangered the lives of an entire community. At the place in question, the local water-works engineer was surprised to be rung up by a local analyst, who said that he had just been carrying out some work in which he had used some town water, and had found that it was badly contaminated with sewage! As the source of water supply was far removed from any sewage contamination, and there was no possibility of sewage getting into either the purification reservoirs or filters, the matter was gone into thoroughly and it was

found that the whole trouble was at the sewage works. There two powerful pumps were in use for lifting the sewage from the town sewerage system to the treatment plant some distance away, and, in order to ensure easy priming of these pumps, the local manager had taken two pipes from the town water supply into the pump lifts, with the result that as the pumps worked, so they drove, at each stroke, a small quantity of sewage into the town mains, against the local water pressure. Another instance of gross carelessness in connexion with water supply also came to light, by accident, in a town some thousands of miles away from here. A message was received at the water engineer's office from the leading restaurant in town to say that there must be something wrong with the water, as for some time past it had been turning the silver black. As the presence of sulphur, which would have that effect, was impossible, the presence of chlorine was suspected and analyses of the water showed that it contained appreciable traces of the gas. Whether something dawned on the engineer then, or whether it was simply a fluke, we cannot be sure, but he made a test of the water supply at a factory close to the restaurant and found it perfectly free from chlorine, which let the cat out of the bag! The town, being one of these 100 per cent. efficiency towns, where nothing was wasted, made a point of supplying low grade water for factory use. Someone, in connecting up the factory and the nearby restaurant to the mains had coupled up the factory to the pure water supply and was running the waste water from the public baths into the restaurant to be used for cooking and drinking purposes. It is pleasant to reflect that owing to our common sense errors of that kind could not possibly occur in this country.

Miscellaneous.

I was glad to note that Mr. H. L. Kenward, sales manager of the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., has been elected president of the Institute of the Motor Trade for the current year. Sir Herbert Austin, Sir Edward Manville, Mr. F. S. Bennett, Earl Howe, Mr. Geo. Lucas and Sir George Beharrel have been elected vice-presidents.

Considerable criticism is being directed in many quarters against several of the automatic road signalling devices in use, the chief contention being that their use tends to accentuate rather than to reduce traffic congestion. Some of the more elaborate and higher-priced apparatus, however, seem to be free from all or many of the drawbacks that are being pointed out as existing in the cheaper types.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.08½—.09
Athens	Draehms to £ ...	375	375½
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.38½
Bombay	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.12½
Brussels	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—15/16
Bucharest	Belga to £.....	35	34.86½
Budapest	Lei to £	813.6	818
Calcutta	Pen to £	27.82	27.86½
Constantinople	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17½—15/16
New York	Piastres to £	110	1.065
Paris	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.87½—15/16
Prague	Francs to £.....	124.21	123.86
Rome	Kronen to £.....	164.25	164½
Sofia	Lire to £	92.46	93.19
Tehran	Leva to £	673.659	667½
Vienna	Krans to £	48	59
Warsaw	Sch to £	34.58½	34.66
	Zloty to £	43.38	43 7/16—9/16

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

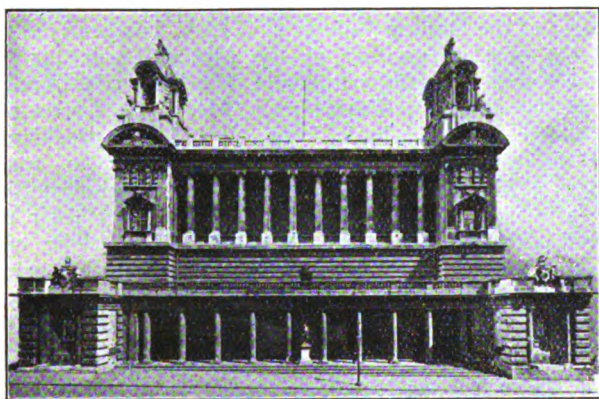
THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 27:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—A series of quiet and somewhat featureless markets has occurred during the past week, and with both trade and speculative support being of a restricted character, values have developed a gradually declining tendency. A certain amount of resistance was experienced when Januarys approached the 14d. level, a few buying limits and trade fixing orders at this figure holding the market for a short period. The action of Alexandria has latterly, however, been far from reassuring, and with further poor reports from this source this morning, we have again dropped to fresh low levels for the season, to-night's close being 49 to 53 points lower for near and 65 to 41 points for distant positions on the week. It is unfortunate in a season when ample supplies of desirable Sakel cotton have been produced, and with prices standing at what can be termed a reasonable level, that outside influences bar the trade from obtaining full benefit from the situation. Financial conditions in countries which, in the ordinary course of events, provide a satisfactory outlet for fine yarns, have recently caused a good deal of apprehension, resulting in a partial closing down of business, for the time being at any rate, with these customers. The effect of this has been witnessed in the poorer tone in evidence in Manchester during the past week, and a corresponding falling off in the demand for fine cottons has been experienced. Exports from Alexandria compare very unfavourably with those for the same period last year, and with unsold stocks accumulating rapidly, prices are being gradually forced down to the Government's buying basis. Local straddle differences with Alexandria have a tendency to widen, but, on the other hand, our premium over the American contract has narrowed nearly to the extent of a farthing per lb. on the week.

Upper Contract.—Trading in this contract during the past week has been on very quiet lines, only moderate changes have been recorded, and price movements have been fairly closely allied to the fluctuations witnessed in the American departments. One satisfactory feature has been a revival of interest on the part of spinners; a healthier inquiry for actual has been in evidence, and if the resultant business has not been large, it certainly points to an improvement when general conditions become more settled. Values in Alexandria have now declined to within a few points of the Government's limit, and on this account only restricted fluctuations are probable for the immediate future.



THE LIVERPOOL COTTON EXCHANGE.

Liverpool Cotton Association

LIVERPOOL

The Greatest Spot Cotton Market in the World

MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION
OFFER FACILITIES FOR THE SALE,
PURCHASE AND FINANCE OF
EVERY GROWTH OF COTTON.

The World follows Liverpool Cotton Quotations daily.

GROWERS AND SHIPPERS SHOULD
SEND THEIR COTTON TO LIVERPOOL.

All information may be obtained from the Secretary

Egyptian Spot.

Business has been disappointing during the past week. The harder tone, which was in evidence when we last wrote, has not been maintained. Apathy has been the prevailing note and lack of confidence amongst spinners has been most marked. In Uppers and Pillion, declines have been only moderate, but Sakels have been a weak spot. To-day, for the first time, when the futures board recorded Sakel at under 14d., a certain revival of interest occurred, not so much in Sakel (as might have been expected) but in Uppers. Although both Sakel and Uppers look reasonable enough at these levels, it is difficult to see from what quarter the much-needed support is to come. At the moment, the supply is greater than the demand, and it remains for the individual to decide to what extent this state of affairs has already been discounted, if at all.

Sakels.—Only a moderate business has passed in this growth, and the inquiry has been concerned chiefly with the low cotton at from 12½d. to 13d., or the Good to Fine qualities at from 200 to 250 on.

Uppers.—Less interest has been shown of late in Uppers within the "10 off to 20 on" range, but more attention has been paid to the better grades at from 75 to 100 on. This latter market is slightly irregular, and some shippers report a difficulty in obtaining the desired quality.

Pillion has been in fair request, but results have been rather disappointing.

Nahda, Maarad, White, and Fuadi.—These have all figured in the inquiry from time to time, but only to a very limited extent.

Tokar Sakel has again suffered from neglect.

Sudan Sakel has been in moderate request only.

C.i.f. business has been quieter, but there is no doubt that there is business to be had—at a price. Forwardings last week were returned at 5,926 bales Egyptian and 1,997 bales Sudan.

Spot Sales.—These have been estimated at 1,200 bales Egyptian and 350 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel show a decline on the week of 45 points (Ex. Fine exceptionally 70 points). Uppers are 7 to 12 points lower, and Pillion 10 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 14.65d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.58d. F.G.F. Pillion to-day, 11.50d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company report for the week ended November 21:—Since our last report the futures market has again been quiet, with no decided tendency. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: November 27.22 dollars, 0.23 dollars down; January, 28.15 dollars, 0.09 dollars up; March, 28.82 dollars, 0.31 dollars up; May, 29.33 dollars, 0.43 dollars up; July, 29.83 dollars, 0.71 dollars up; November N.C., 30.41 dollars; 0.82 dollars up. Ashmouni: December, 19.38 dollars, 0.09 dollars up; February, 19.87 dollars, 0.22 dollars up; April, 20.30 dollars, 0.42 dollars up; June, 20.64 dollars, 0.47 dollars up; August, 21.04 dollars; October N.C., 21.22 dollars, 0.69 dollars up.

WIRELESS FROM THE SUDAN.

Short-wave wireless messages transmitted by Mr. Hinds for Major C. Court-Treant, the British Explorer, from a portable Marconi equipment in the wilds of the Sudan, have been received as far afield as the United States of America. Pitching their camps in the least known parts of the Western Sudan, Major and Mrs. Court-Treant and Mr. Hinds were able to maintain communication with Sudan Government wireless stations throughout their twelve months' travels in the jungle, where they were making the British International Film, "Stampede." Thus they were in regular touch with London through the Government stations, and on a number of occasions their transmissions, on a wave-length of approximately 30 metres, were heard at a distance of more than 5,000 miles in Detroit, Michigan, and Boston, Massachusetts. The wireless transmitter used was a specially designed Marconi set of extremely small power and weight, the power being supplied by turning the handle of a small electrical generator.

Turkey and Russia have reached an agreement on trading relations for six months.

This year's potato crop in Roumania amounted to 2,269,200 tons, an increase of 349,500 tons on last year's figures.

Mr. Edmund Godward, manager of the Bank of Australasia in London, has been elected chairman of the committee of the British Overseas Banks' Association for the ensuing year.

Major Frank Brian Frederic Bibby, of Sansaw, Shrewsbury, chairman of the Bibby Steamship Line, a director of the Great Western Railway Company and of the Marine and General Mutual Life Assurance Society, left £900,073 (net £861,817).

The Directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, payable December 21.

The Directors of the British Burmah Petroleum Company propose a final distribution of 5d. per 8s. share, making 7½d., tax free, for the year, compared with 4½d. last year.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	645	INDIAN NOTES... ..	647	COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		THE WEEK AT HOME ...	656	Notes and News ...	661
The Outlook in "Greater India." ...	648	PERSONAL AND GENERAL... ..	657	Forthcoming Sailings ..	664
SPECIAL LETTERS—		BOOK REVIEW	658	The Week's Finance ...	665
Egyp	649	CORRESPONDENCE	659	Motors and Motoring ...	667
Roumania	649			Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	668
The Hijaz	651			Development of Persian Ports ...	669
Cyprus	652			The Roumanian Market ...	671
Calcutta	654				

Notes of the Week.

Turkey's Financial Problem.

The financial difficulties from which Turkey is suffering have long been foreseen abroad, and the main cause for wonder is that she has been able to stave them off until now. It is unfortunate that the problem should be essentially an international one and its solution possible only by means of foreign help, for neither unofficial nor official opinion in the country has any profound knowledge of finance, and the most disinterested outside advice, backed by genuine sympathy for the Turks, is apt to be looked upon askance as being prompted by sinister motives. Yet the fears that have obsessed the Turks on the subject of foreign finance have been almost entirely baseless, for the reason that a recurrence of the dreaded state of affairs which prevailed in Abdul Hamid's time would be possible only with a revival of the same type of régime. If the Ankara Government had been able to command adequate expert financial knowledge, it is difficult to believe that it would have felt obliged to keep all foreign capital at arm's length as the only means of avoiding victimisation. Economic reconstruction has proved a formidable task for most countries; in Turkey's case it has been complicated by a variety of special circumstances. In the first place Turkey occupies a wide area with a scanty population; sixty-five per cent. of her people depend for their livelihood on the land, yet the cultivated portion represents barely five per cent. of the total area of the country, and the normal practice of the peasant is to cultivate in any one year only a third of the land that he owns. This state of affairs argues a serious lack of labour, but it did not prevent an official attempt to bolster up large-scale industry, which presupposes abundance of labour, before any systematic effort was made to assist agriculture. It was hoped that the industrial products would supply domestic needs and restrict the purchase of foreign goods; but Turkey's first need was to produce what she could sell abroad, and consequently her main attention should have been devoted to the furthering of agriculture and to the marketing of her agricultural products. Another handicap from which the country suffered was that it had considered itself obliged to expel the people that represented the brains of its business world. The course adopted may have been sound policy and necessary; it was in any case her own affair, but when carrying it into effect, Turkey ought to have foreseen

the consequences and made provision to mitigate for the nation the financial and economic stagnation that had to follow.

The Plight of the Turkish Pound.

Gradually it is being realized in Turkey that the rapid depreciation of the Turkish pound is susceptible of an easy explanation, and that it is unnecessary to look for the cause in foreign intrigue or any widespread conspiracy against Turkey. A new tariff has been introduced based for the most part on a desire—by no means unnatural—to help Turkish industries. It is obvious that the industries that it is desired to help are quite unable to meet the country's actual needs, and merchants inevitably took steps to import under the old tariff as much as they could of the goods that were to be subjected to a greatly enhanced duty. At the same time, the Government, in carrying out its scheme for building railways out of Turkish capital and in defraying other public needs, has been obliged to spend large sums on foreign goods; it has also to meet its indebtedness by regular payments abroad, and as a result of an indifferent season there has been a setback in the export trade. Out of the country's exiguous income it also finds it necessary to devote more than a third to military purposes and public safety. The depreciation of the Turkish pound was bound to follow. Certain remedial measures may have the effect of arresting temporarily the fall, but offer no permanent solution of the problem. More radical and more comprehensive remedies, it is to be feared, are required, and in the interests of Turkey it is to be hoped that the opportunity will be taken to call in the best foreign advice, in order that the whole economic situation of the country may be comprehensively reviewed. Turkey has considerable natural resources; she enjoys a unique geographical position, and the present régime has established peace, security, discipline and self-respect in the country. Many of the measures adopted in recent years may have been in themselves sound and practical; but the impression conveyed abroad is that they have not been correlated nor made to fit in to any far-sighted policy resting on a sound economic basis. It is not enough to found a State Bank; adequate provision will have to be made for its functioning. The production of the country must be increased, but it will avail the Turks little, unless there is some

organizing of exports. With the best of intentions every foreign firm has been made to employ Turks; after the experience of many purely Turkish undertakings, especially industrial enterprises, an even stronger case might be made out for compelling every Turkish company to employ one or more foreigners in its management. Compulsion, however, in such matters, in whatsoever direction is a mistake. A sound lead by the Government, as was shown in the case of Japan sixty or more years ago, will be followed quickly by the nation as a whole. If the Government is unwilling to learn, the people will persist with equal obstinacy in the old groove, for all the edicts and regulations that may emanate from Ankara. Turkey under her present rulers has shown that she is worth more in the world scheme of things than to be merely a happy hunting-ground for concessionaires; under expert financial guidance she can become an important link in the economic reconstruction of the Near and Middle East.

Indiscipline in Greece.

Greece would seem to be suffering from an epidemic of indiscipline similar to that which prevailed in Italy before the introduction of Fascism. In addition to a series of strikes in various trades, University students in Athens and Salonika have also "downed tools." The events leading up to the student trouble appear to have originated with a praiseworthy desire on the part of the Government to raise the standard of University scholarship. The proposed steps were resented by the students, who proceeded to "demonstrate" against them, and, when they came into collision with the police, demanded to be received by M. Venizelos, in order that they might explain how their *amour-propre* had been wounded and lay their other grievances before him. The Prime Minister, who only a few weeks previously had had to meet a charge of having become haughty and exclusive, by publishing a statement in the Press to the effect that he was a busy man and really could not be at the beck-and-call of everyone who conceived a desire to see him, did not happen to be "at home," and the students again came into collision with the police. A fatherly letter ("I have a piece of fatherly advice to give you," he wrote.) of one-and-a-half newspaper columns was thereupon addressed to the students by M. Venizelos, counselling them to behave themselves, and pointing out that the Government was not disposed to ask for the modification of the law, "in order to open the flood-gates to ignorance and the lack of knowledge among that portion of Greek society which will form the directing class to-morrow." A few days later the Prime Minister had to address to the workers on strike another letter, equally fatherly and uncompromising in its tenour. So long as M. Venizelos remains in power his personal prestige will probably prove sufficient to keep in check any growing tendency to disorder; but the experience of the last few years does suggest that Greece has not yet accustomed herself to the genuine republican spirit which can dispense with the one strong man whose word counts, if not for law, at least for some show of order in the country. Greece must be one of few countries, if not the only one, to possess a publication called *Discipline*; it is to be hoped that the magazine will not indefinitely remain an anachronism.

Anglo-Yamani Circumambulations.

The tale of Anglo-Yamani relations is, indeed, an extraordinary one. We seem to advance certain stages, but no goal is ever reached, with the result that impatient or cynical observers are wont to wonder whether, in fact, a definite goal is in view, or whether circumambulation, undertaken for the mutual health of the parties concerned, is not all that is indulged in. From time to time questions are asked in Parliament on the progress of negotiations with the Imam Yahya of the Yaman, but little satisfaction is obtained: the Colonial Office, it seems, "still, still on hope relies." At such fitful intervals, Lord Lamington takes upon himself the self-imposed, honourable, but in-

creasingly melancholy duty of attempting to elicit some definite information upon the possibilities of an Anglo-Yamani Treaty, but after a certain amount of discussion, which follows well-known lines, his motion for papers is always withdrawn. So it happened in the House of Lords on December 3. Lord Lamington, with apparent support from Lord Lovat and Lord Stanhope, urged the Government to invite the Imam to send an emissary with full powers, not to Aden, but to London or to Cairo. Since we ourselves suggested this course many months ago, we are not disposed to query its wisdom. The position is, however, that the urgency of a settlement seems to be realised more fully by the Imam than by the British. According to Lord Passfield, practically all the territory of the Protectorate which Yamani troops had occupied has been evacuated, and the Imam now holds no hostages. The next move, therefore, in the official argument, lies with the Imam. Aden waits on Sanaa for the dispatch of a duly accredited official. Whether his dispatch has been interrupted by domestic trouble in the Yaman we do not know.

Hopes of a Settlement.

The Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and the Colonies did, however, state that the Government, which had not had a reply to its communication, made about last July, to the Imam, expressing willingness to enter into negotiations, would not let the matter rest but would follow it up in one form or another. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Labour Administration will be as good as its word. Even if conditions in the Aden Protectorate are now, from the administrative point of view, satisfactory enough, even if they could not be notably improved by an Anglo-Yamani Treaty, surely such a Treaty is desirable in the interests of British prestige in south-western Arabia and in the whole of the surrounding territories? To the distant observer, it sometimes appears that this matter has been occasionally looked at from too narrow a standpoint, as if the integrity of the Protectorate were all that concerned the British Empire in that part of the world. If the trade which might result from an Anglo-Yamani Treaty were negligible, if the alleged resources of the Yaman were found to be practically non-existent, we should still urge the desirability of closer relations with one who should be our natural ally, but whose friendship has been forestalled, though by no means monopolised, by other nations. As far as can now be judged, essential British interests are safeguarded, and it is merely a question of etiquette (the "You must first come to me" attitude) which inhibits the establishment of closer relations. We may be wrong, but if our surmise is correct, surely there are diplomatic means other than prostration before the Imam of seeking and signing a Treaty?

The Condition of Palestine.

It is difficult to resist the conclusion that the tension in Palestine is still very acute. That the spirit of lawlessness is yet abroad is clear from the attacks on such men as Dr. Ticho, Mr. Bentwich, and Dr. Berkovitz. And even if it be admitted that such crimes represent only individual folly and madness, signs of a real easing of the situation are lamentably few. There appears to be little disposition at the moment either on the Arab or on the Jewish side to adopt a conciliatory attitude—the one definite proposal, made by Dr. Magnes, Chancellor of the Hebrew University, having met with opposition from or neglect by the vast majority of Zionists—and nothing, it seems, will be done in the way of a *rapprochement* until the Commission of Inquiry has reported. It is more than ever to be hoped, in these circumstances, that the Commission's Report will be unanimous, and, therefore, be published soon after the arrival home of its members at Christmas. As soon as that Report is published, the Government will, presumably, issue a firmly worded declaration of its intentions, and impose, willy-nilly, a *modus operandi* on the peoples of Palestine. The nettle must be boldly grasped, and the hand that does it will surely reap its reward. The old policy of groping for a policy must be abandoned, and

the British Government must formally do so. To lay on the local Administration the onus of discovering a workable solution is unfair, and, as has been seen, may be disastrous. If there be any prevarication or temporisation, who shall say when the troubles in the Holy Land may find their end?

King Ibn Saoud's Rebels.

It is an ironical fact that the very men who were the spearhead of the movement in Najd against the so-called "forts" on Iraq territory—Faisal al Duwish and his freebooters—the people who were held up in certain quarters as the holy justification of an inviolable principle, namely, the freedom of desert wells, should now have become the bane of the great King who himself protested so strongly against these same "forts." We will not weary our readers by recounting the dances which Faisal al Duwish has led his overlord since the attack on Busaiya fort in the autumn of 1927: suffice it to say that, from being the pattern of Wahhabi manhood and the symbol of the justice of Wahhabi claims, Faisal has degenerated into a mere outlaw, an irreconcilable malcontent. At the battle of Sibilla, early this year, Faisal was wounded and captured by his King's troops, but so sincere appeared to be the repentance of the old warrior, that King Ibn Saoud forgave him. With his mighty King away in the Hijaz, however, Faisal's rebellious spirit once more got the better of him. He broke his word, and roamed about the eastern deserts of Najd stirring up revolt against the absent King. For a time operations were conducted against him by loyal troops under the Amir Saoud, the eldest son of the King, but recently, either for military or political reasons, or, perhaps, for both, the King himself has taken over charge of the anti-Faisal drive. All these events would be a matter merely of domestic Wahhabi interest, but for the fact that, as is recorded in our letter this week from the Hijaz, the independence of Kuwait may be involved. It is being claimed, we notice, on behalf of the loyal Wahhabis (who appear, by the way, to be in the main those most recently converted, as opposed to some, among the rebels, who were the first to adopt the Puritan creed) that Great Britain, as Mandatory Power in Iraq, and as being in Treaty relations with various coastal chiefs, should forgo its moral duty of defending Kuwait against attack, in the higher interest of helping King Ibn Saoud defeat his enemies. Whether, from a closer point of view than it is possible to obtain in the Hijaz, such considerations of expediency are to be allowed to prevail over Treaty obligations, remains to be seen. One thing is clear, at any rate, that Great Britain cannot allow Kuwait to be made the base of any hostile operations against King Ibn Saoud. The situation is certainly an interesting one, which must be closely watched in view of the considerable possibilities which may shortly be presented.

INDIAN NOTES.

Muslim Education in India.

It is interesting to note the approval with which the report of the Hartog Committee has been received by the Muhammadans in India. This is, doubtless, due to that Committee's having recognised that the Muslim community has fundamental needs which have become grievances. This is particularly the case in Sind. In spite of the preponderance of Muhammadans in Sind, less than half the teachers belong to that religion. While the Sind Local Boards were the first to impose an educational cess, the grants they obtained from Government for primary education were tiny in comparison with those received by the predominating Hindu District Boards of the Presidency. Although the population of Sind is one-sixth of the whole Bombay Presidency, its share of the Provincial expenditure in education is only one fourteenth. These facts point to inequitable treatment not merely of the Muhammadans, but of Sind in general,

which must supply fresh material for those who ask for the separation of the Province from Bombay.

Where India Leads.

The completion of the electrification of the two railways leading from Bombay over the Ghats marks an important stage in the progress of communications in India. There must be many men yet living who did the weary journey up the Bhor Ghât by road, since the railway connexion was only completed in 1863. To many others the delay caused by the necessity for a reversing station is a recent memory. The section on the north-east line between Kalyan and Igatpuri is not quite ready, but by March next year the Great Indian Peninsula Railway will have the greatest length of electrified main line in the British Empire. The gain in comfort to the inhabitants of Bombay, who recuperate from their labours at the ocean's edge by week-end visits to Poona and Nasik will be great; but even more important will be the economic advantages to the trade of Bombay and the facilities of the Port. It has been claimed by some in Bombay that the electrification will make Poona a suburb of the Presidency Town. It is perhaps equally likely that it will give an additional argument to those who desire that Poona, already the capital of Maharashtra, should also be the capital of the whole Province. Such a transference of the seat of power would undoubtedly be acceptable to many of the Legislative Councillors, who prefer the climatic and residential circumstances of the upland town to the heat and turmoil of the great city.

A PAMPHLET ON PALESTINE.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine is publishing a series of "Palestine Papers." The first one to reach us is called "Palestine and the British Tax-Payer" (77, Great Russell Street, W.C.1. Price 2d.), and is designed to counter the statement that has been widely made in the popular Press of Great Britain to the effect that the Mandate for Palestine is a tax on the British people. The story begins with the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and with the conferring of the Palestine Mandate on Great Britain in 1920 and its confirmation by the Council of the League two years later. A paragraph is then devoted to what the Jews have already accomplished in Palestine; and then the question is directly asked: Who pays for the Jewish National Home? It is pointed out that the civil administration of Palestine is supported entirely by means of its own internal revenue, and that at the end of 1928 there was actually a surplus balance of over half a million pounds. It is further pointed out that from 1921 to 1929 the cost of military and air forces in Palestine and Trans-Jordan has been steadily reduced from £3,339,000 to £100,000. And the pamphlet ends with the unchallengeable statement that "It is untrue to say that the holding of the Mandate for Palestine by Great Britain, with the obligation to facilitate the establishment of the National Home for the Jewish people, entails the payment of even a single farthing a year on the part of the British tax-payer."

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1929.

THE OUTLOOK IN "GREATER INDIA."

It has now become possible to estimate with some hope of accuracy the effect produced in India by Lord Irwin's much-discussed declaration. In general it may be said that something has been accomplished towards the relief of the political tension which has been so marked a feature of the Indian situation during the last twelve months. So far as the Indian Liberal Party is concerned, the effect of the Viceroy's pronouncement has been to provide them with a bridge across which they have retreated from a position long recognised as untenable. The leaders of this party are by temperament as well as by outlook unfavourably disposed towards the policy of non-co-operation and passive resistance; and had it not been for the unfortunate circumstances which overshadowed the early days of the Statutory Commission, the Moderates would never have joined the Swarajists in the campaign of boycott. They have now redressed this error, and their influence is once more thrown into the scale of sanity. In considering the attitude of the Swaraj Party at the present time, it is important not to forget that within the last twelve months there has developed a Left Wing group with views more extreme than those countenanced by the acknowledged leaders. The Independence movement, which is strong in Bengal and Madras, has already alarmed the older Congress veterans; but by its association with the Youth Movement led by the younger Nehru, has secured a considerable hold upon the rising generation of politicians. Hence it is that the famous names of the Congress Party were with comparatively little difficulty added to the statement in which the Viceroy's gesture of friendliness was welcomed; although conditions were added which were regarded rather as "face saving" than as practical reservations. The real fact is that both the Liberals and the Swarajists are at the present moment genuinely afraid of being stampeded by the enthusiasm and inexperience of the younger men; and have welcomed the opportunity afforded to them of getting back upon what they regard as safer ground. This it is which has prevented the debates in both Houses of Parliament from exercising any considerable effect in offsetting Lord Irwin's pronouncement. As might have been anticipated by those closely in touch with Indian affairs, it is the announcement of the Round Table Conference rather than the declaration about Dominion Status which has excited the greatest share of attention in India. It would not be too much to say that it is the Conference and not the declaration which is regarded as the real test of Great Britain's attitude towards India. All political parties are now engaged in girding up their loins in preparation for this event; and this alone is likely to be the most powerful single factor in moderating the tone and temper of the proceedings of the approaching Indian National Congress at Lahore. Indian political opinion is now actively centred round the future Conference; and speculations as to its membership, its procedure, and its precise function, present the most immediate topics of discussion in almost all shades of the Indian Press.

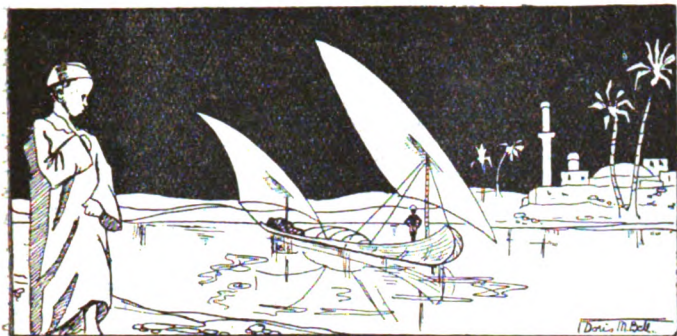
The interest which has been aroused by the interchange of correspondence between the Prime Minister and Sir

John Simon is by no means confined to British India. At the time when the precise effect of Lord Irwin's pronouncement was a matter of considerable anxiety in this country, the Princes, who can generally be relied upon to do the right thing in emergency, declared emphatically in favour both of the Conference, and of the Viceroy's pronouncement. In rapid succession the Maharajas of Kashmir, Bikaner, Alwar, and Nawanagar, made plain their hearty approval; and in so doing not only confirmed the reputation of the Princes for practical statesmanship, but also reassured many shades of opinion in England which were inclined to regard the declaration as very dangerous. It is, of course, well known that the Chamber of Princes has for long been pressing for a recognition of the right of the Indian States, which comprise more than one-third of India, to be represented in any conference which will be responsible for suggesting to His Majesty's Government the outlines of a settlement. In taking up this position, the Indian Princes have had to incur a considerable amount of criticism from advanced sections of Nationalist opinion in British India, which, in the hope of offsetting the influence of the Chamber of Princes and the traditional attachment of the Indian Rulers to the British connexion, has done its best to encourage the activities of a self-appointed body styling itself the Indian States Subjects' Conference. Into the credentials of this body it would be interesting, if somewhat unprofitable, to inquire; but it may be recalled that Sir Harcourt Butler and his colleagues on the Indian States Committee refused to recognise its representative character and declined to afford a hearing to its delegates. On the announcement of the Round Table Conference, this body, which includes a small number of individuals with grievances against particular State Governments, approached Lord Irwin with a view to obtaining representation upon the Round Table Conference. Needless to say, this claim was emphatically rejected. It was pointed out that the Conference will be concerned with broad questions of constitutional policy, in regard to which the acknowledged rulers of the Indian States are the only persons who can speak with authority.

The associations claiming to represent the Indian States' subjects were also told that questions of the internal government of the States were within the purview of the Rulers concerned; and while the Paramount Power naturally exercised the responsibility of protecting the people against gross mal-administration, interference of the kind contemplated was precluded. The fact is, of course, broadly speaking, that, as Sir Harcourt Butler and his colleagues plainly said, a new spirit is abroad among the States' Governments; conditions have very largely changed in the last twenty years; and efforts to improve State administrations have already in many cases been attended with conspicuous success. While the outstanding achievement of Lord Irwin's action is the way in which it has rallied the Centre or Liberal Party and enabled those whose co-operation is essential to the effective working of the revised constitution to retrace their steps, scarcely less important is the fact that the Indian States and their Rulers, owing to the recognition somewhat belatedly accorded them by the Statutory Commission, now find themselves in a position to exercise a considerable influence in the adjustment of relations between the two countries. The Princes, since their relations with Britain began, have invariably displayed a firm and consistent attachment to the British Crown and to the British connexion. Those persons and parties who do not share their views will assuredly leave no stone unturned to offset, as far as may be, an influence which will always be exerted along sane and loyal lines. Fortunately, our own experience of the value attaching to irresponsible criticism of our own administration, is unlikely to incline us to view these attempts seriously. Through the difficult times ahead, we can rely upon the Indian Princes to stand by us firmly in our endeavour to arrive at a just and equitable settlement.

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, November 30.

The Court.

The King and Queen returned to Cairo this week from Montazah, and the official and social centre of affairs may now be considered to have been transferred back to the capital for the winter. King Fuad was welcomed at the station by the Princes, the Ministers, the High Commissioner, the Diplomatic Corps and the European and Egyptian notables, and there was a considerable crowd along the route to Abdin. In the afternoon he attended a great reception organised in the grounds of the Old Turkish Commissariat by an Egyptian Committee, at which speeches of welcome were made, and in the evening the city was most beautifully illuminated and a banquet of some hundred and eighty covers was given at Shepheard's Hotel by the Governor of Cairo, at which the Ministers and the Diplomatic Corps were the principal guests.

Demonstrations Again?

The King's reception, like the inauguration of the Stadium in Alexandria the previous Sunday, was made the occasion for a demonstration in favour of Nahas Pasha, which ended in a collision between the mob and the police. On both occasions the police had to intervene in order to ensure the circulation of the traffic, which the mobbing of the Wafdist leader's car held up, and on both occasions they were received with stones and other missiles by the demonstrators. These incidents are referred to only because they indicate that no sooner is there a prospect of a return of the Wafd to power than trouble ensues with the crowd and the students again become restive and active. There is not a shadow of doubt that these two pro-Nahas demonstrations were specially organised and the students encouraged to forsake their schools and indulge in this manifestation by the members of the Wafd, who have always been in favour of, and identified with, such tactics.

The Coming Season.

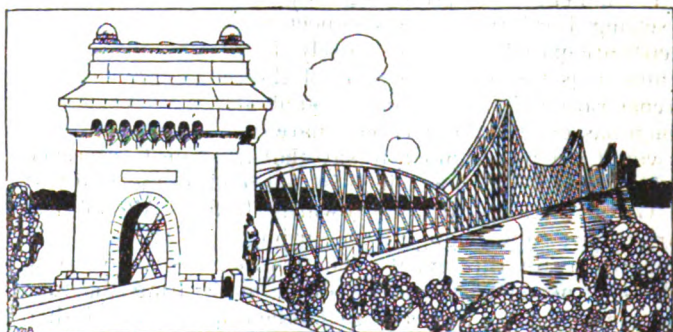
The season may now be regarded as opened. Already the social programme has started—there have been several "At Homes," including the first at the Residency since the arrival of the new High Commissioner—and an even more intensive season than last year is promised. The hotels and shipping companies all express satisfaction with the advanced bookings, and do not seem to be exercised by the financial and economic situation outside. The Semiramis has completed its new wing, which makes of it a most imposing edifice—the inauguration will take place very shortly; the Metropolitan, which is being run at moderate prices to cater for those who cannot pay the

higher tariff of the other hotels, is proving a great success, and will help to relieve the congestion; while a new hotel has been opened in the Fayum with a kiosk on Lake Karun for shooting parties. Cavaliere Dalbagni, who obtained such a success last year at the Royal Opera House, has again secured the concession. Last year he incurred a considerable loss, and the Government, convinced at length that the subsidy was insufficient to secure a proper programme, has increased it by a third, and taken over the charge of the permanent personnel. The programme that has been arranged for the coming season opens next week with French Comedy by the official Comedie Française troupe, and will be followed by French Operette and Italian and French Opera, for which some of the leading singers from Milan and Paris have been engaged. Finally, the racing season, which has already opened with successful meetings at Gezira and Heliopolis, promises to receive an added interest by the presence among the owners of the new High Commissioner, Sir Percy Loraine, who is an assiduous habitué of the Turf, and is bringing over his stable from Athens.

Lord Lloyd's Speech.

The sensation of the week has been the cable in *Al Mokattam* giving a résumé of a speech which the correspondent alleged had been delivered by Lord Lloyd at Oxford. Those who know the late High Commissioner's character could not conceive for one moment that he could have made in a public speech the statements attributed to him, but the Egyptian Press, with the exception of *Al Mokattam* and *Al Siassa*, at once rushed into print with bitter attacks on Lord Lloyd, while the Egyptian Magistracy, through the mouth of the President of the Native Court of Appeal, Abdel Aziz Pasha Fahmy, and the Egyptian Engineers of the Irrigation Service presented protests to their respective Ministers refuting the allegations which the first telegram of *Al Mokattam* said Lord Lloyd had made with regard to dispensation of justice and the distribution of water in Egypt.

The *démenti* which has since been published does not seem in any way to have appeased the Wafdist Press, which continues its attacks. In this connexion the Italian Legation, which appears to have been alarmed at the effect of the *Mokattam* telegram, cabled to Rome for instructions, and has to-day issued a *communiqué* to the effect that throughout all the political crises which have taken place during recent years in Egypt both the Legation and the Consular offices depending from it observed the strictest neutrality in accordance with the instructions received from the Italian Government.



ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, November 27.

Opening of Parliament.

Parliament reopened on November 15 with the usual ceremony. In brilliant sunshine the gala carriages, Guards of Honour and several regiments of smart troops passed through the streets thronged with people, who

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

received the procession with loud acclamations. The House of Deputies, too, was crowded, and after the usual religious service, conducted by the Patriarch Regent, the Speech from the Throne was read by H.R.H. Prince Nicholas, who was received with loud applause.

The Message began with the customary formula of welcome to the deputies on resuming their duties and announced various commendable innovations in different directions. Mention was made of the Royal Manœuvres—the first since the War—which did credit to all ranks of the Army. The promise was given, in the name of the Government, to do all that was possible within the limits of the Budget, to improve the Army and military armaments. The Message also made mention of the gratifying success of the stabilisation of the currency, thanks to wise legislation, which had also succeeded so far in improving the financial situation that a budgetary balance could be confidently hoped for. Turning finally to foreign policy, the Message expressed the assurance that the country was firmly decided to maintain friendly international relations with the aim of preserving conventions already concluded or under negotiation with Great Britain, Italy, and Poland. The Prince Regent and the Prime Minister both received hearty ovations.

The Opposition, who had ceased to attend Parliament during last session, remained absent at the opening of the present session, so that the Government benches alone were filled.

The Budget.

The Government has worked very hard at the preparation of the Budget for next year, which will introduce a number of important economies with a view to obtaining a true balance and even a certain surplus. The Budget will be placed before Parliament in the course of next week, when every opportunity will be given of discussing its provisions—a procedure which has not been followed by previous Governments, who usually rushed their Budgets through the House, avoiding all discussion.

The three Ministerial vacancies that had arisen were filled just before Parliament opened. M. Madgearu has been appointed for the time being to the Ministry of Finance, which portfolio he had held *ad interim* since the resignation of M. Mihai Popovici; M. Aurel Vlad, Minister of Transylvania, has become Minister of Industry and Commerce; and M. Pan Halippa, Minister of Bessarabia, is appointed Minister of Communications. In this way the forces of the two parties forming the Government have been grouped to the satisfaction of both.

Church Congress.

The Church Congress which began its meetings last week has attracted a good deal of public attention. According to the statutes of this Congress a certain number of lay members are admitted to its membership. It appears that, under former Governments (all of them now in opposition), several important members of the present anti-Government parties were admitted to the Council of the Congress, and they have now taken the opportunity (some of them from religious conviction, and others, it is to be feared, for party reasons) of inducing a section of the members of the Congress to introduce a motion condemning the suppression of the Ministry of Religion, whose functions have been transferred to the Ministry of Education as a measure of economy. More-

over, in this motion the Government (most of whose representatives from Transylvania belong to the Greco-Uniate Church) is accused of favouring the latter Church to the detriment of the State Greek-Orthodox Church. In support of this motion a series of measures are quoted, such as that by which the estates of certain Greek-Orthodox Churches in Transylvania are said to have been transferred to Greco-Uniate Churches and the alleged preference given to members of the Greco-Uniate Church in the appointment of civil servants to posts in Transylvania. The Government is further accused of having encouraged the establishment of numerous Roman Catholic sects, such as the "Assumptionists." The daily Press accentuates the fact that the Patriarch Regent, Miron Christea, Head of the Orthodox Church of Roumania, withdrew immediately after having formally opened the meeting of the Congress, owing, they say, to the heated nature of the attacks against the Government on this subject.

The Congress requested the Metropolitan Ivan de Blaj to submit the motion to the Government.

Public opinion is greatly irritated against the politicians of the Opposition who are lay members of the Congress and blame them in strong terms for having introduced purely political considerations into the proceedings of a Congress which ought rightly to be devoted exclusively to Church matters. If the Clergy of the Orthodox Church have no complaints to make in regard to the questions raised, then why, it is argued, should these lay politicians interfere? The Press unanimously expresses the opinion that the Church should be allowed to look after its own interests, and that the interference of laymen, and especially of politicians, in Church matters should not be permitted.

Developments on a Royal Estate.

In the course of last week Prince Nicholas inaugurated a whole series of charitable and other public welfare establishments on one of his estates, that of Broshteni, which he runs in the true spirit of a gentleman farmer. He has introduced a number of improvements for the benefit of the peasants and farm labourers in his own villages and those of the immediate neighbourhood. These include a school, an evening school, weaving classes, domestic economy classes, experimental fields and laboratories for agricultural research, a flour mill, dispensaries, a hospital and a small maternity hospital, a lecture hall, a cinema with wireless installation, etc. All the members of the Royal Family were present at the charming opening ceremony conducted by the Metropolitan Pimen of Moldavia, whom the Prince had invited in order to avoid any party feeling, and also the Ministers and members of the Government and many important people of all parties. Many speeches were pronounced, and His Royal Highness was warmly congratulated upon his initiative and the high ideals that had guided him in founding these village institutions on his estates. In his reply to the speeches the Prince announced his intention of introducing the same reforms on all his estates. Princess Ileana has begun a similar systematic organisation on her own estate at Poeni in Moldavia.

Statue to King Ferdinand.

On November 9 in the town of Orashtie, in Transylvania, a statue was unveiled which has been erected by the population of the district to the memory of the late King Ferdinand, as Liberator of Transylvania and first King of Greater Roumania. This town was well chosen as the site for the statue, as it has for centuries been one of the centres of the Roumanian minorities' struggle against the rulers of Transylvania—a struggle which has been happily terminated by the annexation of the province to the mother country.

On a beautiful autumn day of brilliant sunshine great crowds swarmed in from all over the country to attend the ceremony. Queen Marie was present, also the Princess Mother, ex-Queen Elizabeth of Greece, Princess Ileana, Prince Nicholas, the Patriarch Miron Christea and his

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co-Regent, M. Saratzeanu, the Prime Minister, M. Maniu, and members of the Government, members of the Diplomatic Corps and delegates from all the important institutions in the country. The statue is the work of the sculptor Ionescu Varo. It is a standing figure of the King, simple but majestic, and stands on a marble pedestal on which there is a bronze bas-relief showing Queen Marie tending the wounded.

THE HIJAZ.

Jidda, November 18.

Anti-Rebel Activities.

News from the interior indicates the early resumption of the punitive operations against Faisal al Duwish; but the most significant factor in it is that the Wahhabi King has assumed command of the operations himself. To the lay mind this might suggest difficulties ahead for the King; and difficulties there undoubtedly are, though they are not occasioned by the strength of the rebels, who are little more than a fugitive rabble doing such damage as they can by occasional raids. The real trouble is of a political nature, and the King has taken the command himself so as to be on the spot and in personal control in the event of complications arising. For some time past Faisal and his rebel band have been concentrated along the frontier of the Kuwait Principality; and it is towards that frontier that King Ibn Saoud will converge from all directions in the course of his drive. Now it is probable that the rebels will cross the frontier, relying on the Shaikh of Kuwait to afford them a temporary asylum; and it would seem equally probable that they will be pursued over an unmarked and undefended boundary-line by the troops of King Ibn Saoud, who can scarcely be expected to let their quarry so escape. An intriguing political situation will thus arise for the consideration of the British Government, which is, of course, interested in the status of Kuwait in view of its Treaty relations, and

is no less vitally interested in the final crushing of the rebel movement in Najd, the declared object of which is war against Iraq and Kuwait.

The State of Kuwait.

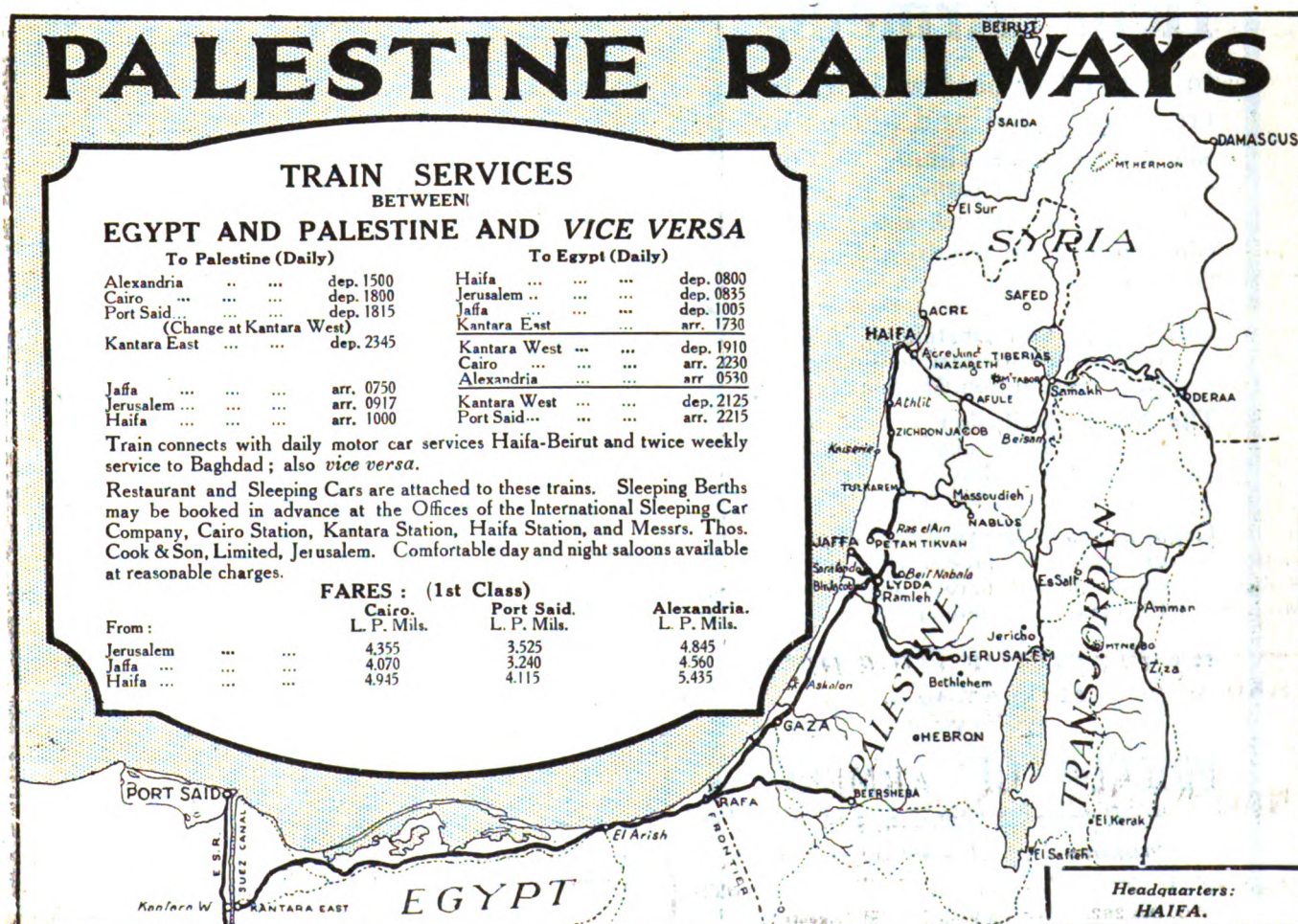
Observers here are wondering what situation would arise in the event of an armed clash between the Wahhabis and the troops of Kuwait. Conceivably a Wahhabi occupation of Kuwait might result, and it is interesting to speculate whether the Kuwait population, whose former prosperity has largely declined owing to the loss of all the valuable Central Arabian trade, which has now been deflected to the Wahhabi ports of the Hasa, would welcome such a result. Kuwait no longer enjoys the political importance which it formerly had owing to its strategic position at the head of the Gulf, and the opinion here is that it will die of inanition unless it joins the political system which controls its hinterland.

The Amir Faisal's Visit.

At Jidda the chief event to record is the arrival on the 16th of the Amir Faisal, who will be making a stay of about a fortnight here. A banquet of 72 covers was given in his honour by the Qaimmaqam on Monday, at which the representatives of all foreign Powers were present; and on Tuesday the Foreign Minister entertained the Amir and the foreign representatives at an informal tea-party. Other festive entertainments will be arranged at intervals during Amir Faisal's stay here; and for the rest he is fully occupied in attending to the various administrative questions which have been held up in anticipation of his visit. For a considerable part of the summer the Amir resided at Taif, which is rapidly becoming a prosperous agricultural centre under the care of a newly formed Agricultural Society.

New Treaties.

In the diplomatic sphere I have to record the ratification by the Persian Government on November 6 of the



Treaty of Friendship recently negotiated between Persia and the Hijaz and Najd; its ratification by the King is shortly expected, and the terms of the Treaty will be published. The Treaties concluded with the German and Turkish Governments during the past summer will be ratified in the near future.

The First Pilgrims.

The first two boats from the Dutch East Indies have arrived during the past week; and some 530 pilgrims represent the first-fruits of the opening season. The health record of the Hijaz during the past few months has been very satisfactory; and there have been very few cases of death from epidemic causes. The motor-transport companies are busy getting ready for the season, and are hoping to improve on the results of last year. The large Saudiya Company has gone into liquidation as the result of inefficient and extravagant administration; and the shareholders will be lucky if they recover 50 per cent. of their capital investment in addition to the 15 per cent. dividend paid last year. Three other companies have also wound up their affairs; but, on the other hand, I have received the official assurance of another company formed only last year that it has distributed a 48 per cent. dividend after setting aside 25 per cent. of the net profit partly to reserve and partly to pay bonuses to its staff. Such a result must be regarded as extraordinarily satisfactory, but many other companies have done quite well.

Hajji Zainal Ali Ridha.

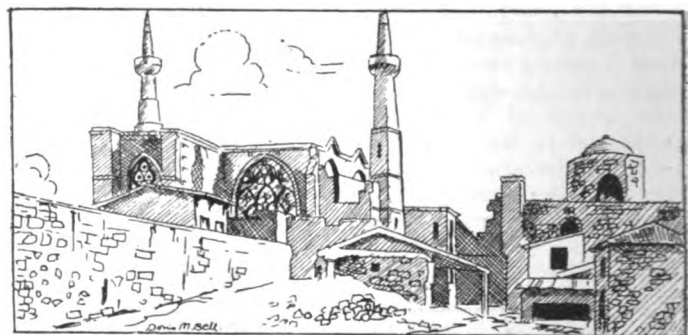
I omitted in my last letter to mention the great loss sustained at the end of October by the Jidda community in the death of Hajji Zainal Ali Ridha, the elder brother of the Qaimmaqam and the head of the long-established firm which bears his name. It must be nearly sixty years since he first arrived from the Persian Gulf port of Linga with his brother (then eight years old) to start business at Jidda, and he was about 80 or 85 at the time of his death.

Last year his younger brother, Husain, died; and in the previous year he lost his son, Qasim, formerly a deputy for the Hijaz in the Turkish Parliament and one of the outstanding citizens of Jidda. Another son of his is Muhammad Ali, the well-known pearl merchant of Bahrain; and another son, Yusuf, is the head of his father's firm at Bombay. He was the head of a distinguished family, with all the members of which much sympathy is felt.

General News.

The King has headed the subscription list opened for the Arabs who have suffered during the recent troubles in Palestine with a subscription of £500.

The European community has been playing golf and even football (Association), though at the latter it was recently beaten decisively after a good game by 3 goals to nil. On November 7 the Soviet representative (M. Turacolloff) held a reception in celebration of the anniversary of the birth of the Republic. On the 11th the British Agent held a service at the British Agency in commemoration of Armistice Day, later entertaining the British community to dinner; and on the same day a tea-party was given by the Italian Consul to celebrate the birthday of the King of Italy. The European community now numbers no fewer than six ladies, two of whom as brides merit a word of welcome to Jidda.



CYPRUS.

Nicosia, November 20.

The Greek Deputation to London.

The Greek Archbishop, on receiving news of the unfavourable replies made, so far, to the mission, dispatched a telegram of protest to Mr. MacDonald, reiterating the unalterable resolution of Greek Cypriots to continue the struggle for union with Greece. Telegrams of protest have also been sent to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for the Colonies from the different towns, from Mayors, and clubs, and other bodies, and from individual members of Council, expressing similar sentiments, and hopes for the future.

According to information received, the members of the deputation have been actively engaged in their endeavour to influence public opinion in England, having had friendly interviews with various politicians and leading persons. Amongst others they had a pleasing interview with the late lamented T. P. O'Connor, who expressed his sympathy and promised that he would, if possible, write something in aid of their cause. The members were entertained in the House of Commons, those present including Lord Passfield, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Clynes, and Mr. Amery. They have also prepared for circulation a letter to Members of Parliament, and to leading journals, giving a condensed statement of the Cypriot "question."

The Bishop of Kition was cordially received and entertained by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to whom His Eminence handed a letter from the Greek Archbishop in Cyprus. His Grace made many inquiries regarding the Orthodox Church in Cyprus, the clergy, the monasteries, and other, especially ecclesiastical, matters. His Grace

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handed to the Bishop a letter which he requested him to deliver to the Greek Archbishop Kyrillos.

The Cyprus Loan.

It is understood that the new Loan will be one of £150,000, and that it will be probably mainly devoted to public works, especially the asphaltting of roads. Dissatisfaction is expressed in many quarters, including part of the Press. There should be, it is said, no complaint, now, that the loan is too small. Rather there should be regret that there should be any loan at all, unless it is to be applied to those needs of the island which, in the view of the inhabitants, stand first in order of importance for island development.

The Kyrenia District.

The Greek member of the Legislative Council for the District, having written to the Governor to express the strong desire of the inhabitants that the decision to abolish the Commissionership (on the retirement of Mr. McDonald as Commissioner) might be reconsidered, has been informed that it has been decided (subject to the approval of the Secretary of State) to reappoint a Commissioner. He will, however, combine with his duties those of a Local Commandant of Police, hitherto separately held. Mr. O. G. Dennis is to take up the appointment on December 1.

The Executive Council.

The Council met on October 15, under the presidency of Sir Ronald Storrs, to discuss various draft laws, and also the coming Budget, which the public anticipates will contain many projects for public works, pointing, it is feared, to fresh burdens. The meeting of the Legislative Council will, it is presumed, take place on the return of the Deputation now in London.

Cyprus Wheat.

The island wheat is, it seems, in great demand. Buyers from Asia Minor have been visiting the island and taking considerable quantities, and the Agricultural Bank of Adana has purchased a large amount for seed. A special mission from the Ministry of Agriculture in Greece has lately visited Cyprus to purchase quantities. The *Cyprus Gazette* states: "In Greece it was found that Cyprus wheat produces 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. above indigenous varieties." In Asia Minor it is found that it ripens earlier than the indigenous kinds.

General News.

The Swedish mission of excavation has been continuing work at the site of the ancient Kition, and has discovered various objects of antiquity which will tend to throw further light on the period represented.

Major R. A. Baker has been appointed an additional A.D.C. to the Governor.

One of the most important diamond-cutting works of Amsterdam proposes to establish a factory in Sapon, Hungary, to supply the Central and East European and Balkan markets.

Indemnities claimed by Austrian subjects against the Roumanian Government, under the Treaty of Peace and the Law of Retention and Liquidation of June 13, 1923, are to be paid.

A draft Bill was last week introduced in the Greek Chamber providing for the formation of an Air Ministry. The Bill provides that successive Prime Ministers will be *ex officio* Air Minister, and will be assisted by a responsible Under-Secretary and Ministry, who will control military and naval aviation, special attention being paid to the development of civil aviation, for which a separate section will be formed.

It is stated from Athens that the official delivery of the six Hawker Horsley aeroplanes (Rolls-Royce Condor engines) which were ordered last April by the Greek naval air service took place at Tatpi aerodrome on December 2 in the presence of the British Minister, the staff of the Ministry of Marine, and members of the Greek Government. Successful trial flights were followed by demonstration flights made by Greek naval airmen.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association was held on December 6 at 55, Prince's Gate, by kind permission of Lady Newnes, to hear a lecture by M. Georges Cattaui, Secretary of the Egyptian Legation, on "L'Egypte: Ses Traditions et sa Renaissance." The Chair was taken by Sir Thomas Arnold.

M. Cattaui laid stress on the fact that four entirely different civilizations have succeeded one another in Egypt, and that, although each of these civilizations seems to be the expression of different races, still the unity of the Egyptians can be proved. The race, as the geographer Schweinfurth has remarked, presents so marked an individuality that it is most probable that this unvarying type is the product of the soil itself, and that the character of the peoples has been moulded by the influence of the climate and of the soil. People are apt to say that Egypt has always been ruled by foreign countries, because some of her rulers since the Ptolomies have been of foreign extraction; they are unaware of the fact that Egypt has always assimilated her invaders, who soon adopted the customs of the country. Among the immortal features of the Egyptian character are the sense of humour so vividly preserved in the Egyptian folk stories, and the unusual alliance of sobriety and prodigality—for the fellah will live on his onion and his date, and spend the savings of a lifetime on such things as the wedding festivities of his children or the funerals of his parents—the glorification of the dead, as may be seen from the raising here and there of a huge necropolis, such as the Tombs of the Mamelukes and of the Imam Shafei; and the intense religious fervour of the Egyptian and his mysticism. Fraser and Moret have proved the Egyptian origin of most of the Mediterranean myths, and Claud Field in his book, "Mystics and Saints of Islam," has stated that Christian asceticism took root in Egypt as well as Arab mysticism. Plato studied at Heliopolis for thirteen years, and the doctrine of Pythagoras on the science of numbers, now an accepted fact in the most modern science, was gleaned from Egypt. Some architects have also affirmed the introduction of the ogive in Gothic architecture by the Crusaders, who brought this from Egypt. Elliott Smith has gone so far as to assume that the civilization of Ireland in the tenth century was derived from Egypt, when the Coptic monks fled that country, after the Persian conquest.

Speaking of the revival of Egypt in modern times, the lecturer gave as the cause of this awakening the political factor of prosperity and good administration brought to the country by Mohammed Ali and his successors on one side, and on the other side the spiritual revival introduced by Shaikh Mohammed Abdu and his followers. He quoted the poets of Egypt during the last decades—Baroudi, Sabry, Chawky, Hafez Ibrahim and Moutram—and the more modern ones, Accad, Rami and Rassem. Among the scholars and scientists he numbered Falaky, Moubarek, Lutfi El Sayed, Mustafa and Ali Abdel Razek, Ghorbal, Wasef Ghali Pasha, etc.

During the lecture an Arab song was sung in the original by Mme. De la Rue-Mardus, and at the close M. Cattaui showed various slides illustrating the different phases of Egyptian art, also some paintings and sculptures of Naghi, Said and Moukhtar.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The American Consul in Alexandria, Mr. Raymond Geist, has been transferred to Berlin, and will be leaving Egypt shortly with his sister, Miss Geist, to take up his new appointment in Germany.

Following a fit of apoplexy, M. Shaponitch, the Yugoslav chief delegate for the frontier negotiations with Bulgaria and formerly head of the Press Bureau, died in Sofia on December 5.

Four more leaders of the Muslim anti-Soviet organisation recently discovered in Central Asia were shot at Artemovsk on December 2. Eighteen others were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

The British seaplane G.A.A.S.H., which was forced to come down near Brindisi on December 4 while on its way to Athens to take up the Indian air mail, resumed its journey and arrived safely at Athens two days later.

The death is announced of Brig.-General Charles Philip Scudamore, who had served, among other places, with the Hazara Field Force and in the Tirah Expedition. During the Great War he was O.A.G. Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Mr. H. L. Russell, at present American Consul at Casablanca, who, prior to being appointed to Casablanca, served in Saponika, Smyrna, and Rome, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Geist as American Consul at Alexandria. He is not expected to arrive in Egypt till next February, and in the meantime Mr. J. J. Touchette, Vice-Consul at Alexandria, will act as Consul.

The death occurred on December 7 of General Sir Charles Monro, who earned the widest fame for the safe withdrawal of the British forces from Gallipoli in 1915. He had seen very considerable service, and was one of the most prominent figures of the War. In 1916 he went out to India as Commander-in-Chief. In 1923 he was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar, from which position he retired last year.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 21.

The Allahabad Meeting.

The leaders of the Indian political parties "in opposition" (one cannot call them collectively the Opposition, because some of the parties are divided from the Government only on the question of the composition of the Statutory Commission) were so far moved by the Viceroy's pronouncement, that they met at Delhi, and drew up the reply with which you are all now familiar. The debates in the Houses of Parliament were followed here by another meeting of the leaders, this one in Allahabad. The proceedings were not open to the Press, and if reports have appeared in the newspapers, they have invariably been followed by a letter from Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, denying their accuracy. This much is certain, however, that, while the opinion was strongly held that the debates have altered the situation for the worse from those persons' point of view, so that in their opinion a revision of the Delhi letter was called for, the opinion was as strongly held that any stirring up of mud now might ruin the chances of a Round Table Conference ever being held. The Congress Party has decided to defer taking action, if any is ever taken, until the meeting of the Congress at the end of December. No other Party will act before it. When it does act, the other Parties will join with it, or break away from it. If it never acts, it will lose those of its members who have most leanings towards Independence.

The Trend of Opinion.

As far as I can judge, the stronger trend of opinion is towards reconciliation with the Government. Two influential leaders, Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Jayakar, withheld their signatures from the Delhi letter. In their view it was a mistake to try to bargain with the Government before the convening of the Round Table Conference, while holding over the head of Government an only slightly concealed threat that, if their conditions were not agreed to, they would refuse the invitation to the Conference. Some of those who did sign it, did so, one imagines, from the standpoint that the letter committed them to so little, it was not worth while refusing to sign it. Some were much less concerned that the doubt as to the time when Dominion Status will be granted should be cleared up (that was what Mr. Lloyd George saw as what the signatories to the letter had most at heart), than that the chance should be secured of obtaining a general political amnesty.

The Amnesty.

I have been talking with one of those who attended the Allahabad meeting, and is now at home again. He is one of the most influential of them; for whatever he decides to do, several others with influence in India will do too. To judge from his talk, the amnesty is the question most agitating the majority. The Indian has often a very soft heart; he is much less likely than we are to think that, if men have got into trouble with the Government of the country they live in, they must take the consequences. The Indian is so soft-hearted that, when the alternative is to say a student has failed in an examination or to give him the "grace marks," and say he has passed it, he will usually give him the "grace marks." He cannot bear to give hurt. So the persons in India sentenced under that Section 124 (a) of the Penal Code, or under trial and likely to be sentenced under that section, are very much on people's minds. Even those are, too, convicted under Regulation 111 of 1818, if many fewer hope to see the desired amnesty extended to them. The matter is complicated by that tendency that I have remarked on for the Indian to be swayed by a phrase. The phrase operative at the moment is "to secure a favourable atmosphere for the Round Table Conference." No political

amnesty now granted would make any difference to its deliberations after, say, the first half-hour; but you will find men here moving heaven and earth "to secure a favourable atmosphere" for it. The words will be as dry as so many old bones long before they cease to recur daily in almost every newspaper. Some will be cheering on the attempt to secure the atmosphere, others will be jeering at the attempt.

The Child Marriage Act.

The Muslim agitation against the Child Marriage Act, or its being the law of this land for the Muslims as well as for the rest of us, has been carried to the point of a strong deputation waiting on the Viceroy. The argument is that as the Church and the State, or religion and the law, are one in Islam, the marriages of Muslims must be governed, not by any law of British India, but by the Quran and the Traditions. In a statement that Maulana Mahomed Ali handed to the Viceroy it was said that the boundaries of Allah must never be transgressed. The Viceroy pointed out, in reply, that there are questions, the marriage question being one of them, that are borderline questions between sociology or civics and religion. There are many Muslims, however, whom you will never get to say "yea" to that. They will reply that they know of no such thing as sociology; they know only of religion; and they will have behind them what may be called "dogmatic obscurantism" of a more determined kind than one can find anywhere outside Islam. It was that "dogmatic obscurantism" that caused King George's Dock here to be altered (for the worse, unfortunately) in design. There was a Muslim prayer house in the way.

The Logical Consequences.

I asked the same political leader, on his return from Allahabad, what he thought of the argument of Maulana Mohamed Ali and the deputation; whether he himself was for them or against them. He was against them, he told me, and he went on to say that the consequences of yielding to the Muslim opposition to the Child Marriage Act, if carried to their logical conclusion, would be that most of the Penal Code would have to be scrapped for Muhammadans; for their religion commands that the punishment of theft should be the cutting off of the thief's hands; adultery would have to be punished by stoning to death, and so on. Then *sati* (suttee) would have to be legal for Hindus. We should be put back to the fourth or fifth century of our era.

Communalism.

My friend passed on to a much wider question, that of the strength of communalism in India. "If you scratch his skin with a pin," he said, naming a leader among the orthodox Muslims, "you will find a passion for the Islamisation of India; if you scratch *his* skin (here he named a leading Pandit) you will find a passion for the Hinduisation of India." There are even such men, I am afraid; men on one side who would like to see all the Hindus made Muslims; men on the other who would like all the Muslims made Hindus. To know what the effect of such passion is in Indian political life, you must throw your minds back to the time in England before Catholic Emancipation, when the Protestant fear was that, if the Roman Catholics had the power, there would not long be Protestants left in the land. You must throw your minds back to that date, while remembering that the present-day Muslim's fear of the Hindu, the Hindu's fear of the Muslim is far greater than ever Protestant fear was of Rome. My friend ended with the striking statement that for the Nationalist Party, the one to which he himself belongs, there is no room in India. India, he said in other words, cannot be a nation, one nation. It is too deeply divided.

Colonel James Ainsworth Yates, C.I.E., D.S.O., Indian Army, died suddenly at Maymyo, Burma, on December 1. He was on the Staff Corps when the Great War broke out, and was made D.A.A.G. He was in the operations in Iraq in this capacity from August, 1916, to the end of campaigning in that country, including the Arab rebellion in 1920.

THE "UNKNOWN INDIA."

The political importance of that "Unknown India," consisting of the Indian States, has now been officially recognised, and is no longer open to question. Addressing the Overseas League at Vernon House, Park Lane, on December 4, Professor L. F. Rushbrook Williams said that the correspondence exchanged between Sir John Simon and the Prime Minister made this recognition the basis for the forthcoming Round Table Conference on Indian affairs, to which all political parties in Britain had given their approval. He believed that it was essential for the men and women of Britain to know something more than they did about this great portion of India, more than one-third of the entire sub-continent, which circumstances were now bringing into such prominence.

Professor Rushbrook Williams then sketched the historical background of the Indian States, designating them the modern representatives of those small semi-autonomous kingdoms which had always played so large a part in Indian history. He outlined the growth of their relations with the British, and distinguished the different stages of our policy towards them. Emphasising the unfaltering discharge of their treaties and engagements with the Crown, he laid stress upon the services they had rendered at any crisis in the Empire's fortunes. Their statesmanlike view of the value of India of the British connexion had never, he said, at any time been in doubt, and at the present moment was such as to expose them to attack from certain quarters. They had nevertheless certain modifications to suggest, modifications designed to deal with well-recognised difficulties in the system by which their relations with the Crown were managed; and it was for this reason, among others, that they welcomed the approaching Conference.

The Indian Princes were not, the lecturer concluded, afraid of Dominion status as the goal of British policy in India, for they were proud of their country and zealous for its attainment of an honourable place in the British Commonwealth. But they also looked to Great Britain to see that their cherished rights were not endangered.

Mr. L. S. Amery, who presided, reminded the audience that all the Indian States had great traditions and renowned dynasties, some older than the oldest States of Europe. Not the least of their traditions was one of steady loyalty and good will, tested on many occasions, to the British Government.

Having regard to their record and their importance, it was impossible, he said, to arrive at a final settlement of the Indian problem without taking into account the position and treaty rights of the Indian States.

HEARSAY HISTORY.

If further proof were needed of the Viceroy's wisdom in rejecting at once the claim of the self-styled representatives of Indian States' subjects to representation on the Round Table Conference, to which reference is made elsewhere in this issue, it would be provided in a recently-published book* by one of the leaders of the so-called Indian States Subjects' Conference. Professing to deal with the whole question of "Indian Princes under British Protection," the author, Mr. Chudgar, has drawn together a mass of hearsay evidence, which he uses as an excuse to indict not only the Indian States, but also the Political Department which is responsible for their supervision. The value of this material and the real nature of the propaganda may be judged from the fact that Mr. Chudgar reproduces without a word of qualification certain wild allegations brought against Prince "Ranji," which have been officially contradicted and subsequently repudiated as mere hearsay by the quarters responsible for giving them currency.

Mr. Chudgar's general attitude towards Indian ques-

* "Indian Princes under British Protection." By P. L. Chudgar. (London: Williams and Norgate. 6s.)

tions may be judged with sufficient accuracy from two sentences on a single page. The first is: "Indians are treated with contempt and kicked in every part of the world as in their own country, while every foreigner can exploit them as freely as he likes." The second is: "If social conditions are bad, if there are untouchables, and if the people are over-superstitious, it is all due to the illiteracy for which the British administration is responsible." The book is sponsored by Col. Josiah Wedgwood in a characteristic introduction, which would be humorous were it not for the pathetic ignorance which it displays of the real conditions of the States.

LORD GOSCHEN'S APPEAL.

An eloquent and forceful appeal for a wider appreciation of the industrial and economic progress of India was made by Lord Goschen at a dinner of the Weavers' Company in the Vintner's Hall on November 26. After referring to the historic connexion between the City of London and India it was, he said, one of India's misfortunes "that the general public of this country are not in close touch with its current events and daily life."

"When the atmosphere is bright and calm," the late Acting Governor-General proceeded, "the public here is apt to slumber, heedless of the growth which is being made; but from this state it is aroused by the noise of local thunderstorms, which arouses its interest and naturally causes it anxiety. I do not desire to belittle the intensity of the storms or their constant recurrence; I only plead for a wider and more constant interest."

"I ask that the silent efforts of our friends, Indian and Europeans alike, who are continuously working to promote the moral and material prosperity of India should not be overlooked—those politicians in India, Indian and European, who are endeavouring in a spirit of give and take to work a system of government which has always been regarded as of a temporary character; those men who are engaged in promoting and administering great industrial undertakings which have added and are adding to the wealth of India, and are improving the conditions under which her people live; that great body of the I.S.C. who loyally, unobtrusively, and in difficult circumstances are striving to assist in the solution of the problems which confront us; the big landlords, who are loyally helping us, and all those who with breadth of vision are seeking for peace."

"To these let us offer encouragement, the encouragement of knowing that their efforts are realized and appreciated, and assure them that the people of this country, fully alive to the gravity and seriousness of the position, earnestly desire that our policy with regard to India should not be caught in the maelstrom of party politics, but that we should face it calmly and patiently in the spirit of common purpose and joint endeavour."

Acting on medical advice, Sir Venkata Reddi, Agent General for India in South Africa, left for India on December 2 on three months' leave.

Sir Frederick Sykes, Governor of Bombay, presided on December 6 at the 125th anniversary celebration of the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, when a portrait of Sir James Mackintosh, Founder and first President of the Society, was unveiled.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Schuster, Finance Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India, accompanied by the Hon. Lady Schuster, is due to reach Bombay to-morrow on his return from a visit to this country of less than three weeks. He has held consultations on current financial questions with the authorities of the India Office, and has also discussed various matters with Mr. W. T. Layton, Financial Assessor to the Simon Commission.

India is helping to popularise the weekly England-India air mail service by issuing special stamps, the first of which arrived on the mail reaching this country a fortnight ago. They are of an entirely new form for India, being of transverse oblong form, showing one of the mail planes in flight over the ocean. They retain, however, in the right-hand portion of the frame, the crowned profile of the King which is common to all the Indian Imperial postage stamps.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

"Pep" in Parliament.

There are times when the parties in Parliament seem implacably opposed to one another, and last week there were several manifestations of such difference of opinion as might lead the observer to imagine that friendship between rival politicians was an impossibility. For instance, the refusal of the inclusion of the Lord Chief Justice, as the nominee of the Liberal Party, in the Commission to examine Electoral Reform, involved a shower of abuse on the serene head of Mr. Baldwin. A subject which produced even more fury was that of relations with Russia.

In the Lords several anti-Government speakers denounced in the strongest terms the decision to resume diplomatic relations with Russia. The attack on the Government was, indeed, furious. Lord Birkenhead, a skilled campaigner in verbal warfare, led the attack, and in biting words, much, apparently, to the liking of the Lords, endeavoured to make mincemeat of the argument in favour of healing the breach with Russia. It would seem, however, that too many Conservatives themselves now are coming to believe that at best no harm can come from resuming relations with Russia for the tirades of the Lords to have much effect upon the country.

Another speech which fluttered the dovescotes came from Mr. Lloyd George, who roused much Conservative sympathy, in a speech upon Disarmament, by referring to the danger that the League of Nations was in of "being run by flapdoodlers." The ex-Prime Minister is so curious a mixture of sentiment and realism, that he may easily have, as cheerers of one speech, the denouncers of his next. By the Liberal Party his reference to the League has been taken amiss, but on the whole it has probably done more good than harm.

The Bottomless Pit.

If there is one man in the Labour Party who knows that you cannot take out of a thing more than you put into it, it is Mr. Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Naturally, he is having difficulties with certain of his followers who appear to imagine that the Exchequer is a bottomless pit, from which the worthy poor may draw indefinitely. But upon this particular heresy Mr. Snowden has just put his foot down firmly.

Even as things are, the Budget next spring will be difficult to balance, and so Mr. Snowden has cried "Halt"

to those who wish for still further expenditure on behalf of the unemployed. It is said, indeed, that last week he actually threatened to resign if his point were not carried. In the event, the Trade Unionists who were supporting the increased expenditure rallied to the Prime Minister's appeal to be loyal to the Government.

But while the amendments which would have increased expenditure under the Unemployment Insurance Bill have been resisted, the Government has accepted certain modifications which, it is claimed, very considerably improve the Bill. It is being asserted, in fact, that so good a Bill could have been produced only under a minority Government, and hopes are being entertained that the House of Commons, in which every member should be a legislator, is actually coming into its own in the present Parliament. No doubt the ills resulting from the abuse of an overwhelming weight of party machinery are less manifest in this Parliament than in any since the War, but whether this fact will be recognised and remembered by the populace at the next General Election remains to be seen.

The Gale.

Not many people, certainly not those who lived in the South and South-West of England, will forget the gale that raged last week. With a "record" wind, blowing at nearly 110 miles an hour, it created terrific havoc. Worst placed of all, as always, were the men at sea, many of whom were lost before lifeboats could reach them, or because the seas were so mountainous that lifeboats could not reach them. Of all heroic deeds in peace time, perhaps those performed at sea are the grandest. Certainly the courage of men at sea during this gale moved the vast population of landlubbers in an unusual way.

On land, floods of course were common. Houses and property were swept away, and many families left homeless. Crashing chimneys and trees caused several deaths. Roads became impassable; windows were staved in; almost every new-built house, with its unseasoned timber, leaked badly. It was, indeed, an unforgettable time.

Billiards as an Art.

There are few Englishmen who do not keenly relish a game of billiards—which consists of a hundred up, usually performed in something under the hour. They knew, of course, that there did exist queer professionals who scored at a rather faster rate than this, but not until Lindrum, the Australian, burst upon London, did they realise fully that billiards can be much more an art than a game.

This Lindrum is a perfectly amazing fellow, who has more or less dwarfed our own incomparable Smith. He goes round the table making nursery cannons more quickly than the marker can score them up. Breaks of a thousand are as nothing to him. He makes about 2,000 in an hour. There is no doubt whatever that he is the finest player in the world. What is the secret of it all? There is no one answer, but what is most obvious to the hum-drum observer is the delicacy of his touch, which reminds one of Gieseking or Hoffmann at the piano.

Bus and Coach Fares.

There is always an explanation when, under a new monopoly, or under something that approaches a monopoly, prices go up. So the word of warning has already been issued that, owing to the agreements between the main bus-owning companies and the main line railways, there will be a rise in bus and motorcoach fares. The smaller concerns, it is officially pointed out, have been able to cut prices owing mainly to three things: overworking the drivers, using unsound vehicles, and the travelling of buses at an unlimited speed. When the Traffic Bill, of which I have recently written in these columns, becomes law, the advantages which these smaller concerns now possess will automatically disappear.

So is to end the rivalry between rail and road that at one time threatened to be desperate. ALTER EGO.



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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

December 12, 1929 (New Style).

November 29, 1929 (Old Style).

Rajab 10, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Kislev 10, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Archibald and Lady Birkmyre leave London to-day for India.

Miss Josephine Plows-Day has left London for a short trip to Egypt.

General Sir Reginald Wingate arrived at Southampton on December 6 in the Asturias on his return from Lisbon.

The Marquess of Northampton left Tilbury on December 6 in the P. and O. s.s. Ranpura for Port Said.

Sir Thomas Strangman joined Lady Strangman at Marseilles. They sailed for Bombay in the P. and O. s.s. Mantua.

Mrs. Fred Nicholson, Miss Eileen, and Miss Joyce Nicholson left London last Friday in the Ranpura for Egypt.

Lord and Lady Melchett, who will spend Christmas at Melchet Court, will sail for South Africa in the Windsor Castle on January 10.

Prince Habib Lotfallah left London on December 7 for Paris on his way to Cairo. He will return to England in February.

Lady Grizel Hamilton left Tilbury on December 7 in the Orient liner Orsova, which is sailing for the Mediterranean and the East.

Brigadier-General and the Hon. Mrs. Warner and Miss Felicity Warner have left London for a tour in the Near East and will not return until March.

Lt.-Col. Sir Arnold Wilson delivered the "World after the War" Lecture at Morley College on December 6, taking as his subject "The Middle East."

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. W. W. Henderson, M.P. to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Dr. Pozidar Pouritch has been appointed Counsellor to the Yugoslav Legation in London. He was formerly Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation at Washington.

A reception will be held by the Yugoslav Minister at the Yugoslav Legation on Tuesday afternoon, December 17, in honour of King Alexander's birthday.

M. Dimitri Stancioff, former Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James, and Mme. and Mlle. Stancioff, arrived at the end of last week at Blair Drummond, Perthshire, on a visit to Sir Kay and Lady Muir.

Sardars Shah Wali Khan and Ahmed Ali Khan, the Afghan Ministers-designate to the Court of St. James and the French Republic respectively, leave Bombay for Europe on December 14.

Dr. Pollock, Bishop of Norwich, is leaving England shortly for a holiday in Palestine and the Near East. On Christmas Day he will preach at the morning service in St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem.

Lady Honor Guinness, who is going on a visit to the Viceroy of India and Lady Irwin, joined the s.s. Mantua at Marseilles on December 7 on her way to Delhi. She is accompanied by the Hon. Richard and the Hon. Anne Wood, son and daughter of Lord and Lady Irwin.

Lord Lloyd presided on December 3 at a dinner given by the Royal Empire Society in the Hotel Victoria to members of the British Association on their return from the recent meeting of the Association in South Africa.

Sir Philip Sassoon, M.P., will give a lecture (illustrated by lantern slides) entitled "The Third Route" (an account of a journey to India and back by flying-boat and aeroplane), at the Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, at three o'clock, on December 14, in aid of the Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway. Tickets may be obtained from the Secretary, 25, Park Lane, W.1.

The first meeting of the Committee of the Golden Fleece Ball to raise funds for the Save the Children Fund's Anti-Trachoma Clinics in Greece, took place on December 5, at the house of the Chairman, Sir John Stavridi, 33, Lennox Gardens, S.W. Ex-King George, of Greece, and ex-Queen Elizabeth have signified their intention of being present at a reception in connexion with the Ball at 33, Lennox Gardens on December 16.

At a luncheon given by Abdel Malek Hamza Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, at the Royal Egyptian Legation on December 4, in honour of the Hon. Sir Ronald Lindsay, the guests included the Turkish Ambassador and Mme. Ferid Bey, Sir John and Lady Hanbury-Williams, Sir Victor and Lady Wellesley, A. M. Hasanein Bey, Mr. and Mrs. Selby, Mr. J. Murray, A. F. Assal Bey and Mme. Assal Bey, R. A. Radi Bey and Mme. Radi Bey, G. Cattau Bey and A. K. Safwat Bey.

The new Yugoslav primary education law, which divides primary schools into lower primary and higher primary and provides for four years' attendance at each, has received the Royal signature.

The Bulgarian Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Finance, M. Bouroff and M. Moloff, left Sofia last week to get into touch with the Governments of the Powers, and to make a final attempt to obtain a satisfactory settlement of Bulgarian reparations. The two Ministers are visiting Rome, Paris, and London before proceeding to The Hague, where they will represent Bulgaria at the second Hague Conference.

The Times Belgrade Correspondent reports that the law creating a new body to be called the Yugoslav Sokol (athletic organisation) was published on December 5, comprising adult Sokol organisations, young men's Sokol organisations, and children's Sokol organisations. All are to be united into one organisation under a board appointed jointly by the Minister of War and the Minister of Education. The funds for the maintenance of the Sokols will be partly contributed by the State. Existing Sokol organisations will be dissolved within three weeks from that date (December 5) unless within that time they join, as component parts, the new Sokol.

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Book Review

CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM INTERACTION IN THE NEAR EAST.

"CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM UNDER THE SULTANS." By the late F. W. Hasluck. Edited by Margaret M. Hasluck. Two volumes. (The Clarendon Press. 63s. net.)

The study of religion and folklore in the Near East owed much to Mr. Hasluck. It is not the least calamity in this connexion that his premature death, largely due to his devoted efforts to serve his country during the War, made it impossible for him to give the result of his researches to his fellow-students during his life, except in the form of stray articles to various technical journals. His books were all still in the making. Had it not been for the splendid efforts of his equally gifted wife, we should have had neither his valuable work on Mount Athos nor the one now before us. It is, therefore, mainly to her work of piety that we owe this wonderful storehouse of original research and, indeed, her own work on it has greatly added to its value. How he worked and toiled at his favourite theme up to a day or two before he was taken from us is already known to those of our readers who are acquainted with the delightful and touching volume of letters to his friend, Professor Dawkins, which we recently had the pleasure of reviewing in these columns. The rescue of the notes resulting from this work and their presentation to students in something like consecutive form is due to Mrs. Hasluck's determination and scholarship.

The title of the book and the heading which we have given to our review will sufficiently indicate the nature of the contents of the book. Technically, what we have before us was intended to form two separate works. One was to have been on "Transferences from Christianity to Islam and *vice versa*," while the other was to have been "Studies in Turkish Popular History and Religion." Of these, the former was nearly completed, while the latter was quite unfinished. Wisely, the subjects being so nearly related, Mrs. Hasluck decided that it would be best to fuse the two into one. This must have been a difficult task, and we need not cavil if we sometimes feel that it was almost an impossible one and that many of the chapters, and these often not the least valuable, rather hang "in the air." While, therefore, much of the book is a fine literary composition, parts of it are merely notes of valuable material prepared for the final treatment which death grudged to them. Seven years of his life were devoted to this book, and for the last five he was in the grip of the illness which took him from us.

As it stands now, we have three main subjects presented. The first and most complete deals with the interaction between Islam and Christianity as shown mainly by the transference of Christian sanctuaries to Muslim occupation and by the frequentation of Christian sanctuaries by Muslims and *vice versa*. It is curious to note how political tendencies seem to have had no influence on these phenomena, while the human desire for healing is so often at the bottom of them.

The second concerns Turkish religious folklore, pure and simple, such as cults of stones, trees, caves, tombs of holy men and saints (true, false and purely imaginary), together with the odd changes which Christian adoption of many of these cults brought with it.

The third gives a careful and much needed account of the important order of Bektashi Dervishes and their curious connexions with the Janissaries and with Christians, while we are also given a most interesting account of various heretic Shiah tribes who appear to have derived many of their peculiar beliefs from Christian influences.

Finally, we have the chapters which we described above as being rather "in the air." Among them the most important deal with the attitude of the Seljuk monarchs towards their Christian subjects at Konia, the graves of the Arabs in Asia Minor, the mosques of the Arabs in Constantinople, the so-called tomb of St. Polycarp at Smyrna (this is a thrilling piece of detective work), the blessing of the waters at Epiphany and the Neo-Martyrs of the Orthodox Church.

The spirit of the book is made clear by the following extract from the author's introduction to the second part of the book:—

The interest of the subject seems to me considerable, as disclosing, not, as might be expected, picturesque "survivals" from antiquity, but as bringing into prominence certain points which have been unconsciously kept in the background by the in some ways over-logical methods pursued by recent research. . . . Apparently primitive features may be in reality of recent origin, secondary phenomena may become primary. . . . Irreconcilable legends may circulate at the same time in the same place; it occurs only to a small class to unify the whole cycle of current legend, and this class, though not necessarily dishonest or interested, is still credulous and uncritical. Analogies in ritual and legend, however apparently exact, seldom or never amount to proof of common origin, entirely different origins leading through various developments to identical results. The two creative forces—the popular and the learned (which are often equivalent to the lay and the priestly)—have been at work in some form on religion as far back as we can see. In Turkey they can still be seen at work. It is this which gives to these Turkish studies a more than local interest.

We have marked numerous passages in the book, but have no space to quote them. Especially do we regret the impossibility of reproducing in full a delightful chapter which may be described as a paragon on the subject of "Western Travellers Through Eastern Eyes." A few sentences of it must, however, be given to illustrate the author's light touch. It concerns a story told to Hamilton by his guides at Everek, near Caesarea, in 1836.

A traveller, they told him, once came from Frangistan, in search of a rare plant which grew only on the summit of Argæus, having ten leaves round its stalk and a flower in the centre. The plant was guarded by a watchful serpent, which only slept one hour out of the four-and-twenty. The traveller in vain tried to persuade some of the natives to accompany him, and point out the way: none of them would venture, and at length he made the ascent alone. Failing, however, in his attempt to surprise the dragon, he was himself destroyed. He was afterwards discovered, *transformed into a book*, which was taken to Caesarea, and thence found its way back to Frangistan.

The true story turned out to be that a highly respected American missionary, Mr. Grindley, who had served in that neighbourhood for some years, set out in 1827, i.e., only nine years before to climb the neighbouring mountain, overdid it, and finally succumbed in his own bed to the effects of exhaustion. "It is some consolation," says Mr. Hasluck, "to the Western traveller, who often feels himself but a commonplace person in the East, to realise that he also may become in the mouths of the people the hero of such a fantastic, if ill-starred Odyssey."

We cannot close this very inadequate review without thanking Mrs. Hasluck for her fine bibliography, and specially for the magnificent index which adds enormously to the usefulness of the book. It is not, we think, every publisher who would have consented to produce so valuable an accessory, but we are accustomed to scholarship prevailing over economy in the Clarendon Press, to which also we owe the exceedingly handsome presentation of Mr. (and Mrs.) Hasluck's *magnum opus*. We cannot doubt but that this reward is just the one which the author would have appreciated. He wanted none, but ungrudgingly gave all that was in him to his loved work, with no ambition for himself and content if he could but carry the torch on a stage further in the race. C. S-W.

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ARAB AND JEW IN PALESTINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—In your "Notes of the Week" of November 28, under the heading, "Arab and Jew," the statement is made that the best Arab opinion recognises the existence of the Jewish community in Palestine—and similarly, the best Jewish opinion recognises the existence of the Arabs in Palestine, and so on.

On the part of the Arabs, history testifies to their recognition of the Jews living among them and to their tolerant treatment through all ages, while other races were persecuting the Jews. But as to the recognition of the existence of the Arabs of Palestine in their homeland by the best Jewish opinion, one stands staggered at the gigantic pretensions of the Zionists and their sympathisers implied by this statement, if it rightly represents the working of the Jewish mind in this controversy. How graceful and tolerant of the Jews, mostly aliens to Palestine, to recognise the existence of the Arab in his home!

It cannot be declared too often that the Arabs of Palestine have nothing against the Jews as Jews settling down among them in the ordinary way. But with the Zionist policy of a National Home they have never ceased to proclaim to all concerned that they can have no compromise. They simply refuse to acknowledge it. Its success in face of their attitude can be secured only by coercion—if the British taxpayers are prepared to foot the bill.

People in Great Britain have been fed too much with Zionist propaganda to understand the position of the Arabs in this case and their determined opposition to a policy calculated to impose upon them domination in the political and economic spheres by an immigrant community directed by an alien organisation backed by millions of international money.

One thing, and one only, it seems to those who know the Arab and his character well, will restore social and political peace in Palestine, so much desired by the people of this country, viz., the renunciation of the militant National Home policy, economically as well as politically, by the Jews themselves. Until such renunciation is honestly made, accompanied by the stoppage of assisted immigration and the abandonment of the acquisition of land by foreign money, no *rapprochement* between the two sections of the population can, it is feared, take place.—I am, etc.,

A. H. KISBANY.

November 29.

31, Major Street, Manchester.

THE INHABITANTS OF PALESTINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Mr. Hussey's letter, contained in your issue of November 14, on the origin of the Fallahs (farmers) in Palestine greatly surprised me. It seems to me that Mr. Hussey is not well acquainted with the subject on which he writes. This propaganda, however, will not mislead the enlightened readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

It is erroneous to say that the Fallahin (farmers) descended from the Canaanites, because the old Canaanites were driven out from Jerusalem at the time of David to Iraq with the Jews in their Babylonian captivity. Some of them, however, returned to Palestine with the Jews who were freed by the great Persian Emperor Cyrus, but their return is not recorded because their number was too insignificant to be mentioned. Those who returned with those in the country were absorbed by the very many victorious nations that conquered Palestine and settled in it for a time; and afterwards by the overwhelming majority of the Arabs who conquered Palestine and made it their home since.

The Effendi class is only the enlightened minority of the Fellahin (farmers). This term was given by the Turks to those who could read and write. Thus there is no difference between the Effendi and the Fallah, for when a farmer is educated he becomes an Effendi, and all the Effendis who are defending the cause of their country were farmers at one time.

The Christians are also Arabs who were converted in the time of the Romans. As for their being descended from Pullanis, this name is not known in this country. It is very easy to prove the Christians in Palestine to be Arabs, because if we take the family tree (family line of ancestors) of any Christian, we find it runs to the time when the ancestors of those concerned came from Yaman or Najd. In fact, all the farmers and the Effendis have the same line of ancestry as their Christian brothers. Now if anyone goes to the villages where these Fallahin (farmers) live, he will find two divisions: the first call themselves Najdiin (from Najd), and the second call themselves Yamaniin (from Yaman). This fact proves the fallacy of Mr. Hussey's argument.

Another point which proves the fallacy of Mr. Hussey, is that he could call the Fallahin (farmers) in Palestine only by the name of Arabs, for these people settled in this country centuries ago, and they do not speak anything but Arabic. Another thing—could Mr. Hussey call an Englishman a Norman or a Roman, because many of the inhabitants of the British Isles are descended from Norman and Roman stock? The answer is, simply, No; because with the passing of years they were assimilated, and consequently became true English people. The Palestinians are no exception to the rule of assimilation.—I am, etc.,

J. R. HAYDAR,

Principal of the Najah National School, Nablus, Palestine.

THE IDEALS OF ISLAM.

Lecturing before the Central Asian Society on "Islamic Ideals" on December 4, Professor D. S. Margoliouth began by discussing the relations between Muslims and Christians. He quoted Mr. Eldon Rutter to the effect that "The Christian is more hated throughout the Islamic world than is Iblis himself," and the statement of M. Michaud Bellaire, who has profoundly studied Islamic Northern Africa, that "Hatred of the infidel Christian is the fundamental argument whereon the whole policy of the Government (of Morocco) is based." In Palestine, however, where the Muslims and Christians had a common interest in resistance to the Zionists, there appeared, superficially at least, to be a very different spirit. A lecture delivered in 1927 by Sayyid Abdullah Mukhlis sought to prove that Christian and Muslim had always been friendly and would have remained so but for European intervention.

The truth was, concerning Muslim-Christian relations, that conditions in each country would always decide what they would be, apart from Quranic texts and traditions. In the Prophet's time the hostility of his system to the Jews was far more vehement than to the Christians, but the course of events speedily altered this. The Muslim attitude depended on the politics of the time. The Christian and Muslim populations of Palestine both resented the Balfour Declaration, because it appeared to bestow on the Jews rights which the rest of the population were not to share, and was interpreted to mean that the land belonged to the Jews, who out of their kindness might tolerate the others as aliens.

Texts of the Quran could be quoted in favour of the theory that the ideal of Islam was the unity of Muslims against all who did not belong to this community. Yet practically all Muslims belonged to a particular sect; even in the first century of Islam we read of a sect which, while sparing Jews and Christians, massacred all Muslims who did not belong to it. The Prophet devised a system, indeed, for perpetuating the unity of Islam, viz., the religious capital to be visited by every Muslim.

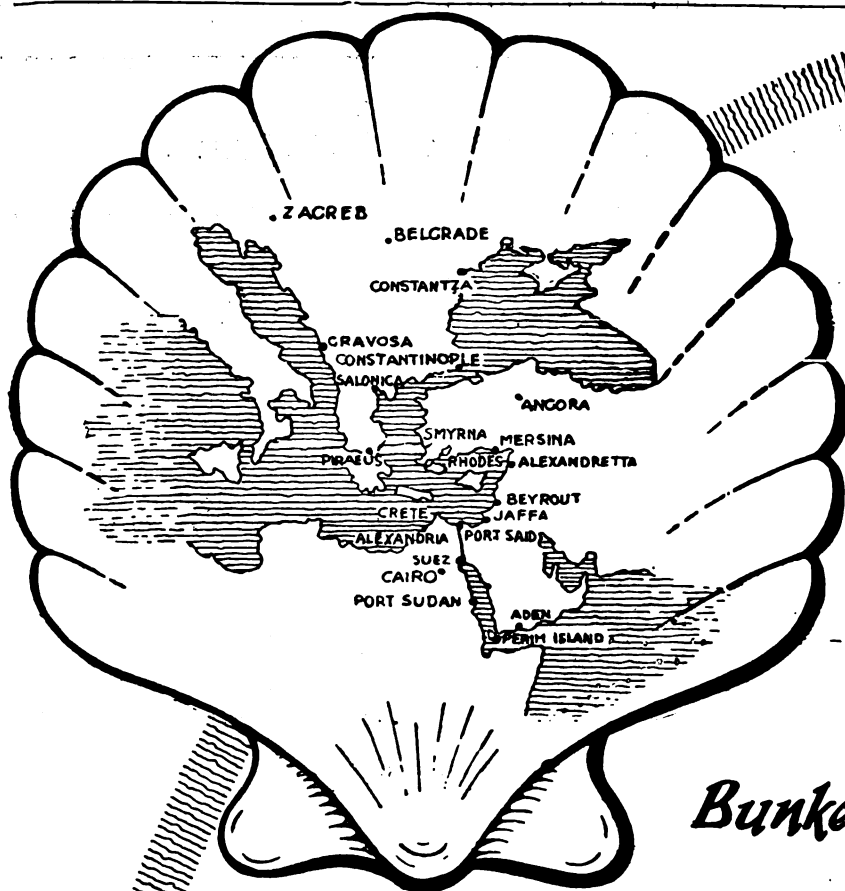
The lecturer then examined the problem presented by the occupation of the Holy Places by the Wahhabi, whose tenets were so different from those of many Muslims—particularly in regard to the veneration of tombs and the intercession of saints. In connexion with the visitation of tombs, he quoted with considerable approval F. W. Hasluck's recently published "Christianity and Islam under the Sultans," in which the thesis was maintained that a deliberate scheme was undertaken by Muslims for the attraction of Christians into the Islamic fold by affecting reverence for Christian shrines. This thesis, however, Professor Margoliouth could not accept; and he mentioned, as parallel cases, the turning of pagan deities into Christian martyrs, and the taking over of the ceremonial of the Pilgrimage by the Prophet Muhammad.

Examination was then made of some of the pamphlets issued by the learned shaiikhs of Al Azhar. These theorists differed widely. Some, such as Abd al-Baqi Surur Nu'aim, were frankly reactionary. This writer believed that the commentators on the Quran were responsible for the distraction and consequent decay of Islam, and urged that if only Muslims would follow the Quran, the unity and might which would result would enable them once more to conquer kingdoms and subdue nations. This idea was not easy to distinguish from Pan-Islamism—a conception the prospects of which to-day were very black, since the Ottoman Empire had broken up. As a matter of fact, however, the thesis that division of opinion based on study of the Quran was responsible for the decay of the system was quite untenable: the break-up of the Islamic Empire was due to the difficulty of organising such a congeries of countries and nations, when communication was so slow and difficult.

Another school of Muslim thought sought to prove that whatever was good in European civilisation had been borrowed from Islam—to Islam was due the abolition of slavery, religious toleration, the improvement of women's status, the substitution of democracy for autocracy, and so on. One of the lecturer's Syrian correspondents added to these reforms two which he found that America had borrowed from Islam: prohibition and facility of divorce. "In these two matters," said Professor Margoliouth, "Islam may certainly claim priority; but it might be difficult to show that the people of the United States had adopted them after contemplation of their beneficial effects on the Islamic peoples."

Summing up the effect of the introduction of the Islamic peoples of large sections of Asia and Africa to European literature, science, and art, the lecturer said that there were those Muslims who would have nothing to do with it, those who frankly acknowledged its superiority to their own inheritance, and those who discovered that they had it all before the conquerors and were therefore under no obligation to those who had introduced it.

In conclusion, Professor Margoliouth explained the distinction between the ideas and the ideals of Islam, and said:—"The ideal which the most thoughtful (Muslims) appear to cherish is that of embodying in Islam the moral and social reforms which centuries of experience, not always progressive, but mainly so, have taught the European nations. It does not seem to me to be the function of religion to discover ethics, but to sanctify them when discovered by experience, observation, and reasoning; hence it comes that the same religious system has at different periods sanctified and condemned the same procedure. If, then, the ideal of modern Islam be so to utilize the reverence which thirteen centuries have accumulated for their religious institutions in the minds of the Muslim people for the sanctification of the advanced ethics which are the discovery of the European people, it would seem that members of other religious communities can only wish them God-speed in the attainment of that ideal."



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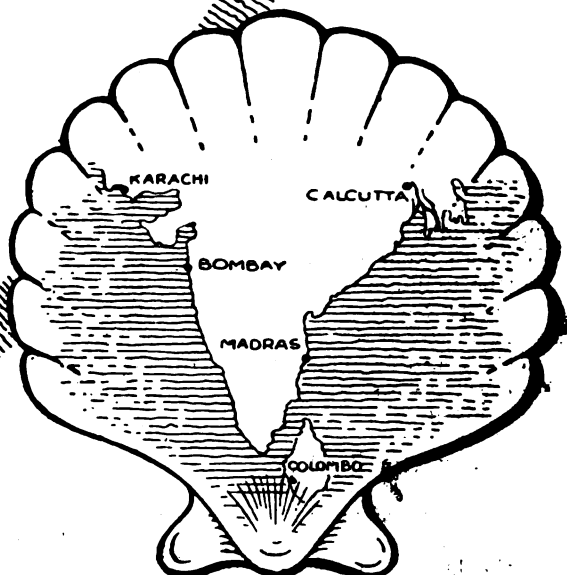
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Turkish Exchange Crisis.

The events of the past week have borne out my suggestion that the adverse movement of the Turkish exchange might be expected to continue. The situation has naturally alarmed the Ankara authorities, who are endeavouring to cope with it by a variety of emergency measures, such as the curtailment of foreign purchases and the prohibition of dealings in foreign currency except under authorisation. The immediate result of these measures has been a marked improvement in the exchange, but how far this is likely to be permanent must be a matter of doubt, for the exchange weakness is a reflection of the exceedingly unfavourable economic position of the country. There is a large adverse trade balance, which has been increased by the need for importing foodstuffs to make good the shortage of the last two harvests, and the demand for foreign currency to pay for imports has just been increased by the beginning of the payments under the Debt agreement. Turkey is not in the happy position of other countries of having large secret imports, such as an important tourist traffic, remittances from emigrants, and interest on loans, to redress an adverse balance, and as the Ankara authorities have steadfastly set their faces against foreign assistance in the shape of loans, there is nothing to give real support to the exchange. As matters have gone, the present development was inevitable, but it could have been avoided if a different policy had been pursued in the past few years. It looks now as if, *faute de mieux*, the Ankara authorities may have to look for foreign help in their efforts to stabilise the exchange.

Turkey's Resources.

While the solution of the existing economic crisis is likely to tax the ingenuity of the Ankara authorities, it must be emphasised that the real sources of Turkey are of such a character that the ultimate future of the country is not in doubt, granted, of course, the pursuance of a prudent policy on the part of the authorities. Much has been heard in recent years of the crisis at Istanbul (to give Constantinople its real name)—a crisis which is now said to be worse than at any time since the War—but that is merely a reflection of the general trade depression and in particular of the fact that Istanbul is no longer a junction for the exchange of commodities between East and West. The real strength of Turkey rests in the land, and it is the development of agriculture by irrigation and by the introduction on a large scale of modern machinery that will set Turkey on her feet again. The crops of the country are many and good, and in favourable years many of them figure importantly in the export trade. One need only instance tobacco, sultanas, figs, nuts, mohair, olives, and cotton to illustrate the field covered by agriculture. When development has really taken place Turkey will be in a position to export very large quantities of produce, and her favourable geographical situation should enable her to find the necessary markets, if the export trade is properly organised.

Problems for Turkey.

The development of agricultural production is, however, a thing of the future, and is handicapped at the moment by the factor which is the root cause of Turkey's troubles—the lack of money. The Government has shown itself

unwilling so far to accept foreign assistance, and even if it were to modify its attitude in this respect it would probably not be easy at present to enlist the assistance of foreign finance on favourable terms. The problem is one, however, which must be solved before Turkey can hope to progress. The same difficulty of the lack of capital handicaps developments on the industrial side, but this is not the only problem encountered in this direction. Industries cannot be started, so to speak, in a day in a State which is not accustomed to industrialism, and Turkey lacks both skilled labour and skilled leadership for industrial ventures. Here again it is difficult to see how she can fail to take advantage of foreign aid by enlisting the services of expert foreign workmen and by permitting foreign concerns to assist in the country's development. In the course of time Turkey will no doubt be able to stand on her own feet when the yield of her land has enriched her people and experience of industry has brought the requisite knowledge, but in the meantime it would be foolish not to take advantage of the experience of other countries and of any assistance they may be willing to afford.

An Excellent Departure.

The election last week by the directors of the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange of Mr. K. M. Banthyaia, of the East India Produce Company, and Mr. R. J. Udani, of Bakubhai and Ambalal, as members of the Exchange, is a departure which is to be heartily welcomed. The fact that while foreigners were eligible for election to the sale rooms and other commercial organisations in the City the same facilities were not in fact available for all members of the British Empire was not unnaturally regarded as a legitimate grievance by the members of the Indian mercantile community in London, who learnt of the election of two of their members with great satisfaction. It may be recalled here that at the annual dinner last spring of the London Chamber of Commerce, Sir Stephen Demetriadi, Chairman of the Council, referred to this question and said:—"In my considered opinion, trade organisations, mercantile exchanges, and sale rooms—and I speak more particularly of those concerned with the sale of Indian products—should show their willingness to admit to their membership His Majesty's Indian subjects, and so remove any feeling that might exist of inequality of treatment." The development which has now taken place will, it may

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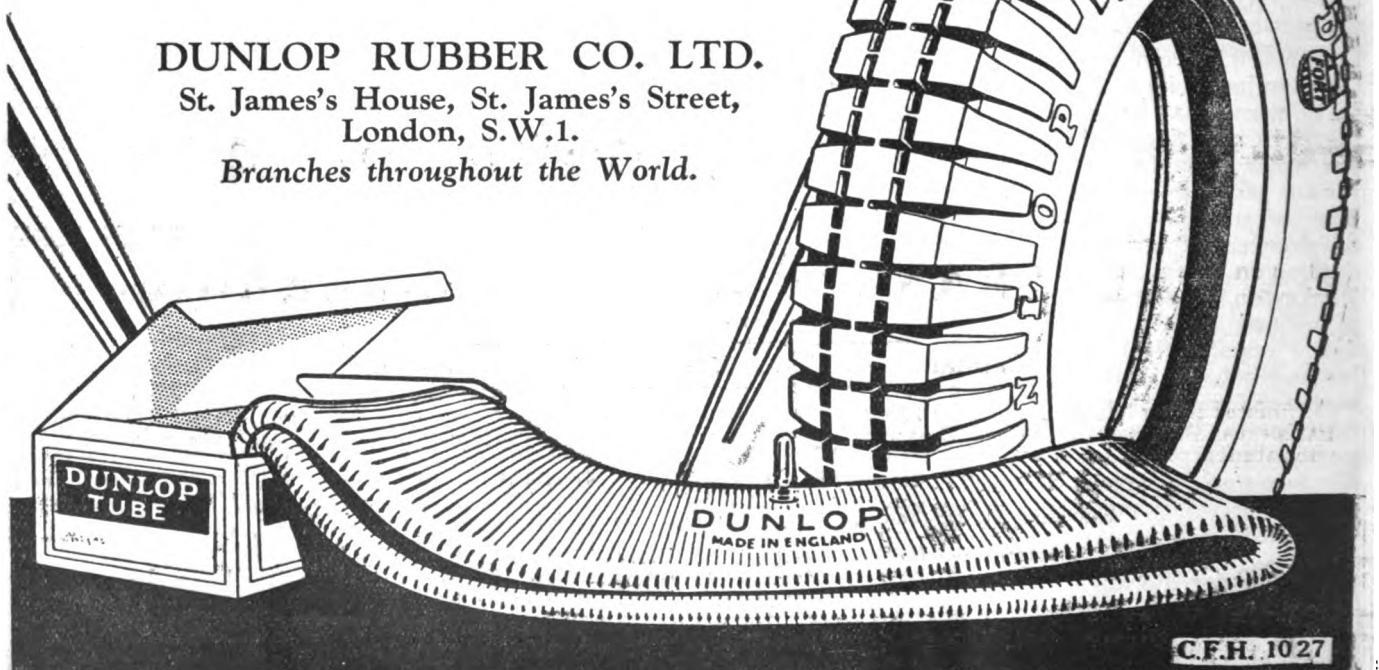
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be hoped, be followed by other organisations, thus cementing the trade associations between London and the largest market of this country.

Competition in the Near East.

One of the most regrettable features of the post-War era has been the undoubted decline in British enterprise in some of the leading centres of the Near and Middle East. In the pre-War period it was possible to point to British firms in each important city who for generations had played the leading part in the local trade, but the position is no longer unchallenged. Conditions in the region in question in the last few years have been very unfavourable, it is true, but it is futile to impute all the blame for the decline of British trade influence to adverse circumstances, for while some of our firms have been deploring the decreased outlets for enterprise, foreign firms have been freely entering the field, and they would scarcely be doing this merely to lose their money. To judge by all appearances, some of them seem to be doing very well in such an unfavourable field for British enterprise, and it makes one wonder whether the real explanation for our lack of success is not that British firms are no longer capable of withstanding serious competition. Before the War British firms in certain lines were largely immune from opposition, but the search for possible openings for enterprise to-day has ended that state for ever. Trade can now only be obtained and held by the most vigorous and up-to-date measures, and if our firms are to regain the position they have held it can only be by recapturing the spirit of endeavour which seems to have been lost through the lack of competition. If French, Italian, and German firms can find openings for business in the Near East, it is surely not beyond the capacity of our traders to do likewise.

Sale of Cyprus Products.

A very interesting report has just been issued by the Trade Commissioner for Cyprus in London for the six months ended September 30 last, detailing the steps which have been taken to promote the sale of Cyprus products in the United Kingdom. During this period Cyprus took part in three exhibitions, the principal one being the North-East Coast Exhibition, where the Cyprus Pavilion occasioned considerable interest. A large part of the report is devoted to market reports and investigations, some of which are encouraging. Thus it is stated that it is clear that there is scope for a considerable development in the export of onions to the United Kingdom, which may serve to counterbalance the decline in the exports to Egypt. A report received on a sample of Cyprus prunes was on the whole encouraging, and, it is pointed out, justifies further experiment. Then efforts have been made to increase the sale of Cyprus cigarettes, but while some success has attended them, it is remarked that most of the retail houses already carry so many different varieties that they are disinclined to add to their number in default of definite proof of a demand. Plans are now in train for the appointment of an agent in Great Britain, who would

conduct negotiations with retailers and would also conduct an advertising campaign. To judge from the report there should in time to come be a large and increasing market for Cyprus products in the United Kingdom, but this will depend on the attention paid in the Island to the requirements in this country. Reference is also made to the tourist traffic, and it is stated that no special effort is being made to increase it at the present time, but that that can be done when the time is opportune. It is interesting to note the remark that while most of the visitors with whom the Cyprus office has been in contact appeared to have enjoyed their visit, some complained that Cyprus is less attractive than it was made to appear. The truth is, no doubt, that Egypt and the Riviera have spoiled visitors for other regions.

COMMENTATOR.

REDUCTION OF TAXATION IN GREECE.

The following details of developments in Greece are given in the report of Hambros Bank, Ltd., for the week ended December 6:—

It is reported that the Government has decided to introduce measures for the reduction of taxation with a view to alleviating the burden which bears heavily on the population generally, and more particularly on industry and agriculture, by:—(1) Abolition of the temporary tax on agricultural produce. This measure is indicated as a necessity for agriculture which is passing through a difficult time. (2) Reduction by 20 per cent. of tax on pigs, goats, and sheep. (3) Reduction by 25 per cent. of tax on olive oil. (4) Reduction by 20 per cent. of tax on land and building values. (5) Reduction by 20 per cent. of stamp duties on collection of interest. (6) Reduction by 20 per cent. of tax on theatres, cinemas, etc. (7) Reduction by 20 per cent. of tax on trade licence. (8) The contemplated reduction of 20 per cent. of the tax on tobacco will not be put into effect until next year, seeing that such reduction would not benefit the grower. In lieu of this the Government decided to make a grant of 40,000,000 drs. for the erection of depôts for the tobacco growers, and an additional grant of 10,000,000 drs. for the formation of a Tobacco Institute, which will help to improve the production and quality of the product. The tax deductions as above are reckoned to represent 240/250,000,000 drs., out of which 150,000,000 drs. will benefit agricultural products, and will, undoubtedly, reflect favourably on the economic life of the country.

Stamp collections during September reached 27,741,308.90 drs., against 24,712,279.40 drs. collected in September, 1928.

Tobacco.—Preliminary estimates based on information received from tobacco areas give production as follows (in okes):—Thrace, 5,800,000; Eastern Macedonia, 22,500,000; Central and Western Macedonia, 15,500,000; Thessaly, 4,500,000; Western Greece and Epirus, 6,900,000; The Island and Attica and Peloponnesus, 7,300,000; total, 62,500,000. This is a record production, exceeding by 50 per cent. the average production for the quinquennial period of 1924-1928. The demand for tobacco this year is rather slack. Buyers are reserved, as happens in all cases of commodities at present. There has been, however, an exception as regards sales of tobacco of the Islands, a constant demand for the quality grown there having been maintained, especially from American buyers, who have shown particular interest in this product. It is understood that representatives of the Swedish Monopoly were making purchases of tobacco of the 1928 crop.

Special attention is paid to the manufacture of silk goods, the local progress having resulted in a substantial decrease of foreign imported fabrics. For the year 1927 there were imported in Greece 78,020 kilos., of a gross value of 94,358,000 drs. For the year 1928, imports reached 52,200 kilos., of a gross value of 61,750,000 drs. Most of the fabrics imported during 1928 were of the "printed type," a branch to which the Greek industrials had not time to pay proper attention. Since then some progress has been made in that direction.

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THE PERSIAN MARKET FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Native Persian music, being essentially Oriental and unadapted, does not invite the use of imported instruments (says the United States Consul at Teheran, Mr. A. W. Ferrin, in a recent report). Oral music is a weird falsetto with half tones, something like Andalusian, and is not generally acceptable to European ears. Music-making mechanisms are drums, horns, flutes, a species of fiddle, and the "tar," a kind of single-barrelled instrument between the guitar and mandolin, all manufactured locally. Nevertheless, in the fiscal year 1927-28 50 pianos, 5 organs, and 900 batmans (5,680 lb.) of "other instruments" were imported. The pianos were principally for the use of foreign residents, but native Persians are beginning to learn to play them as well as other instruments of all kinds.

The rather numerous military bands use foreign instruments exclusively, probably accounting for the bulk of the "other instruments," and by giving frequent free concerts in parks and squares are accustoming the public to Western ways of making melody. An ex-gendarmery officer, who has studied abroad, has organised an orchestra for producing Persian music harmonised and partially Europeanised by him, which has acquired some vogue. He has also adapted some Persian military music for the use of brass bands. In his orchestra he uses a piano and European violins and flutes with native "tars," he himself being the star "tar" player of Persia. This music lover also founded a musical school, which is now operated by the Ministry of Education. Several jazz bands of Caucasians or Russians play European and American dance music in Teheran cafés; Tabriz also has one such band and there may be others in Pahlavi and Ispahan.

The value of the 50 pianos imported in 1927-28 was 12,000 toman, practically the same in dollars, and the sources were Germany 33, Great Britain 3, France 1, Czechoslovakia 1, and China 1. Five organs valued at £23 came from Great Britain, and one valued at £33 from the United States. It is understood that the organs were for use in mission chapels. The sources and values of "other instruments" were: France £986, India £193, Great Britain £159, Germany £117, Russia £64, Iraq £39, and Italy £18.

The most popular foreign instrument, however, is the phonograph, which can produce Persian as well as foreign airs. A British-American gramophone company last year sent experts to Persia, who made some 500 records of Persian music, with a resultant increased sale of discs in Persia. Nearly all the teahouses in Teheran and other cities, also along inter-urban roads, have phonographs for the amusement of their guests. Soldiers seem especially fond of these machines, and many are found in military barracks.

Phonographs are classified separately and not as musical instruments. The customs figures include discs with

machines, and give the total for 1927-28 as 19,665 batmans (12,780 lb.), valued at £23,871, divided as follows:—Great Britain £19,594, Germany £2,184, France £1,400, United States £182, Belgium £124, Switzerland £61, other countries £326.

While, as already indicated, Western music and consequently Western instruments, particularly phonographs, are not unwelcome in Persia, the immediate market is restricted by adverse exchange and transport conditions and by a local financial crisis, which has reduced the general purchasing power to an unusually low level. These conditions may prove temporary and orders may increase when normality has been restored, although the demand for many years will be limited.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.S. Tarantia for Bombay (Glasgow, December 17; Manchester, December 24; Birkenhead, December 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.S. Makalla for Calcutta (Glasgow, December 15; Birkenhead, December 22).

Bibby Line.—S.S. Oxfordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 27).

British India Line.—S.S. Masula for Bombay (London, December 14); S.S. Margha for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 14).

Cunard Line.—S.S. Bothnia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Corfu, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Istanbul, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Glasgow and Swansea, December 13; Liverpool, December 14); S.S. Bantia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Algiers, Oran, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, January 18; Swansea, January 21).

Johnston Line.—S.S. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 21); S.S. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 25).

P. and O. Line.—S.S. Burdwan for Calcutta (London, December 20); S.S. Ranchi for Bombay (London, December 20).

Prince Line.—S.S. Korean Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Tripoli, Alexandretta, Mersin, and Cyprus ports (London, December 14); S.S. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 21).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.S. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Swansea, December 27; Glasgow, December 30); S.S. Algerian for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, December 28; Swansea, January 2); S.S. Roumelian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 28); A steamer for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, December 28; Swansea*, December 28); S.S. Mardinian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, January 11; Swansea*, January 11). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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For the first ten months of the current year the gross revenue returns of the Manchester Ship Canal Company amounted to £1,190,681, against £1,170,402 for the corresponding period of 1926.

A Cairo message states that the Administration Department of the Egyptian Railways has received nine tenders for the supply and erection of the Ed Fina Bridge in Lower Egypt. The lowest tender was received from the Société Antonio Bardone, approximately £E115,000, and the highest from the Motherwell Bridge Company (£E281,000). The Cleveland Engineering Company sent in a tender of £E119,000, Dorman Long and Co. one of £E122,000, and Krupp one of £E134,500.

The Administrative Council of the Suez Canal Company in Paris has fixed the dividends for the period ending January 1, 1928 after the payment of tax, as follows:—On capital shares: Bearer bonds, 152 francs 36 centimes; registered shares, 813 francs 36 centimes. On bonus shares: Bearer bonds, 149 francs 33 centimes; registered shares, 177 francs 60 centimes. On founders' shares: Bearer bonds, 177 francs 36 centimes; registered shares, 202 francs 48 centimes.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, December 10.

Business on the Stock Exchange has remained on a restricted scale, but the general tone has shown a considerable improvement, and there has been no renewal of the heavy liquidation which has characterised recent weeks. New York, indeed, has provided a little support. Anticipations of a reduction in Bank Rate, which became stronger on Wednesday afternoon, were disappointed, but the decision had no adverse effect on prices, the gilt-edged market benefiting from the re-investment of the large disbursement of War Loan interest at the beginning of the week. The traffic plans for London, announced by the Minister of Transport, to which reference is made below, disturbed Underground stocks, but Home Rails remained steady. There was some evidence of a revival in international shares, but home Industrials were rather quiet.

London Traffic.

The announcement made in the House of Commons by Mr. Herbert Morrison, the Minister of Transport, regarding the Government's plan for co-ordinating London's traffic, has created considerable comment. No details are yet forthcoming, but the public and the interests concerned have been forewarned of the line the Government intends to take. The proposal is to combine public ownership and business efficiency in a body as free from political control as possible. The body, moreover, is to be financially self-supporting and free to raise its own capital in the money market. It is quite obvious that the first step in this direction is to give all existing shareholders of private companies a fair exchange of stock in the new unified corporation. Bodies such as it is proposed to set up already exist in the Port of London Authority and the Central Electricity Board, whose stocks have practically a gilt-edged status. The proposed London Traffic Corporation will no doubt absorb the Underground Electric Railway, which has ordinary shares yielding about £6 7s. per cent. and 5 per cent. debentures yielding about £5 5s. per cent., London General Omnibus whose 4½ debentures yield £4 19s. per cent., and London United Trams, whose 4 per cent. debentures give a return of £7 15s.

per cent., will also presumably be included. By way of comparison it may be pointed out that the Port of London Authority 6 per cent. yields £6 per cent., and the Central Electricity Board 4 per cent. stock gives a return of £5 per cent.

Tobaccos.

The Black Cat is undoubtedly a very appropriate sign for Carreras, the tobacco manufacturers, whose annual accounts are almost invariably an improvement on the last. In the year ended, October 31, for which the accounts have recently been published, this firm made a net profit of £1,285,154 practically £131,000 more than last year. With the amount brought forward, £2,505,043 was available for distribution. A final dividend of 35 per cent. gave the A and B. ordinary shareholders 50 per cent. again for the year on a capital increased by a bonus distribution last year. An additional bonus was again distributed this year, absorbing £351,563 in the form of one "A" ordinary share for every four "A" ordinary shares held, and one "A" ordinary share for every 32 "B" ordinary shares held by shareholders at the end of this year. The "A" ordinary shares are of £1 each. A new development fund receives £100,000. After all deductions £1,059,165 is carried forward. Some idea of the progress which the firm has made is realised from the fact that profits in 1923 amounted to £181,963 and this year they amount to £1,285,154. While from the income point of view the yield on the various ordinary shares is not very high, in such a firm as this they certainly have the attraction of favourable prospects of capital appreciation.

Film Finance.

During the Stock Exchange boom period many companies were floated whose shares rose to dizzy heights, but which have now fallen no less spectacularly. Most of these new issues were concerned with young industries and new inventions and most of the shares were of small denomination, of five shillings or one shilling, thus attracting even comparatively poor people to take up such shares. Particularly conspicuous among these flotations were a number of film companies. Largely encouraged by the Films Act of 1927, imposing upon distributors a certain quota of British films, many people believed that British films had only to be made in order to be profitably sold. In point of fact the existing British companies could have supplied all the films required by the quota and more. But a lot of other companies obtaining their money from a misinformed public, sprang into existence. The result has been disastrous. Glamorous prospectuses have been followed by disappointing annual reports, and shares which, as calculated by the *Economist*, in total reached a value of over £2,300,000 are now worth barely £613,000. Film production is at best a highly speculative business and at the same time one needing immense resources of capital. Investors at all attracted by this class of investments should confine their attention exclusively to the three or four big companies, and realise even then that they are making a gamble.

Major A. H. St. G. Hamersley, M.C., has accepted the Egyptian Government's offer of a ten years' contract in the Egyptian Army. He left Cairo in the middle of last month with Mrs. Hamersley for Alexandria, where he is taking up his new duties.

The production of crude oil in Roumania amounted to 435,959 metric tons in October, as compared with 418,314 metric tons in the previous month. The output of the principal producing districts in October was as follows:—Prahova, 318,108 metric tons; Dambovitza, 103,626; Buzau, 6,866; Bacau, 7,359.

The Board of Directors of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) recommend a final dividend for the year ended September 30, 1929, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares, less income tax at the rate of 2s. 7d. in the £, and a final dividend on the "A" and "B" shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less income tax at the rate of 2s. 8.7d. in the £, making, with the interim dividend paid in July last, 44 per cent. for the year.

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Motors and Motoring.

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

The Transport Bill.

The opposition to the suggested Transport Bill, so far as the removal of speed limits and the compulsory insurance of motorists are concerned, is steadily increasing, and even that section of the community who usually seem to think that any proposed alteration of existing conditions necessarily means progress and improvement are not nearly so much in favour of them as they were a week or so ago. The cartoonist's ambulance driver, who, after the speed limits have gone, will be able to "handle more victims" because he will be able to travel at higher speeds, has some sort of a twisted reflection in the minds of most road users who know, from long experience of the road, that there are certain drivers who will take liberty for licence. There is, as every motorist knows, a type of driver on the road who has by far too much ego in his cosmos; he behaves vulgarly in hotels, blusters his way through all the conventions of the road, and bullies other drivers. It is that sort of thing that has done so much harm, that is likely to do so much more harm and which leads thinking motorists to hope, almost against hope, that the authorities will put motor-cycle police patrols on the road on purpose to hold these gentry in check.

As for the compulsory insurance, the chief objection that is being urged against it at the moment, although I do not consider it to be by any means the most weighty, is that it will in effect set up another licensing body. The fear is that a motorist may be involved two or three times in accidents until at length the insurance companies will refuse to take his risk, except perhaps at an exorbitant premium. Some go so far as to suggest that the whole matter of motor insurance should be taken over by the Government—as if the Government hadn't quite enough to do as it is—so that anyone who wanted to drive could get insured. These people, together with those who feel that insurance companies should not be allowed to refuse to insure any and every applicant, seem to forget that in practice the insurance business is in the nature of a co-operative concern, and that all sums paid out, plus all administrative and other expenses, have first to be obtained from premiums, and that if the outgoings are to be high, the incomings will have to be high also. Rather than urging that insurance companies should not have a power of refusing an applicant, it would be better were motorists generally to urge that no man convicted of certain offences should be granted insurance cover by a company.

It should be fairly obvious that with road accidents at their present level and the rate of increase of those accidents steadily maintained and even accelerated, insurance premiums are going to be very high indeed, if compulsory insurance ever comes along. We have, therefore, the per-

fectly legitimate complaint of the careful motorist that he is to be asked to pay more money simply because some other people are less careful drivers than he is himself.

The further risk, and one that it seems almost impossible to overestimate, is that of bogus claims for damages. That will mean a big increase in staffs, claims inspectors, and other officials which, coupled with the high risk, will make premiums extremely high in comparison to general taxation and licences. No young or fairly impecunious motorist will be able to face his driver's licence and his horsepower tax when they are increased—probably doubled and trebled—by an insurance premium. The trade in second-hand cars will be hit severely and the hire-purchase trade will also be affected adversely.

It is certain that there are arguments, more sentimental than sound, in favour of compulsory insurance. We have heard of bread-winners, run down by careless or thoughtless motorists who, uninsured, have been able to pay nothing in the way of damages to the bereaved families. Whether such cases are as frequent as are made out, is a moot point. Let us assume that they are. In such cases, so far as monetary payment is concerned, compulsory insurance would be of benefit—at first. But no thinking person will be prepared to argue that insurance will reduce in any way the number or seriousness of road accidents. Indeed, it is easy to see that road accidents, under any form of compulsory insurance, are going to increase very considerably. We are going to have, not only more accidents but more serious accidents, when compulsory insurance is reinforced by an abolition of the speed limits. The number of "breadwinners cut off in their prime" will increase accordingly, and all that will happen is that the victims of the erring minority will have to be paid for out of the pockets of careful drivers. It is curious that the advocates of compulsory insurance fail to see that the real remedy is to get the careless, reckless driver off the roads; not to pay his expenses for him!

Speed Limits.

It is by no means certain, it may be added, that the speed limits will be abolished. It is true that the speed limits have been ignored, but there is no doubt that they have a deterrent effect. A good deal of Ministerial opinion is to the effect that speed limits should not be abolished, but should be revived and graded and then steadily enforced. My information is that the absolute maximum suggested by the Ministers concerned is 40 miles per hour, with certain reductions according to local conditions. There is an argument, perhaps one of little weight, against this idea, and that is that most of us have an idea that what the law allows as a maximum is what the law considers safe, and that were 40 m.p.h. fixed as a maximum, we should all drive at 40 m.p.h. and let the consequences take care of themselves. But after all that is a weak argument; as we have seen, we have a speed limit to-day of 20 m.p.h., but no motorist ever had an accident when he was going above that speed; all

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accidents occur when the motorist is travelling at from four to, at most, twelve miles per hour and sounding his horn and doing his best to prevent pedestrians from walking into him!

An Overtyping Van Chassis.

The specification of the new model J.O. 60-65 cwt. overtyping van chassis just sent me by Garner Motors, Tyseley, Birmingham, is of interest in that certain new engineering features are incorporated. The four-cylinder engine is of 100 by 140 m.m. bore and stroke, developing 50 b.h.p. at 1,800 r.p.m. There is a single plate clutch, with four-speed gearbox, two-piece propeller shaft, overhead worm-driven axle, 17 by 3 inch side by side brakes, substantial frame side members, underslung rear springs, full forward driving position with Garner patented accessibility, 34 inch by 7 inch Dunlop Fort reinforced pneumatic tyres, twin rear, spare wheel and tyre, valanced front wings and steps, tyre carrier, speedometer, mechanical tyre pump, 12-volt five lamp lighting set, 25-gallon tank with Autovac feed, 14 ft. 3 in. wheel base with 2 ft. 3 in. frame line, loaded, and a 5 ft. track. The chassis can be fitted with tilt van body with pay load measurements of 17 ft. by 7 ft. by 8 ft. high with additional loading space over the driver's cab. Total capacity, 1,006 cubic feet. Driver has a sloping and adjustable windscreen to his cab, and there are landaulette doors and seating for three persons. Altogether, this seems a useful little proposition, and readers interested would be well advised to send for further particulars.

A Useful Diesel.

A useful size of Diesel engine of the four-cycle, four-cylinder type is now obtainable with an output of 38 horse power at 1,000 revs. per minute. As the gross weight is only 12½ cwt., the power weight ratio is the very fair figure of 36.8 lb. per h.p. I understand that there is no weight reducing alloy used in this engine, but every part is thoroughly sound, reliable metal. The reason I am mentioning this engine in particular is because there is arising a demand, which will, I am certain, shortly become a strong demand, for Diesel engines for omnibus and motor coach work, and this engine strikes me as being just the thing for the work, particularly if the weight can be reduced, for omnibus work, without reducing the strength. This could probably be done by cutting out a large amount of the metal at present allowed for the base plate, etc. The engine has the following over-all dimensions; length, 44 inches; width, 25 inches; height over-all, 29 inches. The engine is operated by overhead valves worked by enclosed push-rods and rockers which are pressure-lubricated, the oil circulating system being positive and pump operated. To start the engine three of the cylinders are cut out by means of a small lever operated by the driver so that only the compression of one cylinder has to be overcome by swinging the handle. The cutting-out is effected by a longitudinal movement of the inlet valve rockers, whereby the valves are first held fully open, then at half compression as soon as the first cylinder has fired, and then, when all the cylinders come into action, the cam moves all the valves back into the normal running position. Three of the fuel injection pumps are also cut out of action for starting and the engine speed can be set at a constant for level running with a given load and at a predetermined speed by means of a governor acting directly on the fuel supply, and which can be altered to suit varying loads by a foot pedal in the style of the ordinary accelerator pedal.

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CLOTHING AND TEXTILES AT THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

The leading firms in several branches of the clothing and textile industries are among the thousand manufacturers who have taken space in the London section of the British Industries Fair, which will be held at the new and enlarged Olympia from February 17 to 28 next. Chief among them will be the Irish and Scottish linen manufacturers. Their representatives recently visited the United States in order to learn more about the market there, and some American and other overseas requirements will be met by the goods displayed at the Fair. Five Dunfermline firms are exhibiting, and four of the most important firms from the North of Ireland and the area of their stands will amount to a small exhibition in itself—2,500 square feet.

Men's hats are another branch of the industry in which the leading firms will be found among the exhibitors in the coming Fair. They include firms (Lincoln Bennett, Battersby, and Christy) who may be trusted to show once again that Britain—not forgetting Stockport—cannot be beaten in any part of the world for what is known as "quality headgear" for men.

Among things which will surely attract the eye of visitors from abroad will be the display of livery and uniform specialists (Hazel and Co.), and the stand of a very regular Scottish exhibitor at the Fair (P. and J. Haggart), who shows tweeds and tartans as supplied to most members of the British Royal Family. There will also be a Stornoway firm's exhibit (Newall) including a rug exhibited for the first time which is made from yarns spun on the islands of Harris and Lewis and dyed from vegetable dyes collected by the crofters and giving to the rug the distinct and pleasant aroma associated only with the real Harris tweed.

A Gloucestershire carpet, mat and rug manufacturer (John B. Champion) will show among other things prayer mats which actually find a market in Mecca, and Worcestershire will be represented by a well-known down quilt manufacturer (R. J. Collins). Coloured nets for window decoration (the manufacturers avoid the word "curtain") in cotton and rayon of various colours will be shown by a West of Scotland firm (Stirling Auld, Ayr) and it is stated that there is a considerable demand for certain classes of this material from Australasia.

CYPRUS CROPS.

The report on Cyprus crops for November states:—

The cultivation of fallows is proceeding, but dry weather has delayed the sowing of wheat. There is a good stock in hand, but prices tend to decline and the demand is poor. The price is 5s. to 6s. per bushel.

Sowing of barley continues in spite of the dry weather. Offers are good but the demand is poor. The price is 2s. to 2s. 6d. per bushel.

The new crop of potatoes is now on the market, and small shipments have been made to Egypt and Greece. The prices are £5 to £5 10s. per ton.

Picking of cotton is almost finished. Offers are good but the demand is poor.

The hopes predicted for a good orange year are materialising. The condition of the crop generally is good. Export of early maturing varieties has begun at prices between 30s. and 35s. per 1,000. The dealers expect greater activity in the orange trade with the United Kingdom and Central European countries.

The export of mandarines to Egypt is good. The price is 7s. to 8s. per 1,000.

Large quantities of sweet limes have been sold to Palestine, where they are in demand for seed for raising stock plants.

Large quantities of lemons are being shipped to London. Lemons are reaching United Kingdom ports in a very healthy condition, and the prospects of an increased trade to the United Kingdom are better.

Gathering of olives and olive oil extraction are in full progress. Damage by olive fly is reported from certain areas in the Famagusta district.

DEVELOPMENT OF PERSIAN PORTS.

The new port of Bandar Shapur, formerly called Khor Musa, is likely to supersede Bushire as the principal Persian port on the Gulf when and if the projected railway from the Gulf to Teheran is completed (says the United States Consul at Teheran, Mr. A. W. Ferrin, in a recent report). The main Gulf ports in Persian territory at present are Bushire, Muhammarah, Bundar Abbas, Lingah, and Jask for general cargo and Abadan for oil. Considerable cargo also is landed at Basrah, Iraq, crossing the Persian frontier at Kasr-i-Shirin (Customs station Kermanshah).

In the fiscal year ended March 20, 1928, the latest period for which statistics are obtainable, ships calling at Bushire numbered 397, of which 303 were British steamers of 1,175,000 net tonnage, and 65 were small Persian sailing boats. More vessels cleared through Muhammarah, but the tonnage was hardly half as much as at Bushire. The total clearances at Muhammarah were 1,021, of which 789 were small Iraq sailboats and motor boats. Steamers were 71 British, of 202,000 net tonnage, 7 German, 4 French, 2 Dutch, and 2 Norwegian. Calls at Bundar Abbas numbered 911, of which 668 were little Persian sailboats and 141 were British steamers of 290,000 net tonnage. Six German and three Norwegian steamers also visited Bundar Abbas. Steamers entering Lingah were 83 British of 188,000 net tons, and 1 German; 591 Persian and Arab sailboats, many of them pearl fishers, entered and left Lingah during the year. Fifty-six British steamers of 106,000 net tons cleared at Jask. At Abadan 555 British steamers called and loaded 3,570,200 tons of oil from the Anglo-Persian Company's plant; also, 52 steamers of other nationalities taking away 497,000 tons of oil. The total cargo landed at all Persian ports on the Gulf was 169,967 tons, and cargo taken aboard, including oil, was 4,026,845 tons.

All the present ports are shallow, and, with the exception of Abadan and Muhammarah, are exposed to bad weather. Consequently, Bandar Shapur, which is protectable against the weather conditions, has been chosen as southern terminus of the projected railway system. It was planned originally to base the railway upon Muhammarah, but that port was rejected. It is advantageously situated at the mouth of the Karun River, which is navigable by boats of 3-foot draught as far as Ahwaz and above the Ahwaz barrier to Shushtar, but foreign engineers found Khor Musa better adapted to the railway scheme.

The Khor Musa inlet is a large, deep waterway extending in a northerly direction from near the head of the Persian Gulf. At its mouth it is crossed by a short bar, having a mean water depth of 5.7 metres. Beyond this the channel deepens to from 11 to 50 metres and carries by 10 courses with easy angles about 45 kilometres to a group of islands on the north and west side of the channel, where the new port of Bandar Shapur will be placed. The inlet however, continues as a wide, deep navigable stream for several kilometres beyond the port site. At the port the extreme range of tides is about 6.20 metres.

The American group in the German-American railway syndicate has constructed a timber dock 400 metres long, including approaches, for handling of materials required for railway construction. The timber used in the structure was purchased in the United States and was transported directly to the site on the steamship Arabistan, the first seagoing ship to enter Khor Musa inlet, in December, 1928. The first ocean steamer was brought directly alongside the dock in March, 1929. Since then several ships have entered the port, proving that its natural features are favourable to the proposed development. The railway syndicate has contracted to prepare plans for the permanent development of the port.

Work on New Railway.

The railway, which begins at Bandar Shapur, will cross the Karun River at Ahwaz, where piers of a bridge a mile long and part of the steel work already have been placed. Grading has been done to Dizful, 251 kilometres from the

port, and about 100 kilometres of rails have been laid. Trains should be running into Dizful late this year or early next year. The project calls for the eventual extension of the line through the Luristan Mountains to meet the German section coming down from the Caspian Sea, making a cross-country line of about 1,500 kilometres through Teheran, and probably through Hamadan, though that part of the route seems not yet to have been definitely decided upon.

Contracts for the central section, about 1,000 kilometres, remain to be let, on estimates which will be submitted by the syndicate in November of this year. Construction work through the Luristan Mountains from Dizful to Khurramabad will be very costly, and even if begun soon will require at least six years. In the meantime it is planned to run freight trains from Bandar Shapur to Dizful and transfer their contents there to motor trucks plying over a new highway through Burujird and Sultanabad to Hamadan and Teheran. It is believed that in this way both time and cost of delivering goods inland will be materially reduced, as well as dependence on the not infrequently interrupted Bushire-Shiraz road. This combination rail and motor route also will lessen reliance on the Muhammarah-Ahwaz route, which lies in heavy sand and is subject at certain seasons to serious inundations.

Persian ports on the Caspian Sea are open only to traffic through Russia. The principal ports are Pahlavi, Meshedsar, Astara, and the new port, Bandar Shah (Bandar Gaz), northern terminus of the Trans-Persian Railway. Pahlavi, port of Resht, capital of Gilan Province, has direct passenger and freight relations, by regular steamer, with Baku, Russia. The harbour is protected and fairly deep, though large ships must land cargoes by lighter. A dredge has been purchased in Europe this summer especially for Pahlavi, and it is intended to dig a deep channel to the pier which now can be reached at times by small boats. Clearances at Pahlavi in 1927-28 were 316 steamers and 236 sailing vessels. Merchandise landed amounted to 67,466 tons and embarked to 57,793 tons. German, Italian, and other European goods reached Teheran by this route, over a well-made mountain road on which motor trucks can get to the capital via Kosvin in two days, against a week or more from the gulf.

From Meshedsar, the port of Mazanderan Province, 23,841 tons of merchandise, mostly raw cotton, was carried to Russia by 227 Russian steamers and 56 sloops. Goods landed there—largely sugar—amounted to 12,240 tons. The harbour is shallow and goods are landed in lighters to the Custom house wharf. A total of 83 steamers and 67 sailboats and 52 motor boats visited Astara, where the Russian and Persian west-Caspian frontiers meet, disembarking 8,992 tons of general merchandise and taking on 3,898 tons. Astara is an important fishing port, but Pahlavi is the centre of the Perso-Russian sturgeon and salmon fisheries.

Bandar Gaz, on the south side of Asterabad Bay, in the east Caspian, has been the port of eastern Mazanderan and the Turcoman-inhabited Persian Province of Asterabad since the time of Shah Abbas, who built thence a stone causeway, still in use, to his palace at Ashraf in the Elburz mountains. The German group in the railway syndicate has created at Bandar Gaz a wooden pier about 500 metres long with a Decauville track on it for the handling of railway materials, but plans to make the permanent port about 20 kilometres eastward. The name Bandar Shah is rather indiscriminately applied at present to both Bandar Gaz and the new harbour, where pier work and warehouses are partly completed.

JOHNSTON LINE Mediterranean, Black Sea and Danube. REGULAR SAILINGS from: Antwerp, Swansea and Liverpool to: Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonica, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila. For Rates of Freight, Insurance and other information apply to: JOHNSTON LINE, LTD., 6 Billiter Street, London, 86, Cross Street, Manchester. and FURNESS, WITBY & CO., Ltd., Royal Liver Building, Liverpool

Water at the end of the Bandar Gaz pier is only 5 feet deep and steamers have to lie out about a mile and discharge into Turcoman sloops, which unload at the dock. A dredge recently bought abroad will arrive soon and will attempt to make the pier at the new port approachable by big boats. As the south Caspian climate is tropical, it can work through the winter.

The number of vessels entering Asterabad Bay in 1927-28 was 74 steamers and 403 sloops, which landed 7,685 tons and took on 7,014 tons. Cargo disembarked consisted chiefly of cereals and hides from the Turcoman plain. All the cargo steamers on the Caspian are Russian. Of the 1,367 sailing ships, 369 were Russian and 998 Persian. Persians also operated 106 motor boats, some of them towing barges.

The northern section of the cross-country railway already has been provisionally opened from Bandar Gaz to Ashraf, about 60 kilometres, and rails have been laid to Sari, capital of Mabanderan, about 100 kilometres from the port. Grading to Aliabad, 36 kilometres further, has been completed, but beyond there the status of the northern scheme is the same as that of the southern above Dizful, i.e., contracts will not be let until after the submission in November of the syndicate's estimates. It is understood that a dispute has arisen as to the proposed route through the Elburz mountains and that a new survey may be ordered.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 4:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Very little business has transpired in this market during the past week, and only unimportant fluctuations have been witnessed. Present conditions are hardly conducive to speculative activities, and with the trade experiencing a very quiet period, possibilities of anything but very restricted price movement in the near future appear to be discounted. A sustained advance in the American markets would undoubtedly react favourably on the Egyptian situation at the present juncture, but, failing this, the effects of the Government's policy would appear to establish a maximum and minimum price for the time being. For Sakels to advance on their own merits a more widespread and consistent demand will have to develop; unfortunately, trade conditions, both in this country and on the Continent, show no indication of this, with the result that insufficient cotton is being taken off the market to relieve the present heavy statistical position. The second official crop estimate was received on Monday, the yield being 2,561,595 kantars, against the earlier figure of 2,502,992 kantars. This report had no effect on the market which, from now onwards, will be more closely concerned with consumption possibilities during the next few months. During the last two or three sessions reports from Alexandria indicate a somewhat firmer tendency prevailing in the contract market; at the same time, shippers continue to cable offers at attractive premiums, and we rather incline to the opinion that the basis has now worked down to the low point of the season. To-night's closing prices show the following differences on the week:—6 down to 5 points up for near, and 3 to 1 point up for distant positions.

Upper Contract.—Trading in this market has been confined to moderate trade purchases on the one hand, with import houses selling against purchases of actual on the other; speculative enterprise continues to be at a very low ebb. On the first tender day in December, 58,250 kantars were declared in Alexandria, bringing prices to within a point or two of the Government's buying figure. We understand the cotton has been taken by exporters, and since this, a slight recovery in values has taken place. The second official crop estimate practically confirms the initial figures, so that the main question now to be settled is, to what extent the offtake is going to be affected by recent events in the U.S.A. So far, the market has not received the usual support from the tyre concerns, and the demand in this country has hardly come up to expectations. There appears little in the outlook to lead one to anticipate any material change in the level for the time being, and, with this in view, we hesitate to advise commitments.

Egyptian Spot.

Conditions here have been singularly depressing during the past week, but no further easing in values has occurred. It must be borne in mind that a few weeks ago a buying movement of some importance was witnessed, and the cotton bought then is now in process of being consumed. Probably the majority of the mills have, under present conditions, sufficient cotton either at hand, or on the way, to fulfil orders well into January, and until the bulk of this cotton has been turned into yarn we are unlikely to see much improvement in the demand unless some unlooked-for "bull" feature crops up.

The demand is, in fact, at the moment about as dead as it could well be, and everyone seems to be waiting for some fresh feature to turn up which will again turn spinners' attention to the raw material. Possibly, the next American Bureau report will supply a much-needed fillip. At all events, that appears to be the only hope for the immediate future, for conditions in the yarn trade are anything but bright at the moment.

Sakels have been in quiet request only, and purchases have been confined for the most part to very small lots. A little has been done at about 50 to 100 on, and again at about 100 to 150 off contracts. The better grades have been neglected.

Uppers.—A fair inquiry for cotton at from 10 off to 10 on has been in evidence, but purchasing power has been much restricted. Some buyers have shown more interest in cotton at from 30 to 75 on, but results have been similar.

Pilion has been in limited request, chiefly at from 100 to 150 on January Upper.

Maarad, Nahda, Fouadi, etc.—These "fancy" growths have all suffered from neglect this week. Old crop Nahda is pressed for sale.

Sudan Sakel has been in moderate request only at firm rates.

Tokar Sakel.—Little, if any, interest has been shown. There are some attractive lots of this growth on offer which should prove bargains to the discriminating buyer.

Low cotton of all descriptions continues to figure frequently in the daily inquiry.

C.i.f. business.—Trading has been slow to mature and results have been generally disappointing. Forwardings to spinners last week were returned as 10,152 bales Egyptian and 1,777 bales Sudan.

Spot Sales.—These have been estimated at 1,300 bales Egyptian and 150 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel, Extra Fine and Fair, have been advanced 10 points. Uppers are quoted 11 points, and Pilion 7 points dearer on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 14.65d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.69. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 11.55d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company report for the week ended November 28:—Since our last report the futures market has been rather inactive and the tone heavy. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: January, 27.73 dollars, 0.42 dollars down; March, 28.25 dollars, 0.57 dollars down; May, 28.78 dollars, 0.52 dollars down; July, 20.02 dollars, 0.81 dollars down; November N.C., 20.63 dollars; 0.78 dollars down. Ashmouni: December, 19.13 dollars, 0.25 dollars down; February, 19.62 dollars, 0.26 dollars down; April, 19.08 dollars, 0.30 dollars down; June, 20.33 dollars, 0.31 dollars down; August, 20.63 dollars, 0.41 dollars down; October N.C., 20.83 dollars, 0.39 dollars down.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE FOR "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendo.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Française et Etrangère, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.

Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: John Horne.

FRANCE.

Paris: Librairie Hachette, and at Kiosks.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangers, 24, Rue du Stade.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Baghdad: The Book Shop, New Street.
Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.
Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.
Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.
Tel Aviv: Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.
Librairie Steimatzky, Avenue Français.

TURKEY.

Istanbul: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Beyoglu.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

THE ROUMANIAN MARKET.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended November 23:—

Grain.—The improvement in grain prices which set in this week and which was mainly due to the rumour that the German Government intended to impose an import tax on barley as from January 1 next, had a corresponding effect on our market, with the result that fairly large parcels of this commodity for immediate shipment or already shipped unsold, have been sold at improved prices. For maize, however, last week's activity has been considerably reduced, the bulk of the arrivals of this commodity being bought in fulfilment of engagements in England. The local freight market showed a better tendency right from the very beginning of the week, and rates consequently rose to 14s. 6d. for Antwerp/Rotterdam, and 15s. to 15s. 3d. for German destinations. Tonnage continues to clear off and there is every probability of higher rates being paid by the end of the month, the more so as it is hardly likely that fresh tonnage will venture up-river next month. With regard to Sulina winter stocks, the quantity available at Sulina for the winter will not be unimportant. At Constantza the situation improved considerably in that the bulk of the tonnage which was pressing on the market there has gradually cleared off, and rates consequently stiffened, present rates being 9s. to 9s. 6d. for Continent.

Timber.—A weak tendency prevails except for North African ports and Sicily. A parcel of about 100 waggons has been closed for Casablanca at £15 per waggon, and a similar quantity for Sicily at £11 5s. There are, furthermore, considerable quantities in the market for Sardinia, for which destination £10 5s. is offered, and also for Oran at £11 10s. For Greece the activity is slight, and only small engagements are being recorded at £8 10s. per waggon. Syria is also attracting tonnage, but no rates higher than last week are being offered. The rate of £11 indicated for Alexandria last week was due to an error, the rate then being only £7 15s. and now about £7 5s.

Weather and Crops.—The mild and cloudy weather continued till Thursday, the 21st, but the temperature has been lower and light frosts have been experienced throughout the country the last few nights. The intermittent rains which prevailed recently, and which were relatively heavy last week, became lighter and more rare, and ceased towards the end of this week. Even the few hitherto dry districts in Central Bessarabia have ceased to complain of lack of moisture, and though one or two other districts complained recently of too much rain having delayed autumn sowings, on the whole the conditions have continued to be excellent. There is no news yet as to the extent of the sowings, which are already completed in some districts but are being continued in others. Since Friday morning it has been bright and dry here and more favourable for the handling and shipping of new maize.

Sulina.—Bar depth, 24 feet. Stormy weather interfered with dredging operations at the beginning of the week, but the dredgers continued to work when conditions permit. River depth, 24 feet. The water in the river continues to rise, and the minimum depth remains at 24 feet in the navigable channel.

The following modification in the application of dues was issued by the Commission of the Danube in addition to that reported last week:—"During the period from December 15, 1929, to March 15, 1930, the navigation tax provided by Article 1 of the tariff for sea-going vessels which load or discharge in the port of Sulina (tax "B") is reduced from gold francs 3.50 to gold francs 2.85 per ton, and the tax provided by Article 2 for river vessels which load or discharge in the port of Sulina (tax "E") is reduced from gold francs 0.40 to gold francs 0.05 per ton. This exceptional measure will terminate from March 16, 1930."

Constantza.—This week about 9,500 tons of grain arrived from the interior and over 11,000 tons were shipped to the Antwerp/Hamburg range. Fourteen vessels loaded about 45,000 tons petroleum products, and six took oil fuel for bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, November 16.—The grain market continues to be quiet and no fresh transactions have been concluded.

Bourgas, November 23.—There is no change to report in the grain market, which remains weak. There has been a slightly improved demand for tonnage, due to sales concluded some time ago, principally for maize. Moist weather has continued with a much lower temperature. Autumn sowings are being continued under favourable conditions and are nearly completed throughout the country.

In their report for the week ended November 30 Messrs. Watson and Youell state:—

Grain.—Grain markets continued very quiet with prices steadily falling. There was, however, a certain activity on our market due

mainly to the shippers' effort to fulfil old sales for shipment in December before bad weather sets in. Fair quantities of maize have therefore been shipped to Rotterdam, whilst shipments of barley to the Weser and Hamburg have been maintained. Owing to the supply of tonnage having been adequate to the demand, and to the likelihood of the former not running short during the coming week, shippers are not contemplating the necessity of dispatching any grain to Sulina yet, although it is possible this will be done with the first indications of wintry weather. Freight rates have, as expected, gradually improved, and from 15s./15s. 3d., which was paid at the beginning of the week, 16s. is now freely paid for Continental destinations, with every probability of this rate being exceeded next week. The situation at Constantza has likewise improved and rates have risen to 10s. for the Continent. Tonnage is running short of the demand, and prospects are that more will have to be paid next week.

Timber.—In view of the weak tendency of the market and the approach of the end of the season for regular shipments from the Danube, operations are mostly limited to the execution of old contracts. A few comparatively small new transactions, however, are reported as having taken place for Greece, for which destination the present rate is now £8 15s. to £9, and for Syria £11 to £11 5s. is still being quoted. Parcels which have remained uncovered for Spain and North African ports will probably not find any tonnage and will be left over for shipment in the spring.

Weather and Crops.—The dry weather which set in last week continued over Monday, after which it again became dull and damp, light, intermittent rains or snow falling throughout the country, and though the total amount of precipitations has not been great, it again somewhat hampered the handling of new maize. Yesterday, however, the weather turned dry again here. Light frosts have been general in the higher parts (Transylvania, Bukovina, etc.), but at the ports, although the temperature has generally been low, it has not fallen below freezing point since the beginning of the week, and to-day it is much milder. There has been a further considerable rise in the volume of water in the Danube and it would require a severe and prolonged frost for the close of navigation to become imminent. A Government report states that autumn sowings have been completed in Transylvania and Bukovina.

Sulina.—Bar depth is officially advised as being 24 feet, although during the last nine days stormy weather has not permitted accurate soundings to be taken. River depth: 24 feet in the navigable channel, with the water still rising. It is announced that the Governments of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Roumania have now definitely approved the raising of a loan by the European Commission of the Danube of eight and a half million gold francs. It is expected that on the basis of this authority the necessary funds will be available early next year and that the completion of the works at Sulina will be pressed forward energetically as soon as the weather permits.

Constantza.—This week about 10,500 tons of grain arrived from the interior and about 18,000 tons were shipped, mostly to Antwerp/Hamburg range. Nine vessels loaded about 30,738 tons petroleum products and five took oil fuel for bunkers.

Roumania has reimposed the import duty on maize of 36 lei per 100 kilograms.

This year's tobacco crop in Bulgaria amounted to 25,000,000 kilograms.

The Spanish Cabinet has approved the recommendations of the further conference on Traffic in Opium and the Arbitration Conventions with Greece and Czechoslovakia.

The opening of the first part of the drainage works in the plain of Salonika took place on November 25, when M. Venizelos opened the sluice by which the waters of Lakes Ardzan and Amatovo will be sent by an eight miles long canal to the Vardar. On the completion of the canal in February a large area of arable land will be available for cultivation.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.09½—½
Athens	Drachems to £ ...	375	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275—½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.38½
Berne	Francs to £	25.23½	25.12
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 29/32—15/16
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.86½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	818
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.87½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 29/32—15/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1,070
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.88½
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	124.02
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	164½—½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	93.24—27
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	665½
Tehran	Krans to £	48	58½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.68
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 7/16—9/16

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TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.) EGYPT.

Cloth.—The Frontier Administration of the Egyptian Ministry of War and Marine invites tenders for the supply of various cloths for the making of uniforms. January 14. (D.O.T.)

Paper, etc.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, inks, adhesives, stationery, and materials for Photo-Copying Office, required for the year 1930-1931. February 17.

Clothing, etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, sheets, woollen blankets, napkins, and textiles required for the year 1930-1931. January 30.

Asphalt.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of 6,800 metric tons of asphalt for the Tanzim Department, Cairo. February 3. (D.O.T.)

Bedsteads.—The Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of iron bedsteads. December 28. (D.O.T.)

Water Mains.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and installation of a system of water mains for the town of Luxor. The principal materials required are 10,850 metres of steel tubes of various sizes from 80 m.m. to 300 m.m. internal diameter, together with specials, 58 sluice valves, 15 hydrants, 7 column hydrants, and 6 drinking fountains. January 7. (D.O.T.)

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery. The contract involves centrifugal well pump and direct coupled electric motor, together with piping and accessories. February 1. (D.O.T.)

Transmission Lines.—The Director-General, Mechanical and Electrical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of high tension 3-phase overhead transmission lines in Northern Delta, consisting of a main line of about 165 kms. and branch lines of about 150 kms., including all necessary materials for the lines and all accessories. February 27.

Diesel Engines.—The Ministry of Public Works, Mechanical and Electrical Department, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two Diesel engines and accessories. January 4. (D.O.T.)

Direction Indicators.—The British Commercial Secretary at Cairo (Mr. R. M. A. Turner, O.B.E.) has reported a possible opening for the sale of direction indicators for motor buses and taxicabs in Egypt. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Tin.—H.M. Consul at Sarajevo reports that a local firm desire to receive offers from British firms for the supply of 5 tons of "Banka" or "Straits" tin. (D.O.T.)

Mahmoud Fahry Pasha, Egyptian Minister in Paris, addressed the International Conference, which is considering the treatment of foreigners, on November 6.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Dec. 10	Railways.		Prices on Dec. 10	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Nov. 20.
Government Stocks.						Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	...	80	Assam-Bengal ...	...	91½	3½% Government Paper ...	...	68½
Do. Prof. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	...	70	Bengal Doonars ...	...	182½	Banks		1,372
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	...	85½	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	86½	Imperial Bank of India ...	...	68
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds. '94 ...	...	79½	Egypt Delta Light Rly. ...	...	34	Bank of India ...	...	162½
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	...	284	Nizams Gtd. ...	...	264	Central Bank of India ...	...	6 as
Do. 7 p.c. ...	...	78½	Ottoman (Smy. L. Aid) ...	...	42½	Coal.		27 13/16
Greek 5 p.c. 1881 ...	...	70½	Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	...	65½	Baraboni ...	...	524½
Do. 5 p.c. 1884 ...	...	70½	Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	...	55	Bengal ...	...	16½
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	...	56	Piræus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	...	60	Burrakur ...	...	28
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	...	70	Southern Punjab ...	...	205½	East Indian ...	...	40
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	...	70	South Indian ...	...	116½	Equitable ...	...	412
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902 ...	...	57½	Rubber.			Fench Valley ...	...	65
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	...	57	Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...	6½	Cotton.		244
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	...	74	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...	19½	Bengal Nagpur ...	...	718½
Do. 7 p.c. 1924 ...	...	100½	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...	163	Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	...	365
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	...	89	Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...	15½	Bowrah ...	...	175
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	...	100 7/16	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	...	1½	Buckingham and Carnatic ...	...	2
Persia 5 p.c. 1911 ...	...	81½	Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...	26½	Cawnpore Textiles ...	...	397½
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	...	67½	Shipping.			Century ...	...	467½
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	...	44½	Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	...	8½	Central India ...	...	91
Do. 7 p.c. ...	...	79½	Cunard ...	...	23 3/4	Elgin ...	...	86½
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	...	105½	Furness Withy ...	...	36½	Khatrau Makanji ...	...	337
India 3½ p.c. ...	...	60½	Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...	4	Muir ...	...	164
Do. 3 p.c. ...	...	52½	P. and O. Deferred ...	...	53	New Ring ...	...	322½
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	...	100½	Tea.			Phoenix ...	...	390
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	...	83	Assam Co. ...	...	113/16	Svadeshi ...	...	482½
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	...	18½	Bengal United Tea Ord ...	...	13/16	Alliance ...	...	265½
Banks.			Brampootra ...	...	30	Barnagore ...	...	501½
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	...	7½	British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...	29/16	Budge Budge ...	...	354
Bank of British West Africa ...	...	315 1/8	Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	13/16	Clive ...	...	472
Bank of Roumania ...	...	80½	Carolina ...	...	34	Dalhousie ...	...	512
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf. ...	...	26 1/8	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...	4 13/16	Delta ...	...	835½
Chartered Bank of India ...	...	189 1/8	Consolidated Estates ...	...	227/32½	Fort Gloster ...	...	395
Eastern ...	...	61	Darjeeling Co. ...	...	2 31/32	Gourepore ...	...	52½
Hambros ...	...	615/16	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...	2 13/16	Howrah ...	...	602½
Ionian Bank ...	...	611/16	Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...	29/32	Kamarhaty ...	...	510
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	...	94	Dooloomram Tea ...	...	19/32	Kanknarrah ...	...	653½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	...	16	Doom Dooma ...	...	34	Khaddah ...	...	970
Lloyds ...	...	60½	East Assam ...	...	315/16	Kinnison ...	...	28
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	...	30½	Empire of Ind. ...	...	2	National ...	...	398
Do. B ...	...	33	Halem Tea ...	...	14	Standard ...	...	636½
National Bank of Egypt ...	...	31½	Imperial Ind. ...	...	115 1/16	Miscellaneous		
National Bank of India ...	...	46	Jhanzie Tea Association ...	...	24	British India Corporation ...	...	2½
Ottoman Bank ...	...	11½	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...	35/16	Bengal Paper Mills ...	...	40
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	...	77 1/16	Jorehant ...	...	315 3/32	Bengal Timber Trading ...	...	212
Westminster ...	...	75½	Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...	115/16	Burn and Co. ...	...	346
Land.			Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	...	15½	Cawnpore Sugar ...	...	164
Kassala Cotton ...	...	8½	New Dimbula ...	...	64	Champaran Sugar ...	...	124
Latifyah (Iraq) Estates ...	...	59½	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...	64	Howrah Oil Mills ...	...	12
Sydan Plantations ...	...	327 3/32	Nedeem ...	...	21/16	ALEXANDRIA		
Mines.			Ouvah ...	...	34	Prices on Nov. 22, supplied by G.L.		
Salaghat Gold Mining ...	...	4 1/8	Pabbojan ...	...	44	Mortara, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Burma Corp. ...	...	16 1/10	Standard ...	...	54	Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	...	£74
Champion Reef Gold ...	...	9 1/8	Scottish Assam ...	...	14	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	£730
Myrene ...	...	13 7/8	Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...	31½	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	144
Nundydroog ...	...	15 1/8	Upper Assam ...	...	24	Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	...	£25 3/8
Oreogum Gold Mining Ord. ...	...	7½	Insurance.			Behera Ord. ...	...	£18 1/8
Oil			General Accident Fire and Life (£5, £14 paid) ...	...	14½	Ciments d'Egypte ...	...	Fr. 172
Anglo-Egyptian B. ...	...	29 3/8	London & Lancs (£5, £1 paid) ...	...	26½	Div. ...	...	168
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	...	34	Royal Exchange (£1) ...	...	64	Credit Foncier Egyptien ...	...	Fr. 653
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	...	26 1/4	Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	...	36½	Fondateur ...	...	2,400
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Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	...	97½	Alexandria Water Co. ...	...	14	Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	...	£21
Brit. Burmah ...	...	69	Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...	23 3/8	Frigrifique d'Egypte ...	...	£24
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	...	313/16	Dunlop Rubber ...	...	14 3/8	Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	...	£144
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Do. (1/1) ...	...	6½	Mortgare Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	...	84	New Egyptian ...	...	£31 9
She Transport ...	...	44	Oriental Telephone ...	...	60			
Sterus Romana ...	...	10 1/4	Standard Carpet Co. (1924) Ord. ...	...	17 3/8			
			Waring & Gillow ...	...	24 3/8			

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	673	SPECIAL ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		Liberals in Indian Politics ...	682	Notes and News ...	689
Egypt and Great Britain ...	675	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	684	The Week's Finance ...	691
SPECIAL LETTERS—		PERSONAL AND GENERAL ..	685	The Roumanian Market ...	692
Egypt ...	676	BOOK REVIEWS ...	686	Company Meetings—	
Iraq ...	676			1. Peninsular and Oriental	
Bulgaria ...	677			Steam Navigation ...	695
Turkey ...	678			2. Steaua Romana (British) ...	698
Calcutta ...	681			Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	699

Notes of the Week.

Egypt in the House of Lords.

Wherever the Egyptian problem is discussed in Great Britain there is agreement that the goal to be aimed at is a settlement that will combine the independence of Egypt with the securing of the essential interests of Great Britain. There can be no question now of going back upon the Declaration of 1922; but it is, perhaps, inevitable that those who have watched closely the development of the country under British supervision should be the more anxious that the system of government which implements Egyptian independence should not be one calculated in any way to hinder the moral or material progress of the country. In the debate in the House of Lords last week, the motion submitted by the Marquess of Salisbury raised only the question of the precipitancy of the British Government's policy. Lord Grey decided that the issue lay between two broad policies, the re-establishment of the Cromer régime and the carrying out of the 1922 Declaration to its logical conclusion. He realised that the basis of the former was consideration for the welfare of the Egyptian people, but he pointed out that no improvement in the position of the fallahen strengthened the British position in Egypt politically. Emphasising the fact that it is for the welfare of the masses of the people that those who have lived for so many years in the East are concerned, Lord Lloyd declared that the proposed Treaty would give them "in exchange for the steady, wise and restraining influence of British guidance during the inevitably difficult process of the growth of parliamentary institutions amongst a dumb and illiterate people the vicissitudes, uncertainties and possible violences which are bound to attend such a growth when this experienced guidance is prematurely removed." Lord Grey said: "I am not suggesting that the self-government of Egypt will be from our point of view as good for the country as that which existed when she was bound to accept the guidance and control of Lord Cromer . . . but we cannot undertake responsibility against the will of the people of a country, simply because we believe that we shall be doing their affairs better than they do them themselves." Therein lies the real crux of the situation, differentiating Egypt from India or any other country within the British Empire. The retention of the Cromer régime is incompatible with the Declaration of 1922, except in

so far as Egypt refuses to arrive at an agreement on the points reserved for future discussion in that Declaration, and retains by such action the *status quo*. The essential interests of Great Britain, however, must be secured, and it rests with the Egyptians to decide whether by rejecting the unexpectedly generous terms now offered them they will miss the substance in order to grasp at a shadow.

President Zaimis.

It was a foregone conclusion that, when Admiral Kondouriotis found himself at last compelled to resign the presidency of the Greek Republic, his successor would be M. Zaimis, if M. Venizelos decided that he could not accept the post. For many years past the new President has exercised a moderating influence in Greek political life, and there is no one in Greece of the same political authority who has contrived to lift himself out of the hurly-burly of politics, while retaining to the same extent the general esteem of the people. M. Zaimis was, therefore, eminently fitted for the Presidency, and it is of interest to note that his election has been the occasion of fresh *rapprochement* between Greek political parties. As if to lend point to his contention that the old antagonism between Royalists and Venizelists had been eliminated, M. Venizelos appointed to his Cabinet a few months ago M. Gonatas, who as chief leader of the movement that led to the execution of M. Gounaris and his five colleagues may be said to have had a major share of the responsibility attaching to that grave blot in Greek political life. The challenge was too much for the Monarchist party under M. Tsaldaris, who withdrew with his followers from Parliament as a protest against the appointment. The intensity of Monarchist feeling on the subject came, no doubt, as a surprise to the Prime Minister, but he was not prepared to admit that he had made a mistake. His efforts to induce M. Tsaldaris to reconsider his decision had previously failed, but the election of a new President provided an opportunity for the Government to take the formal step of resignation, and for M. Gonatas to surrender his portfolio of his own accord. The Cabinet has been reformed without him, and peace has been re-established between the political parties. M. Zaimis's Presidency, accordingly, begins under the best possible auspices.

Yugoslavia's Sokol Organisation.

In furtherance of its policy of unification the Yugoslav Government has now turned its attention to the Sokol organisations of the country. These athletic, or primarily gymnastic, associations had acquired the particularist character of other organisations in Yugoslavia and served to keep alive the separatist tendencies of Serbs, Croats and others. At the same time they lacked uniformity even in the matter of physical training; but it was mainly owing to their political leanings that the present régime had found it necessary, in a new Education Law, to forbid pupils of the Middle Schools to join any of the three chief Sokols. To overcome the various shortcomings of the latter the Government had to choose between a union of the existing organisations, the selection of one to be responsible for the future training of the youth, or the creation of an entirely new organisation. The choice has fallen on the latter. In future there is to be a single Yugoslav Sokol, which existing bodies can join as component parts; otherwise they are to be dissolved within three weeks. The new Sokol will comprise adults, younger men and children; it will be under a Board officially appointed, and its aim will be to impart uniform drill, national discipline, and military fitness to the Yugoslav youth. There will naturally be some heartburnings over the change from independent Sokols to one national institution, and the Croat Sokol has decided to dissolve rather than to join the new organisation. The success of the new scheme is likely to turn largely on the tact and vision with which the movement is directed at the outset. Its fortunes, too, are inevitably linked up with the bigger project for the unification of the Kingdom, by its partition into nine administrative units superseding the former provincial divisions. In striving after the complete unity of Yugoslavia the Dictatorship has set itself a high patriotic aim, but the permanency of the step has yet to be shown. If the report that a revival of constitutional government is now contemplated be confirmed by the event, it may be that with a parliamentary safety-valve the nation will be more reconciled to give the new system of decentralised administration a fair trial.

Arab-Zionist Reconciliation.

The weeks are passing with little visible sign of the hand of reconciliation being extended between Arab and Jew in Palestine. On the Arab side, the movement in favour of reducing Jewish ambitions in Palestine to the dimensions of a "Cultural Home" shows growth, but no

very practical suggestions are, so far as we know, being made on how to gain Jewish consent to the Arab proposal. On the Jewish side, the attempts hitherto made, at least by such men as Dr. Magnes and Dr. Bergmann, have been widely denounced as "defeatist": it is a boast, indeed, among the Jewish people, that but for the untimely declaration of such "irresponsible" men as the Chancellor of the Hebrew University, the people of Israel have shown a united front in presence of the events in Palestine of last August. Psychologically, it might therefore seem, the time is not ripe for talk of compromise and reconciliation. It is in vain, apparently, that there have been uttered the memorable words of Professor Einstein: "I am in absolute agreement with the attempts at *rapprochement*, and it is necessary that this movement should be supported with all their force by non-Palestinian Jews." Well, the Jews know their own people best, and no doubt have the most cogent of reasons for rejecting what might seem to the less intimately interested observer to be the counsel of sagacity. It is doubtless true that only between Arabs and Jews in Palestine itself is effective reconciliation possible, if only for the reason that any compromise which might be arrived at outside Palestine might be held, by each party respectively, not to be binding on the Arabs and Jews in Palestine. Even so, little harm could be done by such an attempt to come together.

Europeans in India.

The attitude of Europeans in India—by which we mean largely the non-official community—towards Constitutional progress has been defined on many occasions in these columns. It may generally and briefly be described as sympathetic to Indian aspirations, but not blind to the obstacles in the way of advance. In particular the mercantile community is determined to see that so far as lies in its power no minority is wilfully placed in a position of disadvantage or penalised because of its numerical smallness. On the other hand, it is in no sense reactionary or die-hard in its views or willing to be a party to any movement intended to make any real progress impossible. We are glad, nevertheless, that at the first Annual Conference of the European Association to be held in Bombay Mr. W. L. Travers, the President, took the opportunity to restate and define the Association's object and policy. Its main objective, he said, is defence; it could never be defiance. While Europeans in India would defend every attack upon their rights, their legitimate livelihood and their trade and commerce with all the vigour and energy of which the British were capable, they hoped and trusted that their position would not be assailed, for they earnestly desired to co-operate with their Indian fellow-subjects in all progressive movements. Especially were they anxious to aid in social reform, in the fight against disease and in everything that tended to raise the standard of life of the poor.

EGYPT AND GREAT BRITAIN.

(Continued from page 675.)

critics in England as well. Although the Government spokesmen indicated that the terms, while laying down the policy of Great Britain, need not be regarded as having taken final treaty shape, and could, therefore, be made to meet the potential difficulty presented by the Optional Clause, it would be contrary to all the Government's statements on the subject that there should be any material modification of the terms in Egypt's favour. If, therefore, the present offer of a treaty is rejected by Egypt there must still be echoes of the "Cromer régime" in the country, on the lines laid down by the Declaration of 1922. It would only entail self-deception, if Egypt sought to persuade herself that she might enjoy independence without any treaty and yet be free from the "Cromer régime."

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1929.

EGYPT AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The debate on Egypt in the House of Lords last week was a valuable contribution to a better understanding of the Egyptian problem by all who take any interest in the subject. It may be necessary, however, for the full report of the debate to be studied, if some of the most useful points in the discussion are not to be missed. The question at issue is the establishment of Anglo-Egyptian relations on a firm, friendly and lasting basis, or, as it has been expressed in other words, to establish the independence of Egypt and secure the essential interests of Great Britain. This end cannot be achieved unless and until Egyptians and Britons are both satisfied that the shortcomings which each nation has identified with the other, on the strength of past experience, have given place to a better state of affairs. For the sake of argument we may imagine the extreme point of view on the two sides to be as follows: the Egyptians see in the British a people who took forcible possession of their country fifty years ago and, in spite of repeated assurances of an intention to evacuate it at an early date, having remained in occupation until the present time, show a strong reluctance to adopt the Egyptian version of what constitutes sovereign independence; a strong section of British opinion, on the other hand, pointing to the experience of the last fifty years, and in particular to actual events during the last decade, is convinced either that Egypt cannot be relied upon to maintain unswerving loyalty to Great Britain even when bound by a treaty of alliance, or that certain national weaknesses will, in the exercise of independence, set back the clock in the country, to the undoing of all that has been achieved under British supervision, and to the grave prejudice of the interests both of foreigners and of the Egyptians themselves. Is it possible to find any common meeting ground for these two opposing views, and can it be looked for within the four corners of the proposed terms of an Anglo-Egyptian Treaty?

Not the least valuable contribution to the debate in the House of Lords was Lord Grey's concise statement of the British position in Egypt, which should go a long way towards clarifying the views of Egyptian Nationalists. When Lord Cromer first went to Egypt, said Lord Grey, he made a declaration that the ultimate object of British policy in Egypt was to fit the Egyptians for self-government.

He was going to establish it as a going concern and then it was to be handed over to the Egyptian Government to keep the concern going. That was the ultimate object originally. In spite of all the work that Lord Cromer had done we must recognise that, when he retired, we were further from that objective of self-government for Egypt than we thought we were at the beginning. It had become apparent not only that the good work done in Egypt was due to British initiative, but that the maintenance of it was also due to continued British control such as Lord Cromer exercised.

Again, on the subject of pledges, Lord Grey pointed out that, when the War came, we established a Protectorate in Egypt, for, as he thought, two reasons. The first was to regularise our position in Egypt, and the second to cut the connexion between Turkey and Egypt "which had always existed and had prevented Egypt from being an independent sovereign State on account of the suzerainty of Turkey." Great Britain's position in Egypt had never been regularised.

It was most irregular, because all the time Lord Cromer was doing his work we had the uncomfortable feeling in our minds that, when we went to Egypt, we said that we were not going to stay there. We did not, it is true, make that a pledge to any Power. It was a pledge to the House of Commons, and the House of Commons never insisted upon its being kept.

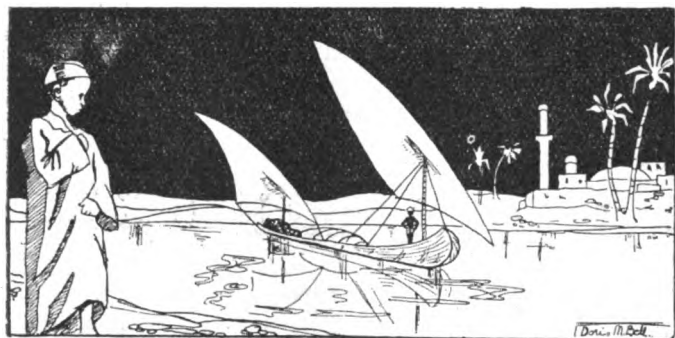
Another point that Egyptian Nationalists may bear in mind is that, however much British opinion may be divided as to the method of implementing Egyptian independence, no one loses sight of the real interests of the Egyptian people. In the debate in the House of Lords Viscount Grey declared that he differed widely from the policy advocated by Lord Lloyd, but he recognised that the latter's policy was one of "protecting the masses," and as such it is difficult for it to be wholly condemned in Egypt without the raising of fears that the protection of the masses does not commend itself to the vocal section of Egyptian opinion. For the better adjustment of the views of extremists in Egypt it may not be out of place here to remind them that it was Lord Lloyd who in the early days of his High Commissionership pressed upon the British Government, as an essential corollary of the 1922 Declaration, the need for fresh elections after Parliament had been suspended owing to the murder of Sir Lee Stack, and who negotiated the Nile Waters Agreement, which, as it gave Egypt a voice in the control of the waters of the Uganda Lakes, might well have prompted a country more free from political obsessions to acclaim its author as a national benefactor. If, therefore, the embodiment, from the Egyptian point of view, of British Imperialism thus manifests his concern for the well-being of the country, it should not be difficult for Egypt as a whole to believe that Great Britain is now approaching the subject of the settlement of Anglo-Egyptian relations with genuine sympathy for the people's interests, and without more insistence upon reservations than the vital interests of the British Empire require.

The fate of the proposed Treaty still hangs in the balance. If Egypt is concerned to see it signed and ratified, and would, therefore, wish to forestall adverse criticism of it in Great Britain, she has only to examine what may be said to be the extremist point of view in England, in order to see how she can remove the misgivings that underlie any opposition that there may be to the proposed Treaty. The record of the past ten years stands, but it should not be difficult to convince the most sceptical that the intrigue and unrest which characterised the struggle against British tutelage will have no place in an independent Egypt. The Declaration of 1922 in declaring Egypt to be an independent sovereign State signified that the "Cromer régime" was at an end. It was, however, a unilateral document, issued by Great Britain without consultation with Egypt; it, therefore, specified certain points on which bilateral agreement would be necessary for the proper rounding-off of Egyptian independence, and a settlement on these points was invited. The final clause in the Declaration stated that pending the conclusion of such agreement the *status quo*, in other words, the "Cromer régime," remained intact. The quarrel between the Wafd and Lord Lloyd was fought out over this document. The Wafd insisted that there should be no agreement and tried to convince itself that there need be no "Cromer régime" in the meantime; but from Lord Lloyd they learned that the "Cromer régime" could still be an effective factor in Egyptian administration, under the strict interpretation of the 1922 Declaration. There can be little doubt that his High Commissionership was the means of making those who were previously opposed to any treaty realise that there is much to be said from Egypt's point of view for rounding-off Egyptian independence on the lines suggested by the British Government. The proposed terms for a treaty offered to Mahmoud Pasha represent the last stage reached so far on the road to an Egyptian settlement. They are understood not to meet all the wishes of the Wafd: the debate in the House of Lords showed that they have their

(Concluded at the foot of the previous page.)

*The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, December 7.

The Residency.

It is officially confirmed that the High Commissioner will leave here for the Sudan on the 17th or the 20th instant. This will be Sir Percy Loraine's first visit to the Sudan, which, of course, comes within his jurisdiction as High Commissioner. He will be accompanied by Lady Loraine, and possibly by Mr. R. E. More, who, it is understood, is vacating his position as Sudan Agent the coming summer.

According to present arrangements the Residency party will proceed from Khartoum by steamer up the White Nile to Kosti. Then Sir Percy will leave and fly across the Gezira to a point on the Settit River, where arrangements are being made to provide him with some big game shooting. The party will meanwhile return to Khartoum and go up the Blue Nile to meet the High Commissioner, who will return with them to Khartoum. After a short stay there the journey will be taken back to Egypt, where they are due to arrive on January 10.

The Elections.

From the fact that the High Commissioner is leaving just before the elections and that he will not return until the eve of the opening of Parliament it may be deduced that in official circles little development in the political situation is anticipated in the interval. It is expected that as a result of the elections and according to precedent the party obtaining the majority, in this instance certainly the Wafd, will take office before the assembly of Parliament. But evidently this is not expected to give rise to anything necessitating the consideration of the High Commissioner, so that one may take it that there will be no serious difficulty in connexion with the selection of the members of the new Cabinet. In this respect it is generally anticipated that Nahas Pasha will become Prime Minister, and that Adly Pasha will revert to the Presidency of the Senate, which he held when Parliament was suspended in July, 1928. The decree was issued for the holding of elections on February 15 next year in Sinai. The reason for the delay has been the great distances between centres in that district.

The Alexandria Consulate-General.

Since writing the paragraph, about a fortnight ago, on the promotion of Cairo to a Consulate-General, I have

come into possession of some interesting data about the Alexandria Consulate. After the battle of the Nile the British representation was carried out by what was known as the Levant Company's Consulate, and it is recorded that the incumbent in 1801 was a certain Samuel Briggs, who was succeeded in 1810 by Mr. Peter Lee. The Levant Company's Office was abolished in 1826, when a proper Consulate was established, the first Consul under the Crown being Mr. John Barker, who became Consul-General in 1827 and held that post until 1833. His descendant is Sir Henry Barker, who was President of the British Chamber of Commerce and head of the British Community in Alexandria two years ago.

The Royal Opera House.

The season at the Royal Opera House opened this week with a series of performances by the official troupe of the Comédie Française under the direction of M. Bernard. The inaugural performances of "La Primerose" and "L'Avare" were great successes, M. Denis Ives' portrait of Harpagon being particularly good. Cavaliere Dalbagni seems once again to have done well by the cast he has engaged, perhaps even better than last year, which was a marked improvement on anything since the Armistice.

The Egyptian Stage.

A propos of the theatre, it is very unfortunate that the Arab theatre has of late been written about so disparagingly in the Press abroad. For one has only to go to the Ramses' Theatre, where Youssef Wahby gives nightly performances, sometimes of purely Egyptian plays, sometimes of adaptations from the best British authors, to realise that the conduct of the proceedings in the body of the theatre is as decorous as the performances on the stage are excellent. Youssef Bey Wahby is himself a really great actor, and he has collected round him a most talented party of Egyptian actors and actresses. It is, indeed, surprising that more Europeans who understand Arabic do not patronise his theatre, for he is doing great things for Arab drama and is deserving of every encouragement from all lovers of the stage.



IRAQ.

Baghdad, November 27.

Funeral of the Premier.

The funeral of Sir Abdul Muhsin Beg as Saadun, whose tragic death by suicide was reported in your Correspondent's last letter, took place on November 15, and was the occasion of a great public manifestation of grief. Weeping crowds filled the streets from the Premier's house to the Gailani Mosque, where the burial took place, and the wailing of women as the procession passed was incessant. The route was lined by troops and police, and a squadron of mounted police headed the cortège. The

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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coffin, enveloped in the Iraq flag, was trailed by a military motor car and escorted by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Iraq Army, the Director-General of Police, the Commandant of Iraq Army (Baghdad Area), and the Commandant of Police, Baghdad Liwa.

King Faisal was represented by his son, the Amir Ghazi, with whom were the senior officials of the Court. The Acting High Commissioner and his staff were followed by the Presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies and by the Ministers of the Cabinet. Foreign diplomatic representatives, senators and deputies, and all the senior officials of the Government, both Iraqi and British, followed, and every branch of public life in Iraq was fully represented.

On nearing the mosque, the coffin was carried on the shoulders of Baghdad lawyers. A short memorial service was held, and the burial took place to the booming of fifteen guns.

The King replied to the Acting High Commissioner's personal letter of sympathy in the following terms:—

My dear Young,—I thank your Excellency for your letter of yesterday, and for the heartfelt expression of sincere sorrow which it contained for the loss which we have suffered through the death of our dear friend the late Abdul Muhsin Beg. The loss is especially calamitous at this juncture, when our united endeavours were directed with all energy and enthusiasm towards harvesting the fruits of the long-sustained efforts which we have made to prepare the country for the most auspicious future to which the nation could aspire.

The loss would have been easier to bear if he had been taken from me in any circumstances other than the present, when he and his colleagues were so evidently delighted at the help which His Britannic Majesty's Government are giving towards the fulfilment of the hopes of the country, and which your Excellency has been seconding by giving an opportunity to Ministers to carry out their duties in accordance with their ministerial programme. But his loss now, after the loss of my friend Sir Gilbert Clayton, is an irreparable disaster.

At this sad moment I can only take refuge in patience, and repeat your Excellency's own valuable words. May God enable us to realise the end for which these two dear departed ones laboured so devotedly!—Your sincere friend,
FAISAL.

The King paid homage to the body of his late Minister early on the Saturday morning, afterwards expressing his sympathy with the members of his family. Ex-King Ali also paid a visit of condolence. During that day and the next the *fatihah* was attended by a stream of notables and mourners of all classes.

The lawyers of Baghdad, at a meeting held on Saturday, decided to request the Government to grant life-time pensions to the family of the late Premier. It was suggested that his house, which is Waqf property, should be purchased and presented as a gift to the Saadun family, the outer reception room being retained by the nation as a hall in which to celebrate the anniversaries of the Prime Minister's death.

Plans for the erection of a memorial statue to the late Prime Minister are already under consideration.

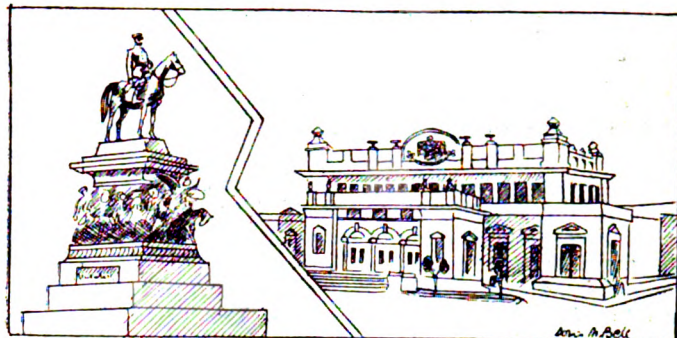
Mourning.

All Mutasarrifs at Liwa headquarters were ordered by the Cabinet to observe three days of mourning. A special register was opened in the Council of Ministers for the names of persons who wished to offer condolences to the Government of Iraqi. Among the many telegrams received were messages of condolence from Sir Henry Dobbs and from the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. In the Chamber of Deputies on Saturday the Ministers' seats and those of the President and the Parliamentary clerk were covered with black cloth, and every deputy present wept and lamented for the dead Premier. The House observed a five minutes' silence as a mark of grief. After the sitting the Deputies went in a body to the Council of Ministers to register their condolences. The next sitting, on November 28, is to be devoted to the recitation of prose and verse in celebration of Abdul Muhsin's services to his country.

The New Cabinet.

A royal *iradah* was issued on Monday forming a new Cabinet under Naji Beg Suwaidi, who was Minister of

Interior in the late Cabinet. In a short speech the new Prime Minister said that he could not be glad to succeed Abdul Muhsin Beg so soon after his death, but the wish to follow in his footsteps as a patriot had led him to accept the King's invitation. The Ministers accepted no felicitations, but as soon as they had been officially installed proceeded to the Gailani mosque, where they paid homage to the late Premier.



BULGARIA.

Sofia, December 2.

The Treaty of Neuilly.

On November 27 Bulgaria celebrated in national mourning the tenth anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Neuilly. Monster meetings were organised for the occasion, and speakers from all the political parties dwelt on the lamented situation in which the Treaty of Neuilly had placed Bulgaria, emphasising the necessity of revising the conditions of peace and protesting violently against the reparations.

This movement of protest was directed by a Nationalist organisation called "Otetz Paisy," that is to say, Father

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Paissy, the obscure monk who, on Mount Athos, laid the foundations of the Bulgarian renaissance, at the end of the eighteenth century, in writing the first history of the Bulgarians. At the head of this Organisation is the Metropolitan of Sofia and Archbishop of Bulgaria, Mgr. Stephan, assisted by the Rector and several Professors of the University, as well as by a certain number of prominent men in the country. This organisation has succeeded in uniting the nation in a protest against the territorial, political, and financial stipulations of the Treaty of Neuilly, describing this Treaty as an act of violence and revenge on the part of the conquerors towards the conquered. It had been wished to organise public demonstrations against the Treaty and especially against the reparations, but the Government forbade such a step.

The students of the two Universities in Sofia held a public meeting on November 27, when a resolution was passed asking for the restoration to Bulgaria of the territories detached from her by the Treaty of Neuilly, that is to say, the regions of Tsaribrod, Trn, Bossilegrad, and Strumitza, the complete abolition of reparations, the execution of the clauses relating to the protection of minorities and Bulgarian access to the Ægean Sea, and, finally, the revision of the Treaty of Neuilly in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Pact of the League of Nations.

But side by side with these purely patriotic protests, there were also made apparent on November 27 certain anti-Government tendencies, notably on the part of the Bulgarian Fascisti, who are taking on more and more the nature of a political party.

Italo-Bulgarian Relations.

The settlement of Bulgarian reparations, which appears to be fraught with almost insuperable difficulties, and in which Italy, who is principally interested, has not shown herself very conciliatory towards Bulgaria in her efforts to obtain a reduction of the sums fixed by the committee of experts in Paris, seems likely to involve a serious influence upon Italo-Bulgarian relations.

The reserved attitude of the Italian delegation at Paris in the discussion upon the settlement aimed at has been the object of some bitter comment in the local Press, in which it has been pointed out that Italy, which for years has not ceased to assert its friendship with Bulgaria, supported the claims of the Greeks to the detriment of Bulgarian hopes—for which there was no cause for wonder, Greece being an ally of Italy, while Bulgaria was only a "friend of the heart" who chose to follow Italian policy in the Balkans. As a result there has been a certain coldness in the relations between Bulgarians and Italians, and this coldness is becoming more and more apparent.

This state of affairs is complicated by the unsatisfactory personal relations which have existed for some time between the Italian representative in Sofia, Signor Piacentini, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Bourroff, whom the Italians suspect of being excessively Francophil.

A Sofia journal, the *Outro*, having offered, in an elucidation of the point of view of each of the three Great Powers on the question of Bulgarian reparations, to publish an *exposé* of each of them under the form of an anonymous correspondence from the respective capitals, the Italian Minister took advantage of the occasion, in an unsigned article, to formulate a series of grievances against the Minister for Foreign Affairs, accusing him of having always misconstrued Italian friendship and of having neglected to notice a formal invitation from Signor Grandi, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who suggested to M. Bourroff that he might come to Rome, before the Paris Conference, in order to come to an understanding on Bulgarian demands and Italian support. To this invitation M. Bourroff is said not even to have deigned to reply, thus upsetting considerably the Fascist Government, which is now reproached for not having helped Bulgaria at the conference on Eastern reparations. This article ended with an allusion to the possibility of clearing up the matter at the last moment by a step which Italy

would be willing to take, if Bulgaria would disavow the policy of her Foreign Minister. To this direct attack on M. Bourroff, the *Mir*, considered as the organ of his friends in the Government group, had the unfortunate idea, not knowing the origin of the attack, to reply with a formal denial, which it thought it could substantiate by a statement to the effect that Italian circles in Sofia were themselves indignant at the unfounded assertions of the *Outro*. The following day, Signor Piacentini called upon the Editor of the *Mir* to deny his own denial, and, as he was not satisfied with the *contre-démenti*, he inserted in the Press a notice declaring that neither the Legation nor he himself personally had authorised anyone to challenge the publication of the *Outro*—which indirectly emphasised that the assertions contained in this publication were supported by the Italian Legation.

This incident, which showed very clearly the source of the article in the *Outro*, raised a considerable scandal in political and diplomatic circles, both Bulgarian and foreign. The conduct of Signor Piacentini was interpreted as an attack on the Minister of Foreign Affairs and thus as a direct intervention in the affairs of the country. This scandal was not really extinguished by a declaration which M. Bourroff at once made in the *Sobranie*, in answer to a question by the Democrat leader, M. Monshanoff, to the effect that he had nothing in common with the *Mir*, and that this journal was not his own property, as was generally believed. This declaration, which reduced the matter to a simple polemic in the Press, was in effect an invitation to Signor Piacentini to say out that he was responsible for the charges laid down in the alleged correspondence in the *Outro* against the Foreign Minister.

Signor Piacentini has preserved a guarded attitude, and the affair has not developed, but it has left a very painful impression on Bulgarians, who have seen in it an intolerable interference in their own affairs—quite apart from their appreciation of the work done by their Foreign Minister.

The Settlement of Reparations.

The Bulgarian Government has not yet replied to the *démarche* of Italy, France, and Great Britain, who urged that it should agree to an annual payment of 12½ million gold francs for 37 years as a settlement of reparations.

In the meantime, an attempt has been made to arrange, in Sofia, fresh negotiations with the Governments interested, or at any rate with the three Great Powers, to obtain some supplementary concessions—for the country, impoverished and ruined, cannot sustain a charge of 12½ million francs for reparations.

After a new examination of the situation, the Council of Ministers has just charged the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Finance, MM. Bourroff and Moloff, to establish personal contact with the Governments of the three Great Powers in a last attempt to obtain a satisfactory settlement of Bulgarian reparations. MM. Bourroff and Moloff will visit Rome, Paris, and London before going to The Hague, where they will represent Bulgaria at the next international conference.

Macedonian Emigrants.

The bloody rivalry that has raged for more than a year between the two factions of Macedonian revolutionaries has failed to impair, as it has been shown in the last few weeks, the unity of the lawful organisations of Macedonian emigrants in Bulgaria, who are directed by a National Committee.

To avoid the dissensions which threatened to split it, the National Committee hastened the convocation of the annual congress of Macedonian emigrants. When the delegates recently assembled, the Committee explained its line of conduct, and a free vote was taken on it. The congress, which one had feared might be transformed into an arena of strife, was conducted in a calm atmosphere. The Macedonians realise the gravity of the situation and the necessity of making personal sacrifices in the one aim of saving their unity. Every speaker was animated with this spirit. The Congress instructed the new National Committee to hold itself aloof from the broils of the

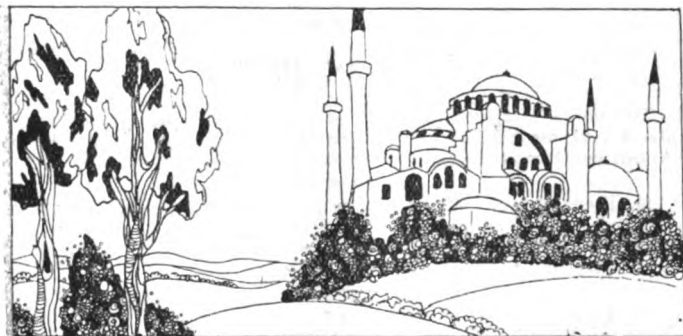
revolutionaries, though it did not conceal its preference for the faction of Ivan Mihailoff, the faction of the Protogueroffists being indirectly proclaimed dissident.

Whether the congress will liquidate the crisis one cannot tell; but it will certainly produce a *détente* in the ranks of Macedonian emigrants in Bulgaria.

Bulgaro-Roumanian Relations.

A sudden crisis has arisen in the relations between Roumania and Bulgaria. It comes about over the Bulgarian property in Roumania which has been sequestered by the Roumanian Government in virtue of its rights under the Peace Treaties. Ever since 1922 the Bulgarian Government has been trying to free this property. Pourparlers have been long and complicated. Finally, to secure a prompt and friendly solution, the Maniu Cabinet proposed a new basis of negotiations, asking, not for a pecuniary indemnity which Bulgaria could not pay without deducting it from her reparations debt, but for certain economic advantages concerning the entry of its principal articles of import into Bulgaria, namely, salt, petrol, and timber for building. The Bulgarian Government agreed to negotiate on this basis, and the negotiations at Bucharest were already advanced when, following the discussions at Paris on reparations, Roumania, seeing that after the liquidation of reparations the question of sequestration could not be also liquidated, suddenly decided to proceed to the sale of these properties before the meeting of the new conference at The Hague.

This decision provoked deep indignation throughout Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Government immediately addressed a formal protest to Bucharest and is preparing to bring the matter before the League of Nations.



TURKEY.

Istanbul, December 4.

Friday or Sunday.

Reports from Ankara point to a recrudescence of the agitation in official circles for the adoption of Sunday as the national day of rest. The populace is said to be indifferent to the outcome of these proposals, which were first mooted last year. The current of opinion among the deputies in favour of the change was apparently not strong enough at that time to warrant any action by the Government. Matters would appear to have moved rapidly of late, however, as the Government itself is reported to be about to lay on the table of the Assembly a draft law providing for the contemplated change.

Festina lente may be a wise maxim to apply in certain circumstances, but it has taken a very long time to establish the fact officially that two *dies non* in the trading week have had a singularly detrimental effect on the activities of the Turkish markets in their relations with Continental and overseas countries. It is not improbable that, before long, Saturday will become early closing day in Istanbul, as a corollary of which the English "week-end"—"la semaine anglaise," may be expected to become part of the local time-table.

"The Artful Dodger."

Some two days ago, a couple of hefty porters transporting a heavy wardrobe appeared in one of the poorer

quarters of Stamboul and inquired for the whereabouts of Hadji Arif Effendi's dwelling house. The latter, the most prosperous looking edifice in the neighbourhood, was pointed out to them by some street urchins, whereupon they rapped at the door-knocker and informed the lady chatelaine that Hadji Arif Effendi had ordered them to leave the wardrobe at his home. It is strange, thought the good woman, that Hadji should not have mentioned anything to me about the matter when he left the house this morning, but he has probably picked up something cheap somewhere, as he often does. She accordingly ordered the men to leave the piece of furniture in the entrance hall, which they did. After receiving a tip, they departed and the lady withdrew to the upper part of the building. A gentleman accommodated in the wardrobe, unlocking the latter from inside, thereupon stepped out into the hall holding something like a fisherman's creel and proceeded to ransack the whole of the lower stories of the building, whence he removed everything portable in the way of cutlery, plate, jewellery and cash, returning with them to the wardrobe, within which he ensconced himself, taking care to lock the door behind him. About half an hour later, the two porters again called to say that they had made a mistake, that the wardrobe had been purchased by a certain Hadji Eumer and that they proposed removing it to the latter's residence. So remove it they did—with its human freight plus the household goods and the cash reserve of the Hadji. And that is the last that has been heard or seen of the porters, wardrobe—and poor Hadji Arif's worldly possessions.

The Drop in the Value of the Turkish Lira.

Official circles, the banks and the trading community in general have been seriously preoccupied during the last few days with a phenomenon which the local Press, and Ministerial Departments even, will persist in referring to as the "rise of the Pound Sterling"—whereas, terminologically, the "drop in the value of the Lira" would be, technically at all events, more correct. It is the foreign exchanges as a whole, irrespective of their inter-fluctuations, which have been moving steadily upward on the local market during the past fortnight or so, and the unfortunate British pound is no more to blame for the present state of affairs than is the opulent American dollar. The Under-Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary-General of the Chamber of Deputies arrived by express from Ankara this morning with the object of imposing certain measures which the local papers forecast as likely to be of a very drastic nature. Among these administrative correctives—as adumbrated by the local news-sheets—will be included prohibition of access to the "Bourse" of all foreign brokers and jobbers on the grounds that they are a pack of speculators mainly responsible for driving the Turkish Lira to 1,100 or thereabouts. As the few foreigners still operating on 'Change are for the most part Hellenic subjects, and as there is reported to be a long "waiting list" of potential Turkish brokers and bucket-shop owners, there would seem to be more underlying this contemplated measure than appears on the surface.

The downward tendency displayed by the Turkish currency—measured in terms of the foreign exchanges and the ratio of Turkish paper to Turkish gold—must unquestionably be attributed to economic causes and to the action of the inexorable law of supply and demand.

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Whether the expulsion from the Bourse of a dozen foreign brokers will lead to any improvement in the situation is at least open to doubt.

There is certainly more common sense in the suggestion—always according to the dailies—that the Government are about to endeavour to curtail their purchases of foreign exchange, by buying less material abroad and manufacturing more at home. Any such decision, if drastically carried out, would obviously assist, within certain limits, in checking the decline in the value of the national currency, but steel-rolling mills and workshops capable of turning out locomotives, tenders, rails and fish-plates cannot unfortunately be improvised in a week or two. Apart from which, the provision of foreign exchange for the payment of coupons abroad seems to have escaped the attention of the local papers in any case.

The only communication issued by the Treasury to the Press has been to the effect that the rumours that Turkey, following the example of Greece a few years ago, intended to increase her resources by cutting her Treasury notes in half, were sheer nonsense, and that these rumours had obviously been put into circulation by unpatriotic individuals, whose primary object it was to embarrass the Government, whilst taking advantage of the generally unsettled and confused state of the market in order to slip in, slip out and make their little pile.

The "Trans-Taurus Express."

The Simplon-Orient Express is to be extended still further into Middle-Eastern regions in the near future by a tri-weekly express service, to be inaugurated on February 15, 1930, between Haidar-Pasha and Aleppo, whence a section of the train will proceed southwards with passengers for Cairo and another section to Nisibin with passengers for Baghdad.

The stretch between Nisibin and Kirkuk, for the present, will be covered by an express motor-bus service, passengers re-entraining at Kirkuk for Baghdad. These express trains will be made up at Haidar-Pasha of first, second and third-class corridor carriages, sleepers and dining cars.

The train will be given the name of the "Trans-Taurus Express," once the contemplated train-ferry service between Sirkeji and Haidar-Pasha stations has become an accomplished fact, which, it is anticipated, will be the case sometimes during 1930. It will then be unnecessary for the passenger from London to leave his compartment between Calais and Nisibin.

The journey from London to Baghdad, by the extended Simplon-Orient route, to be inaugurated on February 15 next, will occupy exactly seven days.

Athens University, which had been closed owing to student riots, was reopened on December 13.

A new forest to be planted in Palestine will be named after President Masaryk in honour of his 80th birthday.

MM. Bouroff and Moloff, Bulgarian Foreign Minister and Finance Minister respectively, who arrived in Rome last week, on December 11 visited Signor Grandi, Italian Foreign Minister, and Signor Mussolini.

Two of a party of ten students who raided the Grand Orient Lodge of the Freemasons in Strada Lipsani, Bucharest, and demanded the archives of the organisation at the point of the revolver, were subsequently arrested by the police, but the others escaped.

M. Zaimis was on December 14 elected President of the Greek Republic, in succession to Admiral Kondouriotis. M. Zaimis received 257 votes, as against the 22 secured by M. Kaphandaris, the former Minister of Finance, who came next on the list. The election was made by Chamber and Senate, sitting jointly.

A delegation of Bulgarian Deputies from the Sobranie was received by King Boris on December 12 and presented to him a reply to the Speech from the Throne. During the reception which followed the King conversed with individual party leaders on the needs of the nation. All the Opposition leaders, by previous agreement, placed before the King their demand for a change of Government.

THE ARABS AND PALESTINE.

Under the auspices of the National League, a meeting was arranged, on December 12, in a Committee Room of the House of Commons, to hear the Arab case in regard to the problem of Palestine. Lord Strathclyde presided, and among those who accepted invitations to be present were:—

The Earl of Denbigh, the Earl Howe, Viscount Brentford, Viscount Templetown, Viscount Exmouth, Lord Lamington, Lord Ernest Hamilton, Lord Armstrong, Lord Sydenham, Lord Leigh, Lord Boston, Lady Strathclyde, Miss Margaret Farquharson, the Hon. Lady Bailey, Rosita Forbes, the Hon. Joan Grant of Grant, Major-General Sir Alfred Knox, Brig.-Gen. Sir George Cockrill, Col. the Rt. Hon. John Gretton, Lt.-Col. C. K. Howard-Bury, Rear-Admiral Beamish, Sir Stewart Sandeman, John Remer, Esq., Brig.-Gen. Sir Henry Page-Croft, the Rev. Prebendary Gough, Patrick J. Hannon, Esq., Lt.-Col. the Hon. Cuthbert James, William John Stewart, Esq., Lt.-Col. F. E. Fremantle, P. J. Pybus, Esq., Major Kindersley, Sir Cooper Rawson, Major Sir Archibald Sinclair, Bt., Ben Smith, Esq., George Balfour, Esq., J. A. Tinne, Esq., Lt.-Col. Sir William Wayland, Lt.-Col. the Rt. Hon. Sir John Gilmour, Sir Bartle Frere, Captain E. N. Bennett, T. D. Cree, Esq., and others.

The principal speaker was Jamal Beg al Husaini, Secretary of the Supreme Muslim Council, who, after contrasting the condition of the Arabs in Palestine in pre-War and post-War times, pleaded that the British people, in upholding the rights of minorities, should not forget the rights of the majority in Palestine. The Arabs' demands, he said, were not grotesque: all that was wanted was British fair play and a national democratic Government in which all sections of the community in Palestine should be represented according to their numbers.

Colonel Howard Bury, in suggesting the formation of a group in the House of Commons to watch the problem of Palestine, and to see that the interests of the Arabs were not overlooked, expressed his belief that a solution was possible within the framework of the Balfour Declaration, that whereas up till now it had been the first part of that Declaration—political Zionism—which had been stressed, it was time for the second part—the preservation of the rights of the existing population—to be observed. The Jews in Palestine might be allowed a cultural Home at the same time as the Arabs were given their rights.

Lord Sydenham, after recounting the efforts in the past of the House of Lords to get justice done in the matter of Palestine, declared his hope that the right cause would yet triumph.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The law relating to the status of the Jewish community in Yugoslavia and recognising full freedom of worship received the Royal Assent on December 15.

M. Predavetz, one of the leaders of the Croat Peasant Party, was arrested on December 10. A Government *communiqué* states that he is alleged to have falsified the books of the bank with which he was connected.

In a speech given on December 13 at Ankara in the Turkish National Assembly on the revalorisation of Turkish currency, Ismet Pasha spoke of measures aimed at securing preference for native products, and said that in this connexion the chief rôle fell to the Turkish woman, who should dress only in home-made materials and adorn herself with the mountain flowers of Anatolia.

The newly appointed British High Commissioner for Iraq, Sir Francis Henry Humphrys, with Lady Humphrys and a daughter, arrived in Baghdad on December 10. The party flew across the desert from Palestine in two troop-carrying aeroplanes, being escorted on the last stage of the journey by six smaller machines. The Amir Ghazi, the Crown Prince, welcomed Sir Francis on behalf of King Faisal at the aerodrome.

The reform of the Turkish alphabet by decree of Mustapha Kemal Pasha has resulted in the re-engraving of the contemporary postage stamps of that country and the addition of Latin inscriptions which read "Turkiye Cumhuriyeti-Posta." The design showing a train crossing the railway bridge over the Kizil-Irmak River, on the Ankara line, which was formerly reserved for the postage due stamps, has now been adapted to the lower values of the regular postage series, stamps of 2 kurus grey and 3 kr. puce having already been issued in this type, while that of 6 kr. deep violet retains the legendary figure of Boscourt and his wolf.

The General Assemblies of the three Sokol organisations, Serb, Yugoslav, and Croat, were held on December 15. The Serb and Yugoslav Sokols met in Belgrade, and the Croat Sokol in Zagreb. The Serb Sokol unanimously agreed to enter as a whole the newly formed Yugoslav State Sokol organisation. The Yugoslav Sokol, after discussion, decided to enter by a vote of 90 against 11. The Croat Sokol met in a hall crowded with Deputies and the public. A motion was carried expressing the unwillingness of the Croat Sokol to join the new organisation and calling on all Croat Sokols to dissolve themselves and their branches in the shortest possible time.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 28.

Indian Central Committee.

The Report of the Indian Central Committee co-operating with the Statutory Commission is now in the Viceroy's hands, and arrangements are being made for its publication, simultaneously in India and England. Whether it will have been published or not before this letter is in the hands of your readers, one cannot know. In the former event, there would be little profit in my reporting the "intelligent anticipations" of it that are going the rounds in India. In the other case, there would be little profit also. Accordingly, I will devote my letter to a further examination of the accepted view of India; the view that must be sound, if, should sweeping changes in the constitution be agreed to, they are not to be followed by disaster. It appears more and more likely but the last word is with Sir John Simon and his colleagues—that the Round Table Conference may at least begin in an air of expectation of sweeping changes. I have in mind such changes as the Central Committee is "intelligently anticipated" to have recommended; as, for instance, that there should be, all round and complete provincial autonomy; that there should be, presumably not in a day, complete Indianisation of the army; that the *personnel* of the Viceroy's Executive Council should be drawn from the elected representatives in the Indian Legislature. That would mean that the Finance Member, among the other members, might be one of our Pandits. Truly very sweeping changes.

India's Unpreparedness.

The question is, how badly, if such sweeping changes are made, might India be governed from, say, 1932 until the date when order and good government were forcibly restored? The opinion is widely held among the English in India, be it here said, that a large measure of power will be given soon to the Indian electorate and its representatives; that from inexperience and lack of training more than from anything else a bad, a worse, and the worst use of that power will be made, and that finally the country will have to be restored to order and stable government by force. My own hope is that more prudent counsels will prevail in the immediate future, and that anything like a catastrophe, any time between the present day and, say, 1950, will be averted. That is my own hope: for I know how much less prepared by training and education India is than even men like Sir Philip Hartog are aware.

The Hartog Committee's Report.

To say another word of the Hartog Committee's Report. The concern of that Committee, I was informed by its Chairman himself, was felt to be chiefly with the state of primary education in India. Was that a right, even a necessary view? The Committee held that it was; for it is in the primary schools that the electorate will be taught. The fact is there need not be, and there ought not to be, for centuries the electorate that the Committee had in its mind. The franchise might for long enough be a very restricted one. What the Committee should have done was to examine the state of educatedness of that relatively small class to which political power must be given, if any is given at all. They should not, moreover, while considering only that class, have considered only the university courses, only the quality of the teaching in the colleges. The education that men like Lord Balfour, Lord Asquith, John Morley received, was given them partly in school and college, partly in their own libraries afterwards, partly in their commerce as mature men with the world at large.

An Englishman's Education.

Suppose that an Englishman after taking a good degree at Oxford or Cambridge, joins the staff of the *Spectator*.

He will have fair chances of educating himself to a point far beyond the point to which his University brought him; fair chances, not exceptionally great. He is therefore a fair example to take. If that man reads nothing, his society will ignore him. He will probably read widely, and, at times at least, he will read hard. A probability is that he will take up the study of some subject that he did not touch at school and college. He will probably learn to read French and German, should he not already be able to read in those languages. He will read French and German, translations of Russian books, and so on. He will be a member of a few societies; he will read their Transactions. In the end he will have received an education, one for which what he was taught in school and in college was merely the preparation. He will die a highly educated man.

An Indian's Education.

Of the education beyond the college stage, of which the leading men and women in such countries as England, France, Germany and Italy receive so large a share—that education this country of India is almost totally without. The Indians move in a society that puts no pressure on them to read, no pressure whatever; of the few learned societies in the country the active members are almost all Europeans; hardly an Indian ever studies any subject, even an old one, after leaving college; there is no intellectual talk in the country, there is no stir of intellectual life; society gossips and relaxes on every side. Men are lawyers or doctors or magistrates; they do their professional work, and then rest or they play or they just idle. The air of the place is that of a new kind of Kindergarten. If one has oneself something of an intellectual nature to discuss, one discusses it in correspondence with confrères in Europe, or one saves it up till one's next furlough, or one puts it away with a sigh. Mr. Baldwin rightly made the point in the House of Commons, that while the branch of the Aryan race from which the English are derived, was trained in politics, the Indian branch gave itself up to meditation. A further point to make is that it has ceased to meditate on anything living; it now just dreams.

The Danger.

The danger of giving a large measure of power to such men all at once is enormous. There is great danger, further, that it will be given; for the men in India, the Europeans, with something in their minds to compare the public life of the Indians with, are not to be counted even in fives. There is one here and there is another there; they live unknown, never heard of. I conceive myself as fully justified in passing over our news for a few weeks (not that I have not mentioned everything really striking), while I do the little I can to present a truer picture of India than such documents as the Reports of the Central Committee and the Hartog Committee imply. One doubts if even Sir John Simon, far clearer-sighted man than Sir Philip Hartog though he be, can have taken in the intellectual poverty of India, the country's resemblance to a new kind of Kindergarten.

The Maharaja of Patiala.

The Maharaja of Patiala has made a speech on the occasion of his birthday, and his was followed by a speech from one, Col. Haksar, whose services have been, or were, lent by the Gwalior Darbar to the Chamber of Princes. These two carefully prepared speeches were obviously addressed to the Statutory Commission and the British Indian political leaders more than to those assembled in the Rajendra Gymkhana Club. They will repay study. Like most public utterances, they are not so well-meaning as well-seeming. There is a way of saying a thing that a politician will make use of. Suppose you wish to convey to the Indian leaders that they should be prepared to modify their demands, because the Indian Princes are willing, should the British Crown restore lost rights to them, to help the British Government to put the brake on, you might say something like this:

"To those who feel justified in distrusting our association (i.e., the association of the Indian States in the Round Table Conference) I would merely say that the Princes were never willing . . . to submit to being employed as tools . . . to retard the progress towards the destined goal of their brethren outside their own territories." To say they are not prepared is to say so; it is also to put into men's minds that in certain circumstances they might be ready to be something very like prepared. One's belief is that they will be. One's hope is that too. The British Indian danger will be best averted—the danger of going far too far now—if the States help us to avert it.

THE POSITION OF THE LIBERAL PARTY IN INDIAN POLITICS.

BY THE HON. SIR PHIROZE SETHNA, O.B.E.

[The article from which the following extract is taken was written before the Viceroy's recent declaration. Sir Phiroze Sethna, who is well-known to readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA as a forceful and able exponent of Indian political and Constitutional questions, has since been invited to preside at the forthcoming annual Conference of the National Liberal Federation, which meets next week at Madras.]

The curtain is about to rise upon a new scene in the Indian drama, and the greatest interest and the most lively feelings naturally reign all round as regards the developments that are imminent. The relations between England and India have now reached a stage when the greatest care must be taken to acquire a full and correct idea of the various conditions and aspects of the Indian political and constitutional problem, to envisage it as a whole in its proper perspective, with absolute freedom from prejudice and with the single object of promoting the welfare and progress of the Indian people and winning their willing and active consent and support for the connexion which the course of history has, in the inscrutable dispensation of Providence, established between the two countries. The responsibility of the British Government and Parliament for the welfare and advancement of the Indian people is often stressed, in fact, it seems to have become a truism, a sort of a first principle with British statesmen, politicians and publicists here, and of British administrators in India.

I shall not quarrel with this recognition of responsibility, for it connotes a moral attitude towards India and her people. Unfortunately it is not equally recognised that this sense of responsibility, if genuine and active, involves duties which can be rightly performed only by getting within the skins of the Indian people, by a thorough understanding and appreciation of their aspirations and view-points, by doing nothing that may alienate their good will and co-operation, and by recognising a sound political principle which history invariably teaches, viz., that it is not enough to do a right thing but it must be done at the right moment, otherwise developments and complications take place which cause much avoidable strife and suffering and the end of which it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to foresee or to guide.

The political situation in India to-day presents a varied picture of various currents and undercurrents of thought, and of divergent movements, national, communal, extremist, moderate, centrifugal, centripetal, labourite, agrarian, revolutionary, communist. All communities, classes and sections of the people are astir and giving expression to their aspirations, wishes and feelings. Time was when the peasantry of India was dumb and mute, but this state of things exists no longer and a change is, slowly but surely, coming over it also. The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms are having their effects. In their historic report on Indian Constitutional Reforms, Lord Chelmsford and the late Mr. Montagu said:—

We believe profoundly that the time has now come when the

sheltered existence which we have given India cannot be prolonged without damage to her national life, that we have a richer gift for people than any that we have bestowed on them, that nationhood within the Empire represents something better than anything India has hitherto attained, that the placid, pathetic contentment of the masses is not the soil on which such Indian nationhood will grow, and that in deliberately disturbing it we are working for her highest good.

It is literally and absolutely true that "the placid, pathetic contentment of the masses has been disturbed." The non-Brahmin movement in Bombay and Madras, the movement among the depressed classes, the exercise of the franchise, the three last triennial elections, the general effects of the reformed Constitution which brought to the forefront several questions affecting the interests of the agricultural population, all this has led to the awakening of the masses, which in India include a large proportion of the agricultural population. Recently the peasantry in the Deccan in the Bombay Presidency has proved its awakening by successfully resisting a legislative measure and by carrying on a powerful agitation against increase of land revenue assessments. It would be sheer, criminal blindness to delude oneself with the belief that these mass movements among the agricultural classes are not spontaneous but engineered by political agitators. Political agitators, however astute and powerful, cannot mislead or deceive the peasant classes, with their deep inherited patience and sturdy common sense, in this manner for any length of time. The awakening of the Indian masses is a factor in the Indian political situation, which has got to be realised and keenly borne in mind. Otherwise the Indian problem cannot be viewed and solved as a whole rightly. British rule is producing its full effects, the whole of India is awake and pulsating with new life.

It was a favourite saying of Lord Morley that Modern India presented levels of culture and civilisation ranging between the 12th and the 20th century. That dictum, though liable to be abused in practical application, was not destitute of profound truth. In the same way, the political situation in India may be aptly described as embodying within itself most British movements of political thought from mid-Victorian Liberalism to Socialism and Communism. Every political fad of European origin is having its repercussions and its adherents in India. The only Continental movement which has not yet had its counterpart in India is Fascism. There are Youth Leagues which have recently sprung into existence, but none with the ideals or on the lines of Fascism. The Moderates, or the Liberals, still continue to represent the Liberal thought of Great Britain. They have a firm faith in democracy both political and social, and in all the implications of democracy; their methods are strictly constitutional; many of them have had considerable experience as administrators, and they fully realise that though good government is no substitute for self-government, government, no less than self-government, is essential to the welfare, happiness and advancement of the mass of people. They, therefore, believe in efficiency of administration like the bureaucrats, but unlike the bureaucrats, it is not the only thing in which they believe, but their faith in efficiency goes hand in hand with their faith in self-government. Those who think that the two are really incompatible may smile at this contradictory creed, but the best self-governing nation in the world has shown both in war and peace that the two are not really incompatible, and if such incompatibility is to be assumed or regarded as an established fact, the efficiency which the Moderates or Liberals believe in, would of course mean such efficiency as is consistent with and feasible under self-government. Be that as it may, the Indian Liberals are fully alive to the necessity of efficiency of administration. Another mark of the Liberal school of thought which differentiates it from the extreme movements is that it clearly, unequivocally and firmly stands for the maintenance of the British connexion and for Dominion Status, it does not wish to abandon its well

considered and deliberate ideal of Dominion Status and be carried away by the will-o'-the-wisp of national independence free from the British connexion. Believing as it does in the philosophy of Liberalism in the West enshrined in the teachings of thinkers like Mill, Spencer, Morley, the aim of the Liberal movement or Party is to establish in India a genuine system of democratic responsible government, as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, at the same time profiting by the experience of the working of democratic self-government in Great Britain to the countries in the Western world.

OUR GREAT INDIAN MARKET.

At a luncheon held under the auspices of the Royal Empire Society on December 11, Mr. T. M. Ainscough, H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, gave an interesting address on "Our Great Indian Market." Sir John Sandeman Allan, M.P., presided. Mr. Ainscough said that the subject of his address needed no introduction to a meeting held under the auspices of the Royal Empire Society and in the heart of the City of London, whose bankers and merchants, since the days of the foundation of the East India Company in Queen Elizabeth's reign, had been the pioneers of economic development in India.

After stressing the importance to the United Kingdom of the greatest market for British manufactures, Mr. Ainscough said that it was a matter for the gravest concern that the United Kingdom's share of India's total imports had declined from 63 per cent. pre-War to under 45 per cent. in 1928-29. During the last six years our proportion had fallen by 13 per cent., and in the figures just received for the first six months of the current fiscal year, the British figure stood at 43 per cent. The primary reasons for this decline were:—(1) India's increased imports of certain foodstuffs and raw materials which are not produced in this country; (2) the temporarily reduced demand for certain British specialities, such as textile machinery, railway stores and cotton textiles; (3) the non-adjustment of the Indian market to the higher post-War level of prices of imported goods, and particularly of the high-grade British productions, the price of which has risen in greater proportion than most goods owing to our heavy overhead charges and increased labour costs; and (4) the menace of foreign competition now felt in almost every trade, including those which before the War were almost exclusively British.

The "bazaar trades," forming some 60 per cent. of the total, accounted for almost the whole of the trade which had been lost. Here low price and showy appearance were greater desiderata than quality, durability or even value of money. Owing to the great increase in the cost of production in the United Kingdom since the War, British prices were frequently beyond the purchasing power of the Indian masses and our merchants were being undersold by the Continent and Japan, in many cases by as great a discrepancy as 10 per cent. The importance of the price factor was illustrated by the remarkable success which had attended the activities of the Japanese with cotton piece-goods. The problem to be solved was a production problem rather than one of marketing. Our foreign competitors did not employ any more novel or more efficient methods of distribution than our merchants, who had the advantage of being established for decades. The remedy lay in those schemes of rationalisation which were now being tried out among the manufacturers in this country, which, it was hoped, would enable us to reduce our prices to a competitive level.

Dealing with the "heavy" trades, which represented approximately a further 30 per cent. of the aggregate British proportion, Mr. Ainscough stated that the British position rested on a much firmer basis. British standard steel, rolled to the British standard specification, had an established reputation throughout the country, and although the production of the Indian Steel Works under

the cover of a protective tariff was likely to increase, the demands in India for railway public works, building and general industrial requirements would be so great that the market for British steel would continue to expand *pari passu* with the general development of the country.

One of the most striking features of recent years was the increasing association of Indians in the import trade. There had always been an immense Indian vested interest in the distribution of imported goods in India itself. Of recent years, however, Indian importers were developing direct connexions with British and foreign suppliers in almost every direction and were visiting Europe in greater numbers. This was a perfectly natural development and was one in which the British exporter had always been prepared to co-operate to the fullest extent. We had seen and welcomed the recent inauguration of an Indian Chamber of Commerce in London.

During the past few weeks, largely through the efforts of Sir Stephen Demetriadi, of the London Chamber of Commerce, two Indian merchants had been elected as members of the Baltic Exchange. Developments of this kind, which brought the traders of the two countries into more intimate contact, were all to the good. Fortunately economic relations were not trammelled by any considerations of race or creed or caste. Trade was a great solvent and a great binding element between the parts of this great Empire.

In conclusion, Mr. Ainscough stated that during his recent tour of the industrial centres in this country, misgivings had been expressed as to the reactions of political agitation on our trade in India. During the period of transition in the development of self-governing institutions in India, it was only natural that considerable political feeling should be engendered from time to time against the governing power. Such an outburst occurred from 1919 to 1922 and certainly accentuated the slump which occurred in those years. It must also be conceded that the racial feeling which exists among large numbers of the younger generation of Indians, particularly in Bengal, had probably had some effect on our sales of piece-goods in recent years. It should be realised, however, that, in Indian commercial circles, there is very little sentiment of any kind shown in the transaction of business. Price was the controlling factor. It was doubtful whether our foreign competitors had scored from anti-British political feeling to any material extent. That feeling had probably been of assistance in strengthening their connexion in the market, particularly in the case of Germany since the War, but the business they had secured had, in most instances, been obtained owing to lower quotations or other solid advantages to the buyer.

The attention which had been given to Indian political affairs in recent years had tended to obscure the great work which had been carried out by the Government of India under the able direction of Sir Basil Blackett, the Finance Member, in placing Indian finances on a sound basis and in establishing her credit both internal and external. Thanks to a period of recurring good monsoons with resulting surplus budgets, it had been possible to remit the whole of the provincial contributions to the Central Government and so release provincial funds for local development purposes. Considerable remission of taxation had been made. The unproductive debt had been steadily reduced. In the railways and irrigation projects India possessed two wonderful investments which should show increasing returns and a growing contribution to the relief of taxation. In brief, India stood to-day on a firmer economic basis than she had ever done.

Earl Russell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India, has appointed Mr. E. P. Donaldson to be his Private Secretary.

The Salvation Army has recently opened in its Bapatla Leprosy Colony a new ward, erected at a cost of 4,000 rupees, through the generosity of Mr. G. E. Baxter of New Zealand.

An additional Men's Industrial Home in Colombo, Ceylon, was recently opened by His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon. Hearing that a drum and Salvation Army flag were needed, the Governor immediately expressed his desire to present both these to the Home.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

A Hard-Worked Parliament.

One of the inevitable consequences of the peculiar formation of the present Parliament is that the House of Commons will have to sit until Christmas Eve. There is no question that the House has been worked hard, though little harm is done by that. An Administration that is never certain of its majority necessarily has to devote much time to the considerations of private members, and the fact that Wednesday and Fridays have been devoted to discussions rather than to action has inevitably meant the prolonging of the session.

But the public, as I have indicated before in this column, is by no means opposed to this ventilation of private members' feelings. It has been too long used to Government's crushing all private initiative, and to the individual's passive submission. The spectacle of a House, instead of a Government, legislating is regarded, indeed, as a heartening one, and it might be no bad thing for England, if she were to have a series of minority Governments, which imply the redrafting or withdrawal of certain legislative schemes when it is proved that considerable opposition exists to them. That all parts of the House should be taken into consideration is, many feel, the ideal of Government, though naturally the apostles of swift efficiency chafe at the delays and the collaboration involved. One has to add the proviso that this democratic doctrine is tenable only when the main business of governance is adequately performed by a permanent bureaucracy.

The Virtues of Oxford.

The events of last week have put an end, let us hope, to the ridiculous legend that was springing up, in the minds of those who knew neither Oxford nor Cambridge, that Oxford was decadent. In the popular judgment, the rise or decline of a University is evident in the athletic sphere (and we all more or less belong to the people). The victory of the Dark Blues on December 10 at Rugby was, therefore, hailed as the turn of the tide.

It is true that Cambridge had bad luck in having to field a scratch side, and it may be true that the absence of Bowcott and Heywood meant nothing less than the failure of Cambridge to put up a "record" of five successive wins, but in any case Oxford thoroughly deserved their win by nine points to nothing on the day. Oxford, more-

over, quite deserved their draw at Soccer two days after the Rugger match; and at least they can plead bad luck in the matter of absentees in the Cross-Country on Saturday, which Cambridge won by 21 points to 34.

The real differences between Oxford and Cambridge are differences of kind, not of degree, and I should think that there would be fairly general agreement on the list of distinctive merits which Sir Michael Sadler of Oxford, has just made. He says that Cambridge is leading in: "Physics (with Mathematics), Economics, Theology, Mechanical Engineering, Agriculture as applied to breeding of cereals and of stocks, and Art"; and that Oxford is leading in "The 'Greats' tradition—an infection of living philosophy, but very weak in modern psychology owing to stupid prejudice, Political Science, especially on the African problem, Jurisprudence, Agricultural Machinery, Agriculture, on the side of costings and social repercussions, Medicine with the ancillary Sciences, Classical, Mediterranean, and Tigradic Archæology, together with Pre-History, and Forestry."

Christmas Shopping.

Belonging to what I believe is a vast band of people on whom no ideas for presents descend until a week before Christmas, I am unable at first hand to tell what sorts of things are being bought for Christmas presents this year. For weeks, of course, the shops have been gay and alluring to all but the strongest minded, but of their interiors only Scots people and other prudent folk can really tell.

It is from some of these last that I glean the fact that the really new things in the way of presents are mainly a return to the old. First, apparently, in marvelous popularity is the Victorian work-basket—a feature which, one had thought, had disappeared for ever from our modern and labour-saving homes. And, it seems, there is a demand for pin-cushions.

As for the rest (of course one learns this from female sources), presents are being made in the form of artificial flowers (may they not be given to me!), decorative vases and bowls, scarves and handbags of the same material, leather handbags that hold a collapsible umbrella, peccary hogskin gloves, and so on. It is all great fun—a tremendously fatiguing business buying presents, but very pleasant giving them. Even in Scotland, I am told, the warmth of humanity at Christmas time is gradually penetrating those fascinating barbarians who postpone good cheer until New Year's Day.

Serious Jazz.

It is not often that the best musical critics are in agreement over a new work, and the kind of appreciation which a work in the jazz idiom that was performed by the Hallé Orchestra in London last week aroused is sure proof that something original and worthy has at last been supplied by a young English composer. I can write only of what I have read and "heard tell," but it will be surprising if Mr. Constant Lambert, the composer of this "Rio Grande" of which everyone is talking, does not make considerable stir in the musical world.

Mr. Lambert is but twenty-four years of age, and does not, therefore, come to jazz with the prejudice of older musicians. His work is a setting of a poem by Sacheverell Sitwell—which fact, again, might be thought to prejudice a good many people. He has set it for small choir, strings, brass, percussion, and pianoforte, and, apparently, has taken the idiom of jazz and made music of it. Let no one think this impossible. In all the arts as pursued by young men there is a certain element which can be called "jazz": to the new generation it often comes as a natural form of expression. And, of course, forms of expression matter nothing at all so long as the content be satisfying. Reports of this "Rio Grande" have made me eager to hear it—as, I imagine, everyone will be eager who does not think, for instance, that musical inspiration in England stopped with Elgar and Holst, or poetical expression with Housman or Bridges.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

December 19, 1929 (New Style).

December 6, 1929 (Old Style).

Rajab 17, 1345 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Kislev 17, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Habib Lotfallah left Claridge's Hotel last week for the Continent.

Viscount Dunedin will leave London on December 21 for Palestine. Viscountess Dunedin will leave later.

Hassan Mazloun Pasha has resigned the post of Postmaster-General in Egypt, which he has held for several years.

Lord and Lady Stanley left London on December 12 to join the Ranpura at Marseilles on their way to Bombay.

The Bishop of Norwich and Mrs. Bertram Pollock left for Jerusalem on December 16. They will be away for about a month.

The Duke of Sutherland left London on December 12 to join the Ranpura at Marseilles on his way to India. He was joined by the Duchess of Sutherland in Paris.

Mr. A. N. Williamson-Napier left Port Said at the beginning of this month for Suez, where he has been appointed H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul.

Professor L. F. Rushbrooke Williams gave an address at the Constitutional Club on December 17, on "The Imperial Importance of the Indian States."

M. Charles Baehler, Managing Director of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., has had conferred on him by H.M. the King of Italy, the rank of Grand Officer of the Crown of Italy.

Mr. Henry A. W. Beck, the new American Vice-Consul at Alexandria, arrived in Egypt on December 7, to take up his new post and is acting as Consul until the arrival of Mr. H. E. Russell, the new Consul.

Lt.-General Sir George MacMunn lectured on "Afghanistan," yesterday (December 18), at the Imperial Institute, under the direction of the Church of England Council of Empire Settlement.

Among those who left London on December 12 to join the P. and O. s.s. Ranpura at Marseilles were Sir Arthur and Lady Downes and Sir Alexander and Lady Bicket, for Port Said, and Sir Archibald and Lady Birkmyre, for Bombay.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby left 24, Wetherby Gardens on December 13 for Marseilles, where they joined the P. and O. s.s. Ranpura for India. They will be away until the beginning of March.

The Viscount Goschen was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on, December 11, upon relinquishing his appointment as Governor of Madras. The Viscount and Viscountess Goschen subsequently had the honour of being invited to luncheon with their Majesties.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Richard Sims Donkin Rankine, C.M.G., Chief Secretary to the Government of Uganda, to be British Resident for the Zanzibar Protectorate in succession to Sir Alfred C. Hollis, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., whose appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Trinidad and Tobago was recently announced.

Mr. Nevile Henderson, the new British Minister to Yugoslavia, presented his Letters of Credence to King Alexander on December 14.

Sir Basil and Lady Clarke left London on December 12 to spend Christmas in Egypt.

The Maharaja of Jaipur was received by the King at Buckingham Palace on December 12, and later in the day the Prince of Wales received the Maharaja at St. James's Palace.

KING ALEXANDER OF YUGOSLAVIA.

This year's anniversary of the birth of King Alexander (which falls on the day when this issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA is being printed) was to be celebrated with special ceremony throughout Yugoslavia. As a personal tribute to the Sovereign it has been arranged that deputations from all parts of the Kingdom shall proceed to Belgrade to tender homage and present the congratulations of the people to his Majesty. The actual reception of these numerous deputations is expected to occupy a whole month. The first to be received was to be representative of the two Croatian Banats, Save and Maritime, and was expected to comprise five hundred members.

On December 17, the Yugoslav Minister in London, M. Juritch, gave a Reception at the Legation, 195, Queen's Gate, in honour of the King's Birthday.

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Book Reviews

ALBANIA.

"ALBANIA: THE RISE OF A KINGDOM." By J. Swire. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 30s.)

In compiling a chronological compendium on Albania Mr. J. Swire has laid the future historian of the country under an obligation, for he has devoted much painstaking research to his task. It is not claimed for the book that it attains the standard of a history, for the reason that little or no attempt is made to apportion the relative values to be attached to the different authorities quoted. Rather has it been the purpose of the author, as the outcome—as the reader can well believe—of four years' unremitting labour, to present a "comprehensive account of the vicissitudes through which the Albanians have passed during the last fifty years." A preliminary glance at the Bibliography at the end of the volume, in which Mr. Swire comments on the value of individual works to the student of Albanian history, not, as he is careful to point out, on "their intrinsic value," will lead the reader to expect a trenchant and lively analysis in the body of the book. Thus, from such a carefully balanced entry as "valuable, but superficial and occasionally inaccurate," we pass to "misleading," "interesting as an echo of Serbian propaganda, but otherwise quite worthless," "wholly misleading and exceptionally bad taste," to reach finally one work dismissed as "extremely foolish." From such an exordium (albeit at the end of the book) one is led to wish that the author had allowed his critical faculties to range over every piece of information that came before him with a view to appraising its historical worth before incorporating it in his narrative. Such, however, was not Mr. Swire's aim, which is "to provide material on which a true appreciation of the Albanian question may be based." The material is certainly there; possibly the future historian will consider that there is

indeed, too much of it, and will complain that it is the duty of the contemporary compiler to indicate the relative value of sources of information and to use his opportunities, which are unlikely to recur for subsequent generations, to sift the evidence before him.

Inevitably, records of our own times have to depend largely on the journalism of the day. Having regard, therefore, to human, particularly journalistic, frailty and to the difficulties under which a foreign correspondent may labour, the contemporary chronicler requires to be particularly careful in gauging the reliability of newspaper reports. In this connexion, it is, of course, obvious that in dealing with Balkan affairs extreme care has to be exercised. That a statement should be made, let us say, in a Yugoslav newspaper regarding Italy, or in an Italian newspaper regarding Yugoslavia does not necessarily establish it as an historical fact. That this is so will be equally well known to Mr. Swire and to his readers of to-day; but the fact may be overlooked a generation or two hence, and consequently an unfair measure of discrimination will have been imposed on the future historian, if unchecked or unappraised newspaper statements are embodied in a narrative as *ipso facto* historical data. A reviewer is bound to stress this point in regard to any book dealing with a Balkan country. For his work on Albania Mr. Swire has consulted a very large number of authorities and he has embodied their views and statements in his narrative. Some of them are notoriously partisan, and it stands to reason that, if X is known to be strongly anti-Y, his views on Y are not calculated to be of real historical value, unless they can be vouched for by an impartial authority. On the subject of Albania the verdict of history may endorse our author's findings, but more value would be set on his own judgment, if he had shown a disposition to weigh each piece of evidence that came his way, instead of slipping it into its position in a chronological review without attempting to analyse its historical value. As an example may be cited the references to the part played by Montenegro in 1915; our author accepts a view that has been strongly challenged, and it may be doubted whether his version has yet been established as the correct one. It would be wholly unfair to the book to apply to it, on this account, the tag: "*Ab uno disce omnes.*"

There are various drawbacks to a chronological survey such as the author has adopted in telling the history of Albania. In the first place, as he points out, it lends itself to the bringing up of "incidents which are better forgotten," or, it might be said, to the laying of undue emphasis on incidents which have little bearing on the course of history. In other words, the trees are allowed to obscure the wood. During the last decade or so both Italy and Yugoslavia have acted in regard to Albania in many ways in which they ought not to have acted. The contemplation of their crimes or shortcomings may be required as a preliminary to the setting up on earth of the Day of Judgment; but of itself does not do much to advance knowledge of the trend of contemporary affairs, whereas, viewed through a telescope, instead of through a microscope, they might be used with advantage to the uplift of Italy, Yugoslavia and Albania. A further drawback to the chronological survey is that it prevents any definite subject from being treated as a single whole. As an example in Mr. Swire's narrative we may take the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania. This surely calls for a section to itself, or at least the telling of the story in consecutive paragraphs. Yet to learn about the Albanian Orthodox Church we have to turn, first to page 69:

It was not until 1923 that, in agreement with the Patriarch, an Autocephalous Church was established in Albania.

On page 398 it is stated:

A congress of representatives of the Orthodox congregations of Albania was held at Berat during August, at which it was decided

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Britain and France in Modern Africa.
 Troubles and Triumphs in Madagascar.
 Mission Work in French Territories.
 The Blight of Asia.
 Sovietizing Lamaism.
 Afghan Contacts.
 Afghanistan on the New Road.
 The Place of Medical Missions.
 Wrong Principles Produce Wrong Policies.
 Stationary Missionaries.
 A Bishop Ahead of the times.
 Why Hindus Turn to Christianity.
 India — Who is an Indian.
 Egypt To-day.
 A Striking Muslim Discourse.
 Palestine's Problems.
 The Cross in Arabia.
 Bolshevism in Arabia and Persian Gulf.
 The Pope is King.
 London Ghettoes as a Mission Field.
 The Indian Population of Amazonia.
 Life of a Non-Professional Missionary.

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that an Autocephalous Albanian Church should be founded. A formal application was made thereupon to the Patriarch for his consent, which was readily given.

[The year is not stated, but nine pages earlier in the Chapter there is a reference to the spring of 1922.]

On page 470:

During the early summer of 1926 the Patriarch at Constantinople sent, at the instance of Greece, the Metropolitan of Trebizond, Monsignor Chrysanthemos, to Tirana, to adjust with the Albanian Government certain matters which had remained outstanding in connexion with the recognition of the autocephalous Albanian Orthodox Church. His mission proved entirely successful, and the outstanding points were settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

Finally, on page 517:

A further cause of friction with Greece was the pressure which that country had brought to bear to prevent the Patriarchate from regularising the position of the Albanian Orthodox Church created at the Congress of Berat in 1922. . . . To clear up matters in this connexion which remained outstanding, four Albanian Orthodox Bishops met at Tirana during May. [1928.]

Yet the real story of the Albanian Orthodox Church as both more interesting and more complicated, and, far from being recognised by the Œcumenical Patriarch, its prelates have been actually or virtually excommunicated, although that circumstance, may not interfere greatly with the Church's functions in Albania.

Mr. Swire's "Albania," it may be repeated, tells the story of that country with a wealth of chronological detail, and enables its readers to follow step by step Albania's gradual emergence from a mere "geographical expression," to a Kingdom with reasonable prospects of permanency and prosperity. In subsequent issues of a useful book, it would assist the reader to have the year dealt with in the text repeated on each page. The name of the King of Montenegro should be spelt Nicolas, not Nicholas, and the reference *passim* to the present King of the Albanians as Zogu, *tout court*, is a minor blemish, which is apt to receive undue emphasis in such sentences as: "Kryeziu was instructed by Zogu to inform M. Marin-kovitch," and "a cordial exchange of telegrams between Zogu and King Victor Emmanuel and Signor Mussolini also took place."

EGYPT PAST AND PRESENT.

"THE LAND OF THE SUN-GOD." By Hanna Rydh. Translated from the Swedish by Anna Barwell. Illustrated. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 12s. 6d., net.)

Comparatively few people appreciate the pleasure and profit to be gained by a second visit to any locality. Is it not quite as valuable to deepen and correct our conceptions of a country or a place by repeating our visit once or twice, as to race about in our desire to see "everything"? I judge only from my own slight experience. After last year's visit to Egypt I must confess that my chief impression of its life of to-day was one of great backwardness, of indolence on the authorities' part as regarded the conditions of the people, and finally of that general desire to fleece the foreign traveller, which detracted from the pleasure of a stay in the Land of the Sun. A second visit, however, owing to the fact that I have got rid of certain of my first impressions, allows me to perceive much that gives me pleasure, since it enables me to do justice to several points in the national life that I have before misjudged. A renewed acquaintance with existing conditions—although this acquaintance I frankly confess is still far from intensive enough—has made it, moreover, possible for me to get away to a certain extent from the customary angle of vision and kept me from premature judgments based only on what is revealed by a first cursory glance. Thus it became easier, too, to set a higher value on the efforts that were being made, rather than on their first visible results.

The above quotation from one of her early pages truly summarises the spirit of this book, the author of which, Dr. Hanna Rydh, is, the publishers tell us, a noted archæologist. In this book she shows herself to be a great deal more; a fresh and acute observer, a sympathetic student of humanity, a lover of Nature and art, and an excellent writer. In her nineteen chapters, many of which are little essays on various aspects of her subject, she shows us the stock sights of Egypt with a light on them which makes us forget the staleness or affectation of the usual traveller's description; she tells us of visits to Badawin, Fellaheen and Egyptians of the upper classes; or gives us her thoughts on subjects important to the renewal of Egyptian nationality which would perhaps hardly have

occurred to the mere man. Her first chapter contains her thoughts, in Deir-el-Bahr, on Queen Hatsheput. The whole is supplemented by her eighty-six photographs, of which many are very good and all of which are well reproduced, though we could have done with more careful references to them in the text. It is a little disconcerting to be told of the Badawin's method of grinding coffee and to find oneself referred to a picture showing "the blind Muezzin on the roof of the village mosque" and to find the same reference given as illustrating the party going to bed!

The translation is, on the whole, quite competent, but we could have wished the "Translator's Notes" away. Most of them are quite unnecessary, and some are frankly unintelligible. For instance, it hardly helps the reader to be told, in such a note that "Piastre equals 2d.—6d." The publishers have given Dr. Rydh's book the dainty and artistic form which it deserves. C. S.-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"European Financial Control on the Ottoman Empire." By Donald C. Blaisdell, Ph.D. (London: Oxford University Press. 15s. net.)

"The Dethronement of the Khedive." By Ardern Hulme Beaman. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"The Near and the Far." By L. H. Myers. (London: Jonathan Cape. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Heroic Age of India." By N. K. Sidhanta. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"A First Book about Shakespeare." By Miss Dorothy Martin. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 2s. net.)

"A First Book about Chaucer." By Miss Dorothy Martin. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 2s. net.)

"The Treasure of Ophir." By Commander C. E. V. Craufurd, R.N. (Retd.) (London: Skeffington and Son, Ltd. 18s. net.)

"Gup Bahadur." By Talbot Munday. (London: Hutchinson and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"L'Albania." By Antonio Baldacci. With Maps. (Rome: Istituto per l'Europa Orientale.)

"The Works of Liudprand of Cremona." Translated by F. A. Wright. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Fruits of Folly." Anonymous. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 21s. net.)

"Women in Modern India." Edited by Evelyn C. Gedge and Mithan Choksi, M.A. (Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co. Rs. 4s.)

"Indian Princes under British Protection." By P. L. Chudgar. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Tarred with the Same Brush." By Le Comte de Janzé. (London: G. Duckworth and Co. 6s. net.)

"Malabar and the Portuguese." By K. M. Pannikar, B.A. (Oxon). (Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co. Rs. 6/- or 12s. 6d. net.)

"Believe it or Not!" A Modern Book of Wonders, Miracles, Freaks, Monstrosities, and almost Impossibilities. (London: Messrs. Stanley Paul. 5s. net.)

"The Danube in Prehistory." By V. Gordon Childe. (London: Humphrey Milford. 42s. net.)

"With Pen and Brush in Eastern Lands." By Sir Valentine Chirol. (London: Jonathan Cape, Ltd. 21s. net.)

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

Messrs. Raphael Tuck never fail in their enterprise in manufacturing means of conveying greetings at Christmas time. This year a most ingenious novelty comes from their House in the form of gramophone greetings recorded upon postcards. It is a medium which has not yet attained perfection, but the departure seems capable of interesting development. In addition, there are to be had from this House the usual calendars, picture books, paper serviettes, cards, and so on.

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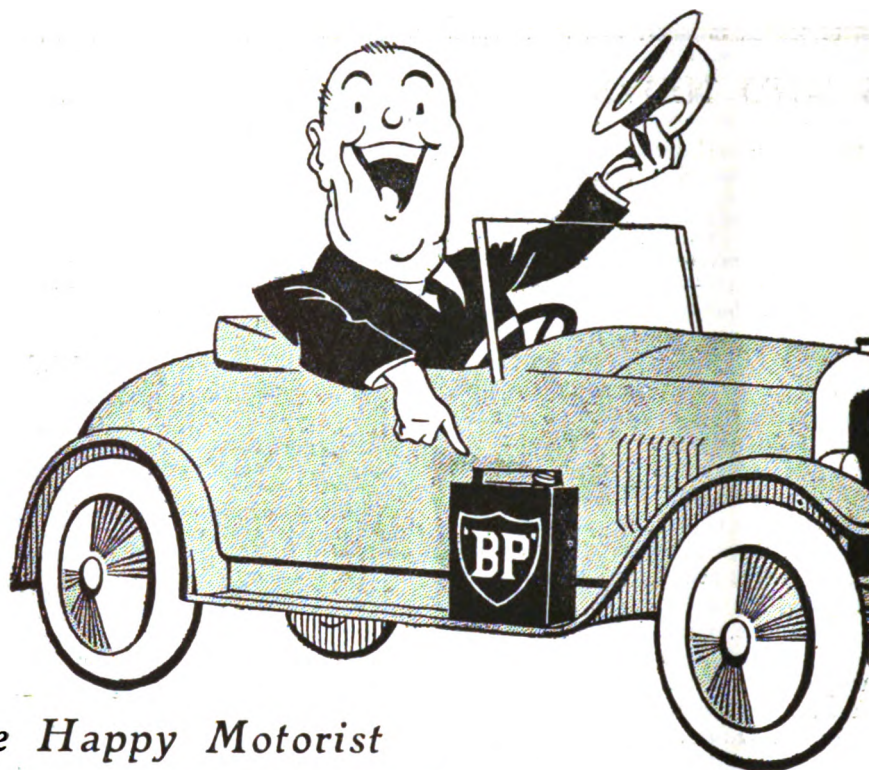
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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Turkish Exchange.

The measures taken by the Turkish Government to check the depreciation in the exchange have so far succeeded that the rate of the piastre has now improved to 1,030 for sterling. It is, however, one thing to support the exchange artificially and another to bring about a real and lasting improvement in the rate, and the difficulty the Ankara authorities have to face is that present conditions in Turkey provide no substantial support for the exchange. Incidentally, to judge by a cartoon in one of the Turkish papers, an entirely erroneous view seems to be taken of the exchange position. The cartoon depicts the piastre administering a severe check to the onward rush of sterling, but, of course, the value of sterling has not altered one atom; it is the piastre which has weakened in reflexion of the economic crisis in Turkey, and if the mistaken view with regard to sterling is really held in Turkey it is not going to make the solution of the exchange problem any easier.

The Roumanian Oil Position.

The problem of over production has come to the fore this year in regard to a number of commodities, such as grain, rubber, tea, and oil, and it is Roumania's misfortune that she is suffering from the low prices which have been ruling for the first and last of these products. The oil situation in Roumania continues to be serious, but despite the low prices the production continue to increase, and is now over 15,000 tons per day, the output for the first nine months of this year being 3,522,000 tons as against 3,097,000 tons for the corresponding period of 1928. In the prevailing circumstances it would seem sound policy to limit the production until the world market position improves. To increase production at the present time is not merely a wasteful policy, but can only result in intensifying the existing difficulties in the Roumanian oilfields.

Sudan Trade.

In the later months of the year the trade of the Sudan usually shows a marked tendency to slow down, and this year has been no exception. The latest figures available are for the nine months ended September 30, which show roughly the same increase on the year as in the previous month. The total trade via the Red Sea ports and Wadi Halfa amounted to £E11,257,601 as compared with £E10,109,900 for the corresponding period of the previous year, an increase of £E1,057,701. All items show increases with the exception of Government imports, which are £E49,572 down at £E1,437,810. Exports at £E6,124,248 show an increase of £E904,770 which is a tribute to the importance now attaching to the cotton crop, while public imports at £E3,179,915 show the very satisfactory increase of £E142,593 which points at once to the gradual improvement of the position in the Sudan

and to the possibilities of that country as a market in the future. To look for rapid developments in the Sudan would be absurd, but it is quite clear that under favourable conditions the way is now open for a period of steady progress which will see the prosperity of the Gezira spread more and more widely over the country.

The P. and O.'s Financial Strength.

As usual, the meeting of the P. and O. Company was notable for a most interesting address by Lord Inchcape, who covered a wide range of subjects in his comments. He began by dealing with the position of the P. and O., and showed that the company is in the happy position of having an immense surplus of assets over liabilities. As he justly pointed out, the extremely strong position of the company is the result of the cautious and conservative policy pursued by the Board over many years. Lord Inchcape went on to review the work of the whole organisation of the company. Last April the latest addition to the P. and O. fleet, the Viceroy of India, was placed in commission, and the Board are about to place an order for two 20,000 ton ships for the Australian trade, both of which, like the Viceroy of India, will have the turbo-electric drive and oil fuel. The question of the utilisation of pulverised fuel in cargo ships is being carefully considered, and it was stated that when the present experiments proved satisfactory the system might be introduced into passenger steamers as well for reasons of economy. Dealing with India, Lord Inchcape severely criticised the Indian Coastal Traffic Reservation Bill, and indicated the serious nature of the consequences that, in his opinion, might follow the passage of this measure. As regards the commercial outlook he was able to point to some improvement in the Indian trade, but conditions in China are preventing a revival in that country. Lord Inchcape takes a pessimistic view of the position as regards cargo steamers, describing it as probably never having been more gloomy, the trouble being that there is more tonnage in the world than is required. He thinks it probable that cargo tonnage will have to be laid up for the time being, owing to the unremunerative character of the freights obtainable.

COMMENTATOR.

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Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticoria	Kisumu		Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

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The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
 The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
 The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
 Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
 The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

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The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of Attar of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and supervises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.
 The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

THE WEEK'S FINANCE.
(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, December 17.

Business in the Stock Markets has been on a much restricted scale, and the somewhat unexpected reduction in Bank Rate to 5 per cent., while it produced a firmer appearance in the gilt-edged market, failed to stimulate any real activity. Thursday's change in Bank Rate had not been anticipated by the money market in view of the approach of Christmas, and the consequent inevitable expansion in the currency and the general tightness of money, accentuated by payments for the new Conversion Loan. Gold movements and the arrangement for a shipment of nearly £4 millions in gold from New York to London, however, removed any justification for keeping Bank Rate at a level higher than was necessary to attract sufficient short money to London to replenish the gold losses of the year.

A certain amount of liquidation affected the industrial market, and the dullness was accentuated by the Royal Mail Steam Packet announcement and the publication of the British Cement Products report, to which further reference is made below.

Indian Loans.

The Bank of England is receiving tenders to-day for bills of from £1,000 to £10,000 to a total amount of £6,000,000 for a twelve month loan by the Government of India. The money is to be devoted to capital expenditure on railways. Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member of the Indian Government, in his Budget speech last April clearly indicated that his Government had no intention of curtailing their expenditure programme, which eventually included the purchase by the State of the Southern Punjab Railway. For this an issue of £6,000,000 of nine months bills was made in London in May at an average rate of £5 13s. per cent., a dear price for the Indian Government when compared with the £9,845,000 it borrowed in August 1928 at £4 8s. per cent. Meanwhile in the Stock Markets Indian Bonds have been at a low level. This was partly due to the expectation of a new long term issue, but this has now taken the form of the bills above mentioned. Indian Government securities have also been depressed by the political situation, but this, although charged with suppressed excitement, is evolving with calm and caution and whatever steps the Imperial and the Indian Governments may take will have a due regard for financial and commercial interests. With this outlook and the present loan issue position simplified, although there will most likely be another issue in the spring, Indian bonds may well be considered undervalued, and such securities as the 3½ per cent. stock yielding about £5 9s. per cent., the 4½ per loan yielding £5 10s per cent., or the shorter term 5½ per cent. loan (1923) giving a return of 6 per cent., and all of a full trustee rank, have their attractions.

Shipping Company Accounts.

The Pacific and Orient accounts recently published are fairly encouraging in view of the difficulties in the shipping industry. Freight and passenger earnings are higher than last year, and net revenue for the year amounted to £1,241,602 as against £1,224,267 for the previous twelve months, but this is not proportionate to the increased capital and net earnings are only 13.8 per cent. as against 15 per cent. of the capital last year. A 12 per cent. dividend, is, however, again paid. In view of the difficulties facing the shipping world mild satisfaction may also be found in the results of the Orient Steam Navigation Company. Profits, it is true are lower for the year ended June 30, than for the preceding year, being £391,832, a decrease of £28,916. This, however, enables 12½ per cent. tax free again to be paid on the Ordinary shares, and the remaining profits are conservatively distributed, and although some accounts receive a smaller allocation the carry forward at £99,023 is higher than the amount brought in which was £69,561. The newly modelled accounts show that of the total assets of the company amounting to £5,831,800 nearly one third are in the form of Government and other securities. Of particular interest is the official statement issued by the Royal Mail Steam Packet directors that no interim dividend is to be paid this year on either the ordinary or preference stock. The current profits are being conserved, it is stated, to meet the repayment of a Trade Facility Loan of £2,550,000 due in September, 1930.

Two Gloomy Groups.

Ominous rumours have been circulating regarding certain industrial groups of which the R.M.S.P. is one, and whether correct or not have resulted in a fall in the shares of all the companies in the groups. The R.M.S.P. controls about thirty shipping companies including the Argentine Navigation, Elder Dempster, Union Castle and the White Star Line. The depreciation has been severe during the year, the R.M.S.P. ordinary, for example, have dropped from 76s. to 30s. Half statements such as the Board have on more than one occasion made deceive no one, but only lead to further perplexity and lack of confidence. In a totally different industry a similar all round depreciation of share values has occurred, namely in the case of the Red Triangle group of which Mr. H. S. Horne, whose affairs are now being examined in the Bankruptcy Court, was until a few days ago the head. Here the rumours were obviously justified. The parent company, British Cements Products, which has just produced its accounts, has made a loss of £2,000,000 due almost entirely to share depreciation. As in the case of the R.M.S.P. so in the case of the Red Triangle Cement Group, the directors were pressed to give proper information to shareholders before the annual meeting, but with no avail. The company accounts of both groups have never been very lucid and the obscure holding of subsidiary and allied companies shares makes the balance-sheets often almost meaningless.

EGYPTIAN STATE RAILWAYS

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		B. 10 days sea-passage & 25 days stay in Egypt...	L. Stg.: 81.10.

THE ROUMANIAN MARKET.

Messrs. Watson and Youell reports as follows from Galatz for the week ended December 7:—

Grain.—There is practically no change in the grain situation, as the slight improvement which set in last Wednesday was of such short duration that it hardly had any effect on our market. Very few shipments have therefore been effected, even to Rotterdam, which port attracted practically all the maize which was arriving at the shipping ports lately. A few transactions have also taken place for Hamburg, whilst Weser was rather neglected. Freight have, in consequence of the substantial reduction of spot tonnage, been maintained, and as much as 16s. 6d. to 16s. 9d. was paid for the Continent. At Constantza the situation is better, and 10s. 6d. and upwards has been obtained by spot steamers.

Timber.—No new chartering was done during the week, but loading continues in completion of old contracts. The sawmills have already practically suspended sending their timber to Galatz, as but few further steamers can be expected to arrive owing to the possible closing of navigation before they could complete loading their timber cargoes. An important business is expected during the coming winter from Constantza, the Government having established a specially reduced railway tariff for timber sent to that port between January 1 and March 31, 1930.

Weather and Crops.—The weather in general has continued to be overcast, mild, and misty, but there have been no precipitations except some slight scatterings of rain or snow in the northern parts of the country during the first few days of the week. Navigation was considerably impeded by fog during the mornings of the last few days. Yesterday the fog lasted here till midday, when it suddenly lifted and the rest of the day was bright, and although it is again cloudy to-day, there is no fog at Galatz. The temperature has not fallen below freezing point even at night, whilst during the daytime it has generally varied between 5 and 9 degrees Centigrade, reaching even 15 degrees in the shade during sunny intervals. Definite figures are not yet to hand regarding the extent of the autumn sowings. Some pessimistic reports have been circulated as to the area sown with wheat, but the usually well-informed *Argus* states that, according to figures collected by the Ministry of Agriculture, the area sown with wheat alone already exceeded 2,300,000 hectares on November 25, and the total now exceeds the 2,400,000 hectares sown last autumn. In some parts of Bessarabia, owing to lack of seed wheat as a result of the failure of last year's crop, the peasants have sown rye instead. Conditions continue to be excellent.

Sulina.—The bar depth remains unchanged at 24 feet.

Constantza.—This week about 10,000 tons of grain arrived from the interior, and owing to the large number of undischarged waggons blocking the station, the railway authorities have had to suspend the acceptance of grain for this destination. About 17,000 tons were shipped, mostly to Rotterdam/Hamburg/Weser. Nine vessels loaded about 28,000 tons petroleum products and two took oil fuel for bunkers.

Bulgarian Report.

Bourgas, November 30.—The grain market remained weak, but for beginning of December there are about 2,600/2,800 tons, mostly barley and maize, available at Varna and Bourgas for Antwerp/Rotterdam. The rates quoted are about 11s. per unit. Business to Mediterranean destinations is moving on a limited scale and only moderate quantities have been shipped. In general the weather during the week has been rainy and cold. Autumn sowings are reported to be in excellent condition.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., announce the payment on January 15 next of a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less income tax, on the Preference stock of the company for the quarter ending December 31, 1929.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S. W. 1.)

EGYPT.

Clothing, Sheets, Blankets, etc.—The Egyptian Department of Public Health invites tenders for the supply of clothes, bedding, and sundry piece-goods. January 30. (D.O.T.)

Cloth.—The Frontier Administration of the Egyptian Ministry of War and Marine invites tenders for the supply of various cloths for the making of uniforms. January 14. (D.O.T.)

Paper, etc.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, inks, adhesives, stationery, and materials for Photo-Copying Office, required for the year 1930-1931. February 17.

Clothing, etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, sheets, woollen blankets, napkins, and textiles required for the year 1930-1931. January 30.

Asphalt.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of 6,800 metric tons of asphalt for the Tanzim Department, Cairo. February 3. (D.O.T.)

Water Mains.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and installation of a system of water mains for the town of Luxor. The principal materials required are 10,850 metres of steel tubes of various sizes from 80 m.m. to 300 m.m. internal diameter, together with specials, 58 sluice valves, 15 hydrants, 7 column hydrants, and 6 drinking fountains. January 7. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Air Compressors, etc.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection, etc., of two electrically-driven air compressors, capacity of 600 c. feet of free air per minute, two air receivers and switchboard, etc. January 13. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Tin.—H.M. Consul at Sarajevo reports that a local firm desire to receive offers from British firms for the supply of 5 tons of "Banka" or "Straits" tin. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Manchester, December 24; Birkenhead, December 24); s.s. Britannia for Bombay (Glasgow, December 30; Manchester, January 4; Birkenhead, January 10). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah for Calcutta (Glasgow, December 28; Birkenhead, January 9).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 27).

British India Line.—S.s. Warfield for Bombay (London, January 4); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 28).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bosnia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Glasgow, January 16; Liverpool and Swansea, January 18); s.s. Bantria for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Algiers, Oran, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, January 18; Swansea, January 21).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 21); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 25).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, January 3); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, January 3).

Prince Line.—S.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 21); s.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Cyprus ports, Tripoli, Alexandretta, nad Mersin (London, January 4).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Swansea, December 27; Glasgow, December 20; Liverpool, December 4); s.s. Roumelian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 28); s.s. Oporto for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, December 28; Swansea*, December 28); s.s. Algerian for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, December 28; Swansea, January 2); s.s. Mardinian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, January 11; Swansea*, January 11). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers; Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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Engineering Topics

(By Our Engineering Correspondent)

Sewage Disposal Plants.

In districts where sewage disposal plants are under contemplation one of the chief considerations will be as to whether suitable materials for the trickling filters can be obtained locally. As a result of practical experience the following tentative conclusions as to the selecting and testing materials for the purpose may be given, and from them it will be evident that the matter is neither so simple nor of such slight importance as many suppose. In the first place the material for such filters must be sound, hard pieces, and neither friable nor liable to break under weight or frost. All three dimensions should be as alike as possible, and they must be clean and free from dust or fine material. A further point is that they should be as nearly as possible uniform in size and be of such a composition that they will stand up to their work and not break up into smaller pieces by superimposed pressure whilst wet. One of the chief recommendations is that when selecting local material for a given installation careful investigation of the various sources of supply should be made. Men engaged on this work must possess sound geological training, and their duty should be to obtain full particulars as to the facilities for obtaining adequate supplies, screening, grading, and cleaning the material and getting it to the site. A laboratory analysis should also be made of samples selected from various sources to determine the comparative merits of the several materials and their capabilities of standing up to their work during service conditions.

The whole matter was gone into thoroughly recently by an association of sewage engineers, and the conclusions arrived at were that the sodium sulphate soundness test, which is well known to all sewage disposal works' officials, is the most indicative test for predetermining the disintegrating qualities of the proposed materials. Other physical tests are designed towards the determination of specific gravity, absorption, and porosity, and although of great technical value, they need not be gone into here. Naturally, the report lays stress on the importance of chemical analysis in determining the effect of impurities, as earthy and organic materials, other foreign substances,

iron, and sulphur. It is also suggested that micro-structural analyses should be made where it is felt that their result might add to our knowledge. Emphasis is placed on the care that should be taken in obtaining the filter material from a selected and approved source, so as to ensure a uniform grade and size, free from all irregularities and impurities. There is ample evidence to show that improper screening for size and faulty cleaning of filter material for many of the existing trickling filter installations has had an influence which has been manifest in the rapid deterioration of the filter beds, perhaps even more than the matter of breaking down, or of the disintegration, of the individual pieces of filter materials. It seems evident that proper cleaning and grading of filter materials cannot be obtained without special arrangements for screening and re-screening and perhaps even washing the material either at the source of supply or at the filter plant itself before the filter builders commence their work.

Maintaining Machinery.

The maintenance of the plant and machinery of a manufacturing establishment is generally one of the duties of the works manager, and a good deal depends on his judgment in deciding upon and carrying out the necessary repairs and renewals from time to time, as and when necessary. It is, however, very unusual for him to have any concern with or knowledge of the money value of the plant he is dealing with, and it would seem that this state of things could be altered with advantage. I remember that Mr. J. E. Darbishire once suggested a system of working in connexion with plant and machinery maintenance, and in a large works where his proposals were given a thorough trial the results exceeded all expectations. The suggestion was made with the idea of ensuring proper attention to upkeep of machinery and plant, which, in a manufacturing establishment, will consist of boilers, producers, furnaces, steam or gas engines, electric power generators, transmission lines in the form of shafting, electric cables, steam pipes and the like, with possibly air compressing machinery, cranes, steam hammers, welding plants, precision and other tools, and so on. The quality of the works' output is absolutely dependent upon the quality and condition of the directly productive plant, but the quantity and cost of the output is dependent on the condition of the whole establishment. Under the system dealt with the control of everything was placed in the hands of the works manager. The limit of his powers, as regards expenditure, were defined by the general manager or the directors and he was held responsible for the upkeep of the whole of the machinery and plant. It was his duty to report his requirements when he found them to exceed the financial limit laid down for him, but he was given a good deal of latitude in incurring expenditure on repairs, because when these are needed they are usually needed quickly, and delay might add considerably to the cost, not only directly but indirectly.

As it was his duty to make provision for the proper care of all the machines and to execute all repairs as soon as they were necessary, he organised a system which worked admirably in practice. He made each attendant or workman in charge of a machine, by which is meant the actual operator and not a shop foreman or charge hand, directly responsible for its being maintained in the best possible condition. He made it the man's duty to report at once to his foreman, and through him to the works manager, any defect that became apparent, and he had to enter on a card the description and number of the machine, the nature of the defect, and the date it was first noticed and sign it. The foreman then had to inspect the card and either approve or disapprove of the repair being carried

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- RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.

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DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.

EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.

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CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.

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out by either signing the card and forwarding it to the works manager, or marking it "Not necessary," signing it, and giving it back to the man. If it came through to the works manager he would inspect the machine, sanction the work or refer it back as the case might be, and, if the repair were to be carried out, give it a works order number. The repairs would then be carried out and inspected on completion by the works manager and certified on the job card, which would be priced out and sent to the accountant's department. It seems that in practice this system has ensured proper care by the workmen, and has prevented all ill-usage of machinery. The man and the shop foreman alike have felt a certain responsibility, and have also felt that they were being treated fairly, and it also gave the works manager the opportunity of deciding whether the time had or had not come for the machine to be replaced rather than repaired. The works manager had before him, when required, the stock card for each machine, and so could see at a glance what it had already cost for repairs and also how far the cost of renewal had been provided for. It seems that a similar system might be adopted with advantage in manufacturing establishments where other and older fashioned systems are in operation.

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The December issue of the Monthly Review of Barclays Bank, Ltd., contains the following reports:—

Egypt.

During the period under review, the cotton market has experienced steadily declining prices, due to a lack of serious demand and to plentiful supplies. The weakness of American cotton quotations contributed to the fall, and prices were reduced to around 27 dollars for Sakel, November contracts, and 19 dollars for Uppers, December contracts, and at these levels the Egyptian Government declared itself a buyer. This measure caused a temporary recovery in prices of nearly 1 dollar, but a steady fall in American cotton led to this rise being lost. Although the Government has not been compelled to take delivery of any cotton, the market has been very dull. Sakellaridis has been in slightly better demand, but Uppers have been quite neglected, and, in consequence, premiums have declined. Crop estimates have crystallised around 8,000,000 kantars, which amount is thought to be sufficient for the world's needs. Trade demand is sporadic and is confined to immediate requirements, with the consequence that stocks are accumulating rapidly. Practically all buying and selling in the interior is at a standstill; holders are hoping for higher prices and buyers are unable to dispose of their supplies. Hedging has increased the weakness of the markets, as the offtake is poor. The quality of the present crop of Sakel is generally good, but the staple varies appreciably, owing to the fact that all the cotton was gathered together and no distinction was made between the bottom and top crops, with the result that the staple, in such cases, is very irregular. Both grade and staple of Uppers are good, and new varieties, such as Maarad, Fouadi, and Gezih 3 have given good results. Cotton seed has been very depressed and has shown a sagging tendency. Premiums for spot have declined and shipments have been poor. A plentiful olive crop and the promise of an abundant supply of linseed and other oleaginous seeds have led to a decline in oil quotations, while the fact that the autumn and early winter have been open has minimised the demand for cotton-seed cakes. Local crushers have not done as much business as last year and stocks are beginning to rise. Despite the weakness in raw cotton, the demand for cotton goods has been fair and the tone of the market has displayed great steadiness. The stock of Manchester goods is increasing slightly; business has been quiet, with no change in prices.

The demand for all varieties of flour has been satisfactory, but owing to the nervousness of the wheat market, quotations have been irregular and have declined. A gradual improvement has been shown in the market for sugar, and arrivals have been abundant. The demand for local consumption and export has been satisfactory. There has been a scarcity of spot supplies of imported rice and the market followed the decline of Rangoon. The demand for Egyptian rice has been good, but owing to an abundant crop, prices have ruled easy. Gunnies have been unusually quiet; a fall in quotations failed

to attract buyers and stocks are increasing. More interest has been displayed in cabots, and although transactions have been frequent, prices receded under the influence of the Kobe market. Coffee has been active, with steady quotations for spot delivery. Stocks of cereals have been decreasing, except in maize. The market has been quiet, but demand has been normal and no change in prices has occurred.

The Sudan.

There is little change to report in the Sudan. All markets have been quiet, but greater activity is anticipated in the near future. Stocks of piece-goods are heavy, with a poor demand and declining quotations. There have been some dealings in the new gum crop, but it is too early to estimate the yield with any accuracy. In some cases, high prices have been obtained, but foreign buyers show a disinclination to do business until the position of the market is better known. Adequate sales are reported for the new sesame crop. Quotations opened at £E16 for white and £E15 for red, but later fell to £E14.750 and £E14 respectively. The groundnut crop is of good quality and it is expected that there will be the usual exports to Egypt and the Continent. The market for coffee has been dull, with little demand. Prices fell to PT350 per kantar, and in some quarters a further decline is anticipated.

Palestine.

The effect on trade of the August disturbances is becoming increasingly apparent and importers are placing orders on only a small scale. An impetus has been given to the sale of electrical accessories, owing to the new Jerusalem Electric Company being now in a position to supply current. Opinions regarding the prospects of the orange season are rather reserved this year, in view of the miscalculations in previous seasons. Shipments have already taken place for the United Kingdom, the rate of freight charged per case of oranges being 1s. 10½d. net. One shipping line has already concluded contracts at this rate for the shipment of about 500,000 cases, and it is reported that the Polish Government has authorised the importation of 750 tons (13,500 cases) of Palestine oranges for the season 1929-30.

The colonial goods market is at a standstill. Compared with a month ago, a fall in prices is reported in rice, attributed to the new Egyptian crop which has been placed on the market. Quotations for coffee have also declined, owing to the low prices existing at the countries of origin. No change is reported in the cereal market and quotations remain unaltered. The latest published Government figures show that imports for July, 1929, amounted to £P507,150, compared with £P499,311 for the corresponding period last year; exports were £P106,919, against £P92,296. Government revenue for the first eight months of the current year totalled £P1,471,612, against an expenditure of £P1,164,578.

According to a report from Sofia in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* the Administrative Board of the National Bank of Bulgaria decided to increase as from November 30 the difference between the purchasing and the selling price of the dollar exchange, which hitherto amounted to 50 statinki, by a further amount of 50 statinki, so that the U.S. dollar, instead of being bought at 138.20 leva and sold at 138.70 leva as previously, will now be officially purchased at 138 leva and sold at 139 leva. This measure is intended to make the purchase of foreign currencies a little more difficult and so to work against the large import of commodities and against the efflux of foreign currencies. Furthermore, it is intended to defer the value dates of credit entries for foreign currencies at the private banks. As for some years past, foreign currencies are cheaper to borrow than leva and leva are always scarce, and therefore banks, and especially foreign banks, prefer to lend foreign currencies. These are then exchanged into leva at the National Bank with the right of repurchase in one to three months.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12. 09½—
Athens	Drachems to £ ...	375	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.38½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.10½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 15/16—31 32
Brussels	Belga to £	35	34.86½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	818
Budapest	Pen to £	27.82	27.86½
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 15/16—31 32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1,030
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.88½
Paris	Francs to £	124.21	123 94—97
Prague	Kronen to £	164.25	164½—½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	93 22—25
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	675½
Tehran	Krans to £	48	58½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.58½	34.67
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 7/16—9/16

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Company Meetings.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION.

Company's Financial Strength.

Lord Inchcape's Address.

The Earl of Inchcape, the company's chairman, presided on December 11 at the eighty-ninth annual general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, held at the offices of the company, 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

The report and accounts having been taken as read,

His Lordship said that a careful survey of the financial position of the P. and O. and its allied companies had been made by the accountants. If they discharged all the current liabilities of the P. and O. and its combined companies and repaid the Preference shares of the P. and O. and allied companies, together with their debentures and the Debenture stock of the P. and O., they could do this from their cash and securities, and there would be a balance left of something approaching 2½ or 3 millions sterling, which would be the property of the P. and O. Deferred and Preferred stockholders. In addition to this the Preferred and Deferred stockholders would be the absolute proprietors of 318 unencumbered steamers of 2,074,563 tons gross register, which, if valued at their original cost, less 4 per cent. per annum depreciation, the rate allowed by the Income Tax Commissioners, would be worth £46,863,004. In addition they would have the company's freehold properties in Leadenhall Street and Cockspur Street, worth at least half-a-million, so that assets in excess of all their liabilities were worth about fifty millions sterling against Preferred and Deferred capital stock of £7,632,518. (Hear, hear.) If they wrote their ships down to 23 millions, their assets, after paying off all their liabilities, would still be something like 26 millions. That position was the outcome of a cautious and conservative policy adopted by the Boards for many years. Possibly the shareholders might think the policy had been too cautious, but he hoped not.

Need of Economy.

In the period of depression through which shipping was passing, a great responsibility rested on the Board and management of the P. and O. Company and on those of its allies to secure, by all possible effort, cargo and passenger earnings and meticulously to watch expenditure in order that their voyages might show a decent margin of profit. In this they were being loyally assisted by their agents, their brokers, their shore staff, their captains, officers, engineers, and pursers, of whose services they could not speak too highly. (Hear, hear.) Many of their voyages during the past year had left but slight margins—some, a loss—which he believed was the case with most shipping companies. They would, however, continue to do all in their power to provide up-to-date ships, to give satisfactory cargo and passenger services, and to maintain public good will.

Care of the Company's Securities.

In view of what had occurred in the City recently he would mention that for many years past the registers of all their stocks and securities had been carefully scrutinised by an independent authority every fortnight, and that they received a certificate at the end of each year stating that such stocks and securities were in order.

Improvements in the Company's Fleet.

Traffic with Australia.

Continuing, his Lordship said that they had lately spent a good deal of money with a view to improving the accommodation, increasing the speed and reducing the fuel consumption of some of their vessels built a few years ago, and the results so far had been highly satisfactory.

The company's branch line service to and from Australia via the Cape had for some years past resulted in losses, owing to the advent in the trade of the tonnage of the Government Commonwealth Line. The branch line had been discontinued and they had placed several of the ships on the Suez Canal route, where they hoped to do better, aided by rationalisation generally between the lines in the Australian trade. Hitherto their Australian mail steamers had carried only first and second saloon passengers, but in the hope that there might be a considerable movement of our population to Australia, they had made arrangements in several of the mail steamers to accommodate passengers paying a lower rate of passage money. A growing disposition on the part of the people in Australia to pay a visit to the Old Country led them to anticipate considerable numbers homewards as well as outwards.

Since the closing of their accounts they had disposed of the *Nellore* and *Delta* at prices exceeding their book value, and the difference would be applied to depreciation account next year.

The Viceroy of India.

The latest addition to the P. and O. fleet, the *Viceroy of India*, 10,700 tons, with accommodation for 622 saloon passengers, was out in commission in April last, and had made two round Bombay voyages and five pleasure cruises. The accommodation, fuel consumption, speed, and seagoing qualities had quite realised expecta-

tions. So far she had carried 5,800 passengers, and they had had dozens of letters of appreciation of the ship and of all on board, from Captain Ohlson downwards. He had got permission to read one such letter lately received from a member of the Cabinet. It was as follows:—

"On my recent visit to the Mediterranean I was a passenger between Malta and Gibraltar in the *Viceroy of India*. May I say how much I admire your very fine ship, in which every possible step was taken to secure our comfort and convenience? I should also like to add that Captain Ohlson was the soul of courtesy."

A copy of that letter had been sent to Captain Ohlson

Four New Vessels.

The Board were, his Lordship continued, about to place an order for two Australian ships of 20,000 tons with large saloon passenger accommodation, every cabin having a port hole open to the sea, a spacious boat deck for sports, comfortable third-class cabins, together with good cargo and refrigerated space, and, like the *Viceroy of India*, they were to have the turbo-electric drive and oil fuel. They had recently placed orders for two up-to-date cargo and refrigerated steamers for one of their regular lines, to carry 9,580 tons dead-weight, with a sea-speed, fully laden, of 15 knots.

Pulverised Coal.

They were looking carefully into the question of using pulverised fuel in the cargo ships which they would have soon to build for their allies to replace older vessels. It was maintained, and not, he thought, without justification, that there would be a considerable economy in using pulverised coal in preference to oil, for the pulverisation plant had now reached a stage of greater efficiency. A steamer of one of their allied companies was recently fitted with half of her steam generating plant for pulverised fuel, and she was now being fitted with the other half, so that she would run entirely with pulverised fuel, which finds its way to the furnace as easily as oil and is much cheaper. When the present experiments had proved completely satisfactory, they might, for reasons of economy, introduce the system into passenger as well as cargo steamers.

They could help the coal industry by adopting more efficient and economical ways of using and handling coal, and it would be all to the good of the country.

The Insurance Fund.

They would have observed that the insurance fund, as he anticipated a year ago, now stood at the round figure of three millions



Export and Import

The Documentary Credit, whereby the Exporter is assured that he will receive payment immediately his goods are shipped, and the Importer that his money will not be paid over except in exchange for the goods he has contracted to buy, is the subject-matter of *The Financial Machinery of the Import and Export Trade*, a copy of which will be gladly sent on receipt of a postcard to the Secretary

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sterling. All outstanding liabilities under it had been discharged and a balance remained of some £73,000, which had been brought to credit in profit and loss account.

Safe Navigation of Allied Vessels.

Not one of the vessels of the P. and O. combine had been lost during the year. They had had one or two accidents, but none of a serious nature. A collision occurred in a dense fog in the Bay of Biscay between a P. and O. steamer and another vessel. Both were held to blame. The damage to the ships was not serious. In another case one of their steamers was considerably damaged in the Scheldt by a Belgian ship. The Belgian was held to be entirely in the wrong, but being of only 1,000 tons gross register, her liability under the Act was limited to £8,000, and they had had to bear the difference between that amount and the expense of repairing the ship, which was about £15,000. The £8,000 would be duly recovered. In the past year the combine alone had had 322 steamers in commission; they had entered and left ports 22,000 times and had traversed 14 million miles across the seas. He hoped they might be equally fortunate in the current year. But the Board and the management were never free from anxiety as telegrams came to be opened, not knowing what their contents might be.

In a business such as theirs, catering for manufacturers, merchants, and shippers in nearly every trade, carrying people of nearly every nationality, they spared no effort to give satisfaction. They received far more eulogistic letters than complaints. Every letter of complaint was courteously answered and inquired into and those of the other category were acknowledged with thanks and a copy sent to the commander for the information of himself and his ship's company.

Interesting Statistics.

At their last annual meeting he had mentioned that the steamers of the P. and O., its allies, and associated companies, had safely transported over two million passengers. He was glad to say, with all thankfulness, that they had carried during the year under review 2,202,000 passengers across seventeen million miles of ocean without the loss of a single life. The P. and O. steamers alone had carried 89,377 passengers during the last year, against 82,954 in the previous year, an increase of 6,423.

To their allied companies they were greatly indebted for their successful work during the year, which had largely contributed to the results of the past twelve months. Their ships were all well written down under the Government rate of depreciation and they had investments independent of their ships which were worth a good deal more than their book values.

Port entries and port clearances made by the company's steamers and those of its allies and associated companies during the year totalled 30,084; cargo carried, 15,796,565 tons; heads of live stock carried, 322,855; average daily crew employed, 36,902; and daily expenditure for wages and victualling of crews, £14,452. Cargo exceeded by 92,000 tons that of the previous year—not very much, but on the right side.

They were careful to see that their vessels never left a port overloaded, and that they were in good trim. They got a certificate before each sailing, signed by the captain, the chief officer, the chief engineer, the doctor, and the purser, certifying that all on board was in order and to their satisfaction. Bad weather was sometimes encountered, but their commanders appreciated that there was nothing to be gained by driving their ships into high seas and that it was better to ease down till the worst was over, not only to avoid damage, but for the comfort of all on board. Time lost in slowing down till the weather moderated could, in the case of high-powered mail steamers, generally be made up; and it was seldom that the P. and O. steamers failed to reach their ports at scheduled time.

He was glad to say that their steamers had got through the record gales of the last few days without damage. On Friday the *Ranchi* was inward bound and the *Ranpura* outward bound for Bombay. The *Ranpura* must have encountered the full force of the gale in the Channel on Saturday, and in the afternoon she got an S.O.S. from an Italian steamer in distress at Brest. She reached her at 5 p.m. and stood by her till 10 p.m., when a French man-of-war came out and relieved the *Ranpura*, which then proceeded on her voyage and reached Gibraltar up to time. He could speak with some experience of the gale, as he had crossed from Boulogne on Sunday in the worst weather he had ever encountered. Folkestone harbour was closed and they had had to make for Dover. He had been lost in admiration of the way Captain Greenock handled his little ship, the *Maid of Orleans*, bringing her alongside the quay at Dover without damaging a rope-yarn.

Everything possible was done to ensure the safety of their ships and those on board, although a case of neglect, or something worse, might occur amongst the 37,000 men and women constantly engaged in the ships of the P. and O. Company, its allies and associates, but when that happened those at fault were no longer employed.

The Mail Services.

He was pleased to say their obligations under the postal contract had again gone satisfactorily. In the year ending September 30, 1922, they had landed and embarked 377,536 bags of mails at Marseilles, and in the year ending September 30, 1929, they landed and embarked no less than 634,151 bags, an increase of 256,615 bags, in addition to 25,100 tons of parcel post shipped in London.

Considering that this mail matter was for and from Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, Cyprus, Palestine, Aden, India, Persia, Iraq, Seychelles, East Africa, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Siam, Indo-China, Borneo, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, it was gratifying that mistakes or losses had been infinitesimal.

At the request of the Postmaster-General they had now arranged to get their mail steamers into Marseilles on Fridays instead of on Saturdays during the monsoon, when possible, so that the mails might be in London on the Saturday afternoon instead of on the Sunday. This would mean driving a good deal harder from Bombay and Colombo to Aden against the heavy south-west monsoon weather at a considerable increase in fuel consumption, but it would be a convenience to the Post Office and to the company's passengers who came by rail from Marseilles and who would thus arrive in London on the Saturday instead of on the Sunday afternoon.

Air Carriage and Sea Transport.

He did not wish to belittle air transport, but he was doubtful if there would be any economic competition from the air for many years to come. The P. and O. Company had some years ago been asked to put money into airships and aeroplanes; regarding their heritage as the sea, they had declined to do so.

Communications with Malta.

The fortnightly calls of the company's Bombay mail steamers at Malta, out and home, had proved a great convenience to the people at Malta. He would like to express his appreciation of the ready assistance always rendered to their steamers by the naval authorities in Malta, by which they got convenient moorings and prompt pilotage attendance. Their stays were thereby reduced to a minimum. Lord Strickland, the head of the Maltese Government, had driven a hard bargain in regard to the calls at Malta, but the Board had been desirous of meeting the requirements of the important naval base and rather isolated colony in the Mediterranean.

Care of Passengers' Baggage.

He had referred last year to a statement in an Indian newspaper that passengers by the P. and O. Company were constantly losing their baggage. The weekly report on the subject which he had arranged to receive showed that for the three years ending September 30, 1928, out of a probable 300,470 packages of passengers' baggage, only eight had not been traced. For the year ending September 30, 1929, the P. and O. landed in Bombay from Europe 9,523 passengers, and, assuming each had ten packages, a conservative estimate, this would mean 95,230 packages, and there had not been one missing. He would again like to express his appreciation of the landing, clearing, and shipping arrangements for passengers, mails, and baggage made by the Port Trust, the postal authorities, the Customs, and the railway administration in Bombay at the Ballard Pier, which was not surpassed or, he might say, equalled at any other port in the world.

As the ships using Ballard Pier got larger and drew more water, every effort was made by the Bombay Port Trust to deepen the channel and the depth of water at the pier, so as to avoid delays. Passengers arriving at Bombay were greatly inconvenienced by the special trains awaiting them at the pier to take them up country or to Calcutta, and passengers homeward bound who arrived by the special trains were set down alongside the ship at the Ballard Pier. Passengers going to Burma were met at Howrah Station and put on board the waiting British India mail steamer, which sailed as soon as the mails and passengers were on board. Homeward passengers from Burma by the British India mail steamers were served by the P. and O. Bombay special from Calcutta.

India.

In common with the whole of the British mercantile community in India, he regarded with great apprehension the present position of affairs there. It looked as if we were to give way to certain agitators who threaten civil disobedience, disregard of the law and riot. Moscow was, in his opinion, at the bottom of it. The owners of tea gardens and mills were already insuring against possible damage to their property. A Bill had lately been introduced into the Legislative Assembly to prevent ships from trading between the ports of India unless they were owned by Indians. If the Bill went through and received the assent of the Governor-General, it would mean that no British-owned or British registered vessel could trade between ports on the whole coast of India or Burma. The British companies which have built up, fostered, and made this trade by up-to-date fleets would have to close their doors as far as these trades were concerned. If the Bill becomes law it would doubtless be followed by other measures to provide that all tea gardens, coffee plantations, coal mines, cotton, jute, and paper factories, stone quarries, inland steamers, and a hundred and one other industries, banks, insurance companies, newspapers, established and carried on by British capital, would have to be closed down. In fact, the Bill now before the Legislative Assembly was the thin end of the wedge to drive the British mercantile community out of the country. British government and administration, British capital, British enterprise, British brains, and

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British integrity had developed India and the British Army had protected its millions. These factors had made India the great country it was to-day. He earnestly trusted that no legislation would be sanctioned which would discriminate against Great Britain or its mercantile community. It would be a death-blow to the progress and prosperity of India, and to its credit, which was for the most part provided by Great Britain. There should be a fair field and no favour for all. An address he received in Calcutta in 1926 would appear in the report of the day's proceedings which bore testimony to the cordial relations which had always existed between the British and Indian commercial communities.

The Shipping Industry.—Difficult Conditions.

The trade with India and with China had been poor. India showed signs of improvement, but the continued unrest in China was militating against a revival in that country.

Probably at no time in the history of British shipping had the outlook for what were known as tramp steamers been more gloomy than it was to-day. At the moment there was more cargo tonnage in the world than was required to carry the trade. Ships had a way of wearing out, but there was no inducement for tramp owners to replace them at present-day prices, which were far in excess of what they were fifteen years ago.

The 8-hour Sea-day.—A Menace to Employment.

Notwithstanding that for some time past shipping as a whole had not been doing well, they were now faced with all sorts of ideas, such as the eight-hour day on board ship, which, if brought to fruition, would add to their difficulties and would do the men not a particle of good. Discipline on board ship had always been one of the very first essentials. In the old sailing ship days when, beating to windward, the ship had to go about every few hours, it was "All hands on deck," and the watch below had to tumble up, which they did, growling and cursing the wind. In steamships that sort of thing seldom happens, the crews as a rule having their watch below undisturbed and, though occasionally they might have more than eight hours on deck in the twenty-four, they had many of these hours only standing by, with no expenditure of tissue. They had bed, board, and lodging at their doors and did not have miles to travel to and from their work, as in the case of men ashore who do their eight hours a day. Salt horse out of the harness cask, on board steamers at any rate, had given way to fresh meat, and lime juice had been replaced by fresh provisions.

The days of sail had practically come to an end. The cry of the steward at the break of the poop when the ship, after a hard tussle by all hands, had been put about, was not so often heard as it was when he, the speaker, was a boy. Then it used to be "Grog-oh, forward!"

It would be a misfortune for the British mercantile marine if there were any interference with the present system, with which the Seamen's Union were perfectly satisfied.

Changes such as he had mentioned were bound to lead to increased working costs, which might necessitate putting vessels out of commission and lead to more unemployment.

International Maritime Labour Conference.

At a conference recently held at Geneva, under the International Labour Office, to deal with maritime subjects, certain conclusions were arrived at to form the basis of a reference to Governments, so that a Convention to apply to all countries could be brought into being. The recommendations of this Conference covered various subjects, including the regulation of hours of work on board ship.

Under the regulations which covered the attendance at this Maritime Conference all the countries, whether they possessed a large or small mercantile fleet, or no fleet at all, even those that had no outlet to the sea, were entitled to be present and to vote equally with Great Britain, which possesses by far the largest fleet of merchant ships in the world. Was it to be wondered at that British shipowners declined to be present at this Conference unless those who represented the seamen through their recognised union were given the fullest authority to speak for the men of the sea who served British shipping

with so much loyalty, and whose well-being was to British shipowners a matter of constant concern?

Peace had been maintained in the shipping industry for a long period of years, and, thanks to the reasonable methods both of the shipowners and the unions, strikes and stoppages, such as one heard of in other directions, had become things of the past.

Plea for Freedom from Government Interference in Trade.

He had, he said, read a letter in *The Times* of October 26 last from that veteran captain of industry, his friend Lord Joicey, in which he said: "In my judgment the coal industry would thrive better if coal owners were left alone instead of being constantly harassed by Governments in one form or another." What applied to the coal industry applied equally to all the industries of the country, and he most sincerely hoped that the Government would set an example on the lines suggested by Lord Joicey and avoid saddling the country with an army of functionaries. If the mercantile community were left alone to manage their concerns honestly and prudently and to attend to their own business, that would be the speediest road to a revival in trade and to the cure of unemployment.

Public Expenditure.

Continuing, his Lordship said he viewed, with considerable alarm, what the future of this country might be if public expenditure went on increasing as it was to-day, and if taxation took away the bulk of people's income and capital. If we went on as we were going, all profit made would be swallowed up by the State, incentive would vanish, and then where would the country be? Our credit would have disappeared; we should have sunk into a second-rate Power, or become like Russia. One of the left wing of the Labour Party had said that all who could not find work ought to be paid a working wage by the State. The cry of a certain section of the Labour Party was: "Rob the capitalist; deprive him of all he has earned; distribute it broadcast; allow no man to save anything." When that was done where would the capital required for industry come from, and where would the country get revenue to pay for defence, administration, and interest on the National Debt?

The Prime Minister of Australia.

A Welcome Pronouncement.

Mr. Scullin, the new Prime Minister of Australia, had made a pronouncement which he, the speaker, ventured to say had given great satisfaction, not only in this country but throughout the British Empire. Addressing Great Britain, Mr. Scullin said: "We need sometimes your sympathetic understanding, for, after all, we are members of the great British Commonwealth of Nations. In the broadest sense your interests are our interest. We are all concerned in the development of the great British Commonwealth. The Australian Labour Government wants to develop Australia with settlers from Great Britain, and if we do not take these settlers as quickly as some of you would like, it is only because we realise that unless industries are ready to receive them the new settlers will meet with disappointment and hardship."

It would be difficult to have a more statesmanlike and encouraging pronouncement than that of Mr. Scullin. He earnestly trusted that the Labour Government of Australia would do nothing to endanger the trade of that great and growing country.

Chinese Piracy.

The days of piracy in the China seas were by no means ended, judging from a letter he had received the other day from Hong Kong. The *Deli Maru*, belonging to the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, while on a voyage from Takao to Hong Kong, called at Swatow on September 20, where pirates are said to have embarked in the guise of passengers, and, in the early hours of the following morning, the Indian guards on duty were shot down without warning and the officers and wireless operator held up with automatic pistols. After robbing the passengers and officers of money and jewellery to the value of about 18,000 dollars, the captain was ordered to navigate the ship to

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Hong-hai Bay, where the gang landed in the ship's boats, taking with them four of the passengers to be held for ransom. The cargo was not touched. The Japanese Consul-General had reported the incident to his Government, but whether anything in the nature of reprisals was contemplated was not known. The attack seemed to be a forerunner of renewed attempts on British shipping in these waters, judging by a report in the papers of Tuesday last, but the incident might perhaps serve as a salutary reminder that none of the present precautions could safely be relaxed, and he trusted the occurrence would result in a change of attitude on the part of the British authorities, who had announced in April last that the provision of naval and military guards would cease on April 1, 1930.

Profit Sharing.—The P. and O. Scheme.

Under the profit sharing scheme established in 1924 they now had deposits from employees of over a million sterling, on which they got 7½ per cent. interest so long as the P. and O. dividend was not less than 10 per cent. The deposits were at call on reasonable notice, but the depositors, over 1,200 in number, never seemed to want to withdraw their capital. If he were a depositor he would not want to withdraw his. A simple profit-sharing arrangement, it cost the company £20,000 a year or so, as he mentioned at the last meeting, and he was sure the stockholders would not grudge it. He had long wanted to inaugurate something of the kind, and the idea came to him one night in the sleeping-car on his way to Scotland. He had worked it out there and then sent it to his staff in London next morning. They had no objection to raise, and when it came before the Board it had their unanimous approval. If the stockholders approved of the payment of a dividend of 12 per cent. for the past year the employees would get their interest of 7½ per cent. on their deposits.

The Staff.

He would, he said, conclude by saying that no organisation, so far as he knew, was better served, nor was there any where the relations between the various Boards, agents, brokers, staff, and employees, both ashore and afloat, were happier than in the P. and O. Group. As Nelson said of the officers and men of his fleet at the Battle of the Nile, they worked together "Like a band of brothers," and this, he felt, would continue to be the case, not only while he remained in command, but with those who might come after him. (Applause.)

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report and accounts, which was seconded by the Hon. Alexander Shaw and carried unanimously.

The dividends as recommended were unanimously approved.

The retiring directors were unanimously re-elected, and the proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, directors, and staff.

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH).

Increased Trading Profits.

The ninth annual general meeting of Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., was held on December 11 at Winchester House, E.C.

Sir Albert G. Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., who presided in the absence of the Chairman, Lord Greenway, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—I referred last year to the serious effects on the earning power of the Steaua Romana of the low world selling prices of oil products, and I regret that we have little cause to congratulate ourselves in respect to 1929 markets. At the end of 1928, to add to the general fall in world prices the sales agreement between the producers and refiners in Roumania was dissolved, the local market became completely demoralised, and the reaction was also severely felt in neighbouring countries. For a long time it appeared impossible to reconcile the differences between the various companies operating in Roumania, but through the indefatigable energy of M. Osiceanu, who, as you know, is the President of the Association of Oil Industrials in Roumania in addition to being Director-General of the Steaua Romana, the very lengthy negotiations for a new agreement were brought to a satisfactory conclusion on November 20. I cannot over-emphasise the value of the work done by M. Osiceanu in this direction for the Steaua Romana and for the whole of the Roumanian oil industry. As a result of this renewal of friendly relations between the various Roumanian companies which has been almost coincident in time with a definite slackening of the rate of increase in American production, I hope that we may look forward with confidence to better prices in the near future in Roumania's natural markets.

As an offset to the decreased revenue obtainable from its sales of

products, the Steaua Romana has taken every available opportunity during the period under review of enforcing the most rigid economies. Drilling and production costs have been reduced, and the cost of a considerable quantity of new and economical plant has been provided out of revenue, and this will result in still further saving. During all this period of retrenchment it has been found possible to undertake a sufficiently large programme of drilling work to ensure a continuation of the steady advance in production figures, which has been the feature of the Steaua Romana since 1921.

The production from July 1, 1928, to June 30, 1929, was 737,624 tons, as compared with 578,964 tons in the previous year, an increase of nearly 28 per cent. For the five months ended November 30 last, the production was 388,752 tons, as compared with 300,273 tons during the corresponding five months of last year, an increase of 29 per cent. The total quantity of products exported during the year ended June 30, 1929 (including 100,327 tons purchased on the market), was 665,419 tons, an increase of 207,092 tons, or 45 per cent. on the previous year.

The Steaua Romana has, for years, taken the lead in pressing the Government to provide the most economic method of transport for the export of benzine. That is, the construction of a pipeline from Baicoi to Constantza. The Steaua Romana was prepared to lend its assistance for the completion of this enterprise, but delay after delay, year after year, has damped the hopes of those who have the prosperity of Roumania at heart. On my last visit to Roumania in the spring, our experts examined the whole question with great care and presented a copy of their report to the Government, but I regret to say that, so far, no start has been made in the construction of this pipeline which is of such vital importance to the oil industry and therefore to the economic development of Roumania. At the present time the Roumanian company pays in transport charges approximately 22 per cent. of the value of the crude oil produced; in fact, it costs practically as much to transport the finished products from the refineries to the internal distributing centres of Roumania or to the ports as it costs to drill the wells necessary to maintain production. Furthermore, a large proportion of the material which is used on the fields is not only encumbered by transport costs from other countries, but also has to bear very high import taxes.

Tank freights have shown a steady improvement during the present year, and if to-day's rates can be maintained, profits from the Steaua Romana's fleet will make a satisfactory showing. This applies more particularly to the latest addition to the fleet of the Steaua Romana, the Oltenia in which, as you know, your company has an interest. The Roumanian company did not see its way to declare a dividend for the year 1928, due principally to the circumstances to which I have already drawn your attention, namely: the very heavy taxation, the high cost of transport, the low selling prices obtained during the year, particularly in Roumania. The taxes which weigh so heavily on the oil industry are naturally dependent on the general prosperity of the country. It will therefore be of interest to note the efforts which the Government has recently made, and is still making, for reconstruction.

Our trading profits for the year have again been increased from £31,029 last year to £48,823, equal to about 53 per cent. increase, and the total profit for the year, before making provision for taxation, is £100,012. After deducting the approximate liability for income tax, there remains a balance of £87,412, which, added to the balance of £24,080 brought forward from last year, and an item of deferred interest amounting to £1,077, makes a total of £113,471. Subject to your approval, we propose paying a dividend on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum (less tax), amounting to £64,000, placing to general reserve £25,000, and carrying forward a balance of £24,471.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

TREPCA MINES.

The second report of Trepca Mines, Ltd. (which was formed in December, 1927, to acquire mining rights in Yugoslavia) covering the year ended September 30 last states that in March, 1929, 100,000 shares were subscribed for in cash at par and in June 85,000 shares were subscribed for in cash at par, being the balance remaining unissued of the then authorised capital. In July the authorised capital was increased from £200,000 to £1,000,000 by the creation of 3,200,000 new shares of 5s. each, of which 1,600,000 were issued to the shareholders credited as fully paid as a result of a re-valuation of the company's property. On July 26 an issue was made at par of 1,600,000 shares, which was fully subscribed. At the date of the balance-sheet the issued capital was £1,000,000 in 4,000,000 shares of 5s. each and these are all now fully paid. The results of development at the Stantrg Mine during the year have been very satisfactory and drilling has indicated a large tonnage of ore below the 760 metre level, the lowest of the four horizons on which the orebody has been opened up. Prospecting has also been initiated at Meljenica and Trepca Hill with encouraging results. The construction of the initial unit of the concentrating plant was commenced during the latter part of the summer, and it is hoped that production will commence about September next. This unit will have a capacity for treating 500 tons of ore per day. No fresh estimate of ore reserves has been made since July last, when the tonnage proved or indicated was estimated to be 1,750,000 tons of ore of an average grade of about 11.5 per cent. lead, 10.5 per cent. zinc, and 3 oz. silver per ton.

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at October 31, 1929, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes:—Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £2,925,000; reserve fund: statutory reserve, £1,462,500; special reserve, £1,340,625; current, deposit, and other accounts, £13,918,771; Egyptian Government, £16,127,550; Sudan Government, £236,563; Mixed Tribunals, £2,018,638; bankers' accounts, £427,936; cheques and bills payable, £189,754; sundry other accounts, £2,518,350—£41,165,686. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £19,497,510; sundry securities, £914,710; advances on merchandise, £3,322,829; advances on securities, £5,492,169; sundry other advances, £1,871,593; bills of exchange, £2,432,158; local bills discounted, £691,264; buildings and furniture, £226,038; money at call and at short notice, £273,000; bankers' accounts, £294,621; sundry other accounts, £1,751,435. Cash: Notes, £2,154,556; gold, £417,007; silver, nickel, etc., £237,140—£2,808,703—£41,165,686. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £30,200,000—£30,200,000. Gold, £3,339,570; *British Treasury Bills, £11,760,430—£15,100,000; securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £1,500,000; British Treasury Bills, and British War Loan, £13,600,000—£15,100,000—£30,200,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel*, of October 30, 1916.)

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 11:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—We have again to report a very quiet state of affairs in this market; speculative and trade activities continue to be restricted to nominal proportions, so that we do not consider there is any exaggeration in stating the present situation, through which we are passing, one of the dulllest and least interesting phases witnessed for many seasons. During the earlier days of the week, values fluctuated closely in the neighbourhood of the level prevailing at the time of our last report, but more recently what appears to be forced hedging against some distress stocks has been in evidence, and although probably only about 2,000 bales were concerned, this quantity in the present state of the market proved sufficient to depress prices about 25 points. During the later trading yesterday, and also in to-day's session, a slight improvement in the undertone has been noticeable, with a corresponding recovery of a few points, making to-night's close 21 points lower for near positions and 17 to 21 points for more distant deliveries. Reports from Alexandria indicate similar conditions prevailing there to those at this side; accumulating stocks and lack of demand are gradually forcing the January position down to the 27 dollar mark, and the general tenor of private advices is of a somewhat pessimistic character. The local trade demand for Sakel qualities during the past week has been very moderate, and spinners are complaining of both the lack of business and a further shrinkage in margins. We cannot anticipate any factors developing to alter materially prices from the existing level. The combined effects of a distinctly "bullish" movement in the American departments and a revival of trade interest in our own cotton might lift the market out of its present groove, but as neither of these factors is in sight at the moment, we see little object in advising commitments.

Upper Contract.—A slight increase in activities has been witnessed in this contract during the past week, but the trade purchases have not been sufficient to offset selling by import houses, with the result that a slight decline on the week has again been registered. In our last report we inadvertently stated that the early December tenders had been taken by exporters. We understand that in reality this cotton went to the Government. Further heavy tenders appear probable, as, at the time of writing, the current position in Alexandria is quoted at 10.01 dollars. Our differences with the American contract remain within a few points of last week's figure, and whilst the Upper varieties at this figure appear to stand at a reasonable basis, the trade offtake at the moment appears insufficient to cause any upturn for the immediate future.

Egyptian Spot.

Conditions here have been quiet again, and, except during the last two days, very little interest has been shown in spot Egyptians. The reduction in the American Bureau figures last Monday proved to be somewhat smaller than had been expected, and, instead of the rise in values which had been hoped for, further liquidation ensued, with a consequent reduction in spot quotations. Nevertheless, we believe that the trade here is ready to purchase raw material, and all that is wanted is for prices to remain steady for a while, or, better still, to commence a recovery, be it ever such a slow one. Yesterday's slight recovery in New York values caused a marked increase in to-day's spot inquiry, and if only a moderate business has resulted it is because spinners are anxiously waiting to see if the decline has really been checked before committing themselves. It is perhaps

unfortunate that the end-of-the-year holidays are so near, as even in normal circumstances the period immediately preceding them is usually a quiet one. The important point to bear in mind is that Sakels under 14d., and Uppers in the neighbourhood of 10½d., are undoubtedly attractive, and, that being so, the turn cannot be indefinitely delayed.

Sakels have been in limited request at from 50 off to 50 on, but the better grades have failed to attract attention except in isolated cases.

Uppers have been in fair demand for practically all qualities, with the exception of the best. On one day a prominent spinner purchased a line of cotton at about 40 on. This was believed to be in replacement of cotton at sea which had been delayed.

Pilon.—This growth has aroused very little interest this week.

Nahda and White.—Rather more interest has been shown in these two growths.

Maarad, Fuadi, etc.—These have both suffered from neglect, although Maarad cotton is being offered on what appears to be a very attractive basis.

Low Cotton.—Low and Inferior grades have figured prominently in the inquiry at from 4½d. to 12½d. Results must have been disappointing, as the market has been well combed.

Sudan Sakel.—More interest has been shown during the past few days.

Tokar Sakel has remained neglected.

C.i.f. business has been quiet for the most part. Forwardings last week were returned as 10,457 bales Egyptians and 1,642 bales Sudans. Quotations of Sakel show a reduction of from 25 to 35 points. Uppers are 14, and Pilon 15 points lower on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 14.42d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.60d. F.G.F. Pilon to-day, 11.45d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended December 5, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has again shown very little activity, and fluctuations have been negligible. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaridis: January, 27.67 dollars, 0.06 dollars down; March, 28.20 dollars, 0.05 dollars down; May, 28.66 dollars, 0.12 dollars down; July, 29.00 dollars, 0.02 dollars down; November N.C., 29.66 dollars, 0.03 dollars up. Ashmouni: December, 19.14 dollars, 0.01 dollars up; February, 19.54 dollars, 0.08 dollars down; April, 19.97 dollars, 0.01 dollars down; June, 20.30 dollars, 0.03 dollars down; August, 20.60 dollars, 0.03 dollars down; October N.C., 20.85 dollars, 0.02 dollars up.

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Nicosia: Dick Soultanian, P.O. Box 6.

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostria.

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Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangères, 24, Rue du Stade.

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Baghdad: The Book Shop, New Street.

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PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.

Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.

Tel Aviv: Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

SYRIA.

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Librairie Steimatzky, Avenue Français.

TURKEY.

Istanbul: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Beyoglu.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

CYPRUS IMPORTS INCREASING.

The report on Cyprus trade for October shows that, compared with October 1928, there was an increase of £7,000 in the value of the imports, the total being £189,672, but there was a decrease of £14,600 in exports, the total being £148,311. Both imports and exports, however, were about the quinquennial average.

For the ten months, January to October, the following are the values of imports and exports as compared with the same period last year.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1929	1,686,412	1,400,108
1928	1,488,887	1,209,359
Increase	197,525	190,749

The principal items accounting for the increase in imports were : cotton goods (plus £2,901), chemical manure (plus £6,851), petrol (plus £7,412), and sacks (plus £1,965). There were decreases in machinery (minus £3,359), motor cars (minus £4,904), timber (minus

£5,134), and, owing to the good olive crop, in edible oils (minus £2,014).

The fall in exports was mainly due to decreases in asbestos (minus £4,882), iron pyrites (minus £11,405), carobs (minus £10,644), and raisins (minus £5,480). There were increases in barley (plus £2,500), hides and skins (plus £2974), mules (plus £1,831), oxen (plus £2,194), and wine (plus £1,967).

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for November was 70,640 tons.

It is reported that as no tenders for concessions to drill for oil in Epirus have been received the Greek Government has decided to drop the matter for the time being.

A Cairo message states that the Egyptian State Railways have awarded a contract for 165,000 tons of Welsh coal to Messrs. Beynon, whose tender of 28s. 4½d. per ton was the lowest received.

During the period from August 1 to the end of September 400,000 tons of barley were exported from Roumania to Germany. The fresh estimates of the maize harvest put the yield at 6 million tons, the largest on record, and the surplus for export is estimated at 3 million tons.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Dec. 16	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Nov. 27.
Government Stocks.			Government Loans.		
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt ...	79		3½% Government Paper ...	68½	
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890 ...	70		Banks		
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891 ...	86½		Imperial Bank of India ...	1,370	
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds. '94 ...	79½		Bank of India ...	97½	
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907 ...	28½		Central Bank of India ...	16½	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	78½		Coal.		
Greek 5 p.c., 1881 ...	70½		Baraboni ...	6 as	
Do. 5 p.c., 1884 ...	70½		Bengal ...	51½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889 ...	56		Burrakur ...	16½	
Do. 5 p.c. 1890 ...	69½xd		East Indian ...	28	
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893 ...	70		Equitable ...	29½	
Do. 4 p.c. Rents, 1902 ...	57½		Pench Valley ...	41½	
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910 ...	57		Raneegunge ...	42½	
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue) ...	74½		Standard ...	65	
Do. 7 p.c., 1924 ...	100½		Cotton.		
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds. ...	89		Bengal Nagpur ...	342	
Palestine 5 p.c. ...	100 7/16		Bombay Dyeing, etc. ...	712½	
Persia 5 p.c., 1911 ...	81½		Bowrah ...	365	
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext. ...	67½xd		Buckingham and Carnatic ...	175	
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation ...	45½		Cawnpore Textiles ...	2	
Do. 7 p.c. ...	83		Century ...	295	
Sudan 5½ p.c. Guar. Bds. ...	105½		Central India ...	453½	
India 3½ p.c. ...	6½xd		Elgin ...	91	
Do. 3 p.c. ...	5½xd		Khatia Makani ...	86½	
Do. 5½ p.c. ...	101½		Muir ...	337	
Do. 4½ p.c. ...	83½		New Ring ...	164	
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified ...	17½		Phoenix ...	323½	
Banks.			Swadeshi ...	387½	
Agri. Bank of Egypt ...	7½		Jute.		
Bank of British West Africa ...	315 1/16		Alliance ...	463½	
Bank of Roumania ...	80		Barnagore ...	249	
Barclays Dom. Col. Pl. ...	26 6/8		Budge Budge ...	492	
Chartered Bank of India ...	18½		Clive ...	35½	
Eastern ...	512/16		Dalhousie ...	465	
Hambros ...	615/16		Delta ...	508	
Ionian Bank ...	61 1/16		Fort Gloster ...	800	
Imperial Bank of Persia ...	9½xd		Gourepore ...	395	
Land Bank of Egypt Ord. ...	1½xd		Howrah ...	52½	
Lloyds ...	59 9/16		Kamarhaty ...	603	
Mercantile Bank of India A ...	30½		Kankarrah ...	493	
Do. B ...	33		Khardah ...	653½	
National Bank of Egypt ...	31		Kinnison ...	940	
National Bank of India ...	46½		National ...	28½	
Ottoman Bank ...	114		Standard ...	398	
P. and O. Bank Corporation ...	77 1/16		Union ...	605	
Westminster ...	75 3/8		Miscellaneous		
Land.			British India Corporation ...	211/16	
Kassala Cotton ...	8		Bengal Paper Mills ...	2	
Latifiyah (Iraq) Estates ...	6/9		Bengal Timber Trading ...	40	
Sudan Plantations ...	311/16		Burn and Co. ...	212	
Mines.			Cawnpore Sugar ...	342	
Salaghat Gold Mining ...	4/6		Champaran Sugar ...	16½	
Burma Corp. ...	16 9/16		Howrah Oil Mills ...	121	
Champion Reef Gold ...	9 6/8			12	
Mysore ...	13 9/16		ALEXANDRIA		
Nandydroog ...	15 6/8		Prices on Dec. 6, supplied by G.L. Morten, Alexandria & Cairo.		
Oregrum Gold Mining Ord. ...	7		Agricultural Bank of Egypt ...	£7F	
Oil			Do. " Food. ...	£730	
Anglo-Egyptian B. ...	27 3/2		Alexandria Water Co. ...	£144	
Anglo-Persian Ord. ...	31		Assoc. Cotton Ginners ...	£23/32	
Do. 8 p.c. Cum. 1st Pf. ...	26 4/4		Behera Ord. ...	£216 13/16	
Do. 9 p.c. Cum. 2nd Pf. ...	27 9/16		Ciments d'Egypte ...	Fra. 112	
Do. 5 p.c. Debs. ...	97		Do. Div. ...	168	
Brit. Burmah ...	6/9		Credit Foncier Egyptian ...	Fra. 838	
Burmah Oil Co. Ord. ...	3½		Do. " Fondateur ...	2,400	
Do. 8% Cum Pref. ...	26 3/8		Crown Brewery Priv. ...	Fra. 133	
Hamilton's Oil Concessions ...	3		Filature Nationale d'Egypte ...	£2 13/16	
Phoenix Oil and Transport (p.) ...	9 3/8		Frigorifique d'Egypte ...	£6 7/16	
Do. (1/-) ...	6½		Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des. ...	£15	
Shell Transport ...	4½		Land Bank of Egypt Actions ...	215 15/16	
Steau Romana ...	10½		Do. " Parts de Fond ...	£206	
			Menaleh Canal Navigation ...	Pt. 240	
			New Egyptian ...	Sh30 1/4	
Railways.					
Assam-Bengal ...	...				
Bengal Doonars ...	...				
Bengal Nagpur ...	...				
Egypt Delta Light Riv. ...	...				
Nizam's Gtd. ...	...				
Ottoman (Smy. t. Aid) ...	...				
Do. 5 p.c. 1st Deb. ...	...				
Do. 6 p.c. 2nd Deb. ...	...				
Piraeus Athens and P. 1st Bds. ...	...				
Southern Punjab ...	...				
South Indian ...	...				
Rubber.					
Ceylon Para Rubber Ord. ...	...				
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est. ...	...				
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber ...	...				
Hewagum Rubber Co. ...	...				
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates ...	...				
Malayalam Rub. and Produce ...	...				
Shipping.					
Anchor 5½ p.c. Prf. ...	...				
Cunard ...	...				
Furness Withy ...	...				
Khedivial Mail Ord. ...	...				
P. and O. Deferred ...	...				
Tea.					
Assam Co. ...	...				
Bengal United Tea Ord. ...	...				
Bramapootra ...	...				
British Indian Tea Ord. ...	...				
Cachar and Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...				
Carolina ...	...				
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord. ...	...				
Consolidated Estates ...	...				
Darjeeling Co. ...	...				
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord. ...	...				
Doonars Tea Ord. ...	...				
Doolgogram Tea ...	...				
Doom Dooma ...	...				
East Assam ...	...				
Empire of Ind. ...	...				
Halem Tea ...	...				
Imperial Ind. ...	...				
Jhanzie Tea Association ...	...				
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord. ...	...				
Jorehaut ...	...				
Lanka Plantations Ord. ...	...				
Lungia (Sylhet) Tea Ord. ...	...				
New Dimbula ...	...				
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord. ...	...				
Neddeem ...	...				
Ouvah ...	...				
Pabbojan ...	...				
Standard ...	...				
Scottish Assam ...	...				
Scottish Tea and Lands ...	...				
Upper Assam ...	...				
Insurance.					
General Accident Fire and Life (25, 21½ paid) ...	...				
London & Lancs (25, 21 paid) ...	...				
Royal Exchange (21) ...	...				
Sun Fire £10 (£2 paid) ...	...				
Miscellaneous.					
Alexandria Water Co. ...	...				
Associated Cotton Ginners ...	...				
Dunlop Rubber ...	...				
Egyptian Hotels ...	...				
Do. Markets Ord. ...	...				
Do. Salt and Soda ...	...				
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 p.c. Pref. ...	...				
Standard Carpet Co. (1928) Ord. ...	...				
Waring & Gillow ...	...				

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK ...	701	SPECIAL ARTICLE—		COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
LEADING ARTICLE—		British Officials in Iraq ...	709	Notes and News ...	717
Economic Progress in the Near East	703	THE WEEK AT HOME ...	712	Artificial Cotton and Flax ...	718
SPECIAL LETTERS—		PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	713	Production ...	718
Egypt ...	704	BOOK REVIEWS ...	714	The Roumanian Monopolies ...	719
The Hijaz ...	704	CORRESPONDENCE ...	715	Institute ...	721
Greece ...	706			The Week's Finance ...	721
Roumania ...	707			Economic Conditions in Bulgaria ...	722
Yugoslavia ...	708			The Grape and Wine Industry ...	723
				of Cyprus ...	723

Notes of the Week.

Owing to the Christmas Holidays this issue of *The Near East and India* has had to be printed on December 21.

Turkey and Russia.

It was inevitable that the Soviet Government should look askance at any seeming attempt on Turkey's part to renew touch with the Western Powers, in particular with Great Britain. Possibly owing to divided counsels in Moscow, Russo-Turkish relations have recently been strained as a result of the high-handed treatment, amounting in some instances to confiscation, of Turkish imports into Russia. At the same time Turkey's drastic methods of dealing with Communistic tendencies in her midst as illustrated by the recent sentences passed on Communists at a trial at Smyrna, must have been distasteful to the Soviet Government, even if it found no occasion to intervene in the matter. Consequently, when the visit of a British fleet to Turkish waters was made the occasion of what might be interpreted as *redintegratio amoris* between Turkey and Great Britain, it was inevitable that the former would be expected to reassure Soviet opinion, if any reliance was to be placed on Turkish assurances of a desire to live on good terms with her powerful neighbour. Hence the visit to Ankara of M. Karakhan and the formal renewal of the Russo-Turkish Pact of Friendship and Neutrality, with its Protocol. The attempt has been made to read into the Protocol a tightening up of the relations between the Soviet and Turkish Governments; but inasmuch as the Article in question is restricted in its application to agreements "with States contiguous by land or sea" to either party, it would not appear to bear any relation to Turkey's action in regard to any Western Power. The expression "contiguous by sea" might conceivably find different interpretations among lawyers, but the purpose of Turkey in inserting it can hardly have been to reserve herself freedom of action in respect of Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Hungary alone of European countries.

The Regime in Greece.

The suggestion put forward by M. Venizelos that a plebiscite should be held to decide for all time the question of Republic or Monarchy in Greece is not likely to be accepted by the Greek monarchists at this particular moment. Without having renounced the faith that is in

them, M. Tsaldaris and those who think with him—possibly a larger number of Greeks than those who are actually enrolled in his Popular Party—are understood to have accepted the Republic as a necessity for the time being. Beyond that point they are not anxious to go, as they have probably a shrewd idea that the Greek public is not likely at the present moment to adopt any course calculated to revive a controversy that has led to bloodshed in the past and which must in any case distract the attention of the nation from the all-important task of economic reconstruction. Interpreted in the light of the passage in Thucydides which our Athens Correspondent quotes this week, the Republic serves Greece well enough these days, and there are many Greeks, no doubt, who will be tempted to apply to their own contemporary political affairs the warning of the Delphic Oracle regarding Kamarina. Whether the recurrence of difficulty in days to come in the selection of a suitable President will incline the country to find virtue in a non-elected Head of the State remains to be seen. M. Venizelos certainly gave expression to a point of view that will appeal strongly to Greek public men when he declined the Presidency for himself on the ground that he was still active enough to be more useful to the country in a less exalted position.

Great Britain and Iraq.

It would be unstatesmanlike to imagine, from the optimism which reigns, or is professed, in official circles in this country, that British policy in the East is now on the tack which will inevitably mean smooth sailing in the future. Few people who know the East will be found to believe that, for instance, Iraq, or Egypt, will voyage on to that harbour which is perhaps more serene than safe, namely, the League of Nations, without encountering one or two formidable snags. Undue elation is often as ill-founded as undue depression. It is well, in short, to realise that suspicion of officials embodying a certain (or uncertain) policy in the East is not suddenly removed by any change of that policy. This fact appears, as will be noted on another page, on which we reproduce an article from *Al Iraq*, to be peculiarly obvious in Iraq. There, the suspicion of Advisers or other officials which is, seemingly, only too general, is an unwelcome sign. That one Baghdad paper does not necessarily represent the views of the mass of the Iraqi people needs, of course, no emphasising, but there are signs that a nice enough

balance between the inevitable and natural diminution of British Advisers' powers and the rapid curtailment of their duties has not yet been struck. If this were not so, if the atmosphere were such a one of "kindliness" as the Colonial Secretary has described, how could such an article have been printed in *Al Iraq*? It is to be feared, indeed, that the undoubted and very considerable ability of the Iraqi *intelligentsia* is occasionally manifested at the cost of their stability. Stability is a rare virtue, one of the main ingredients of which, we should say, is gratitude. That certain honest Iraqis are genuinely grateful to Great Britain for what she has done in Mesopotamia is freely admitted, but it is probably true to say that those who profess this gratitude lead the most harassed lives in Iraq. Unpopularity, it seems, lies that way.

An Unfortunate Blunder.

It is particularly unfortunate, in connexion with this subject of Anglo-Iraqi relations, that a certain passage in the letter which the lamented Sir Abdul Muhsin wrote just before his death should have been mistranslated into English. It will be recalled that *The Times* and, subsequently, most other papers, published that the late Prime Minister had stated that Iraq was "far from deserving independence," a phrase which, as the Iraqi Minister in London promptly pointed out, should have been rendered "far from independence." This blunder, a most crass one, would appear to have had the most unfortunate effects, for it at once roused the old suspicion of British motives in Iraq. An incident such as this is easily capable of undoing the results of months of good work. Anew and with feverish eagerness the motives of all British officials are examined by Iraqi publicists, who are apt on occasion to find most fantastic reasons for any given action. The sort of comment which we have in mind is that which was made upon the appointment of Sir Francis Humphrys to Baghdad. Because, when the new High Commissioner was at Kabul, a revolt had broken out in Afghanistan, so, it was argued, was the disintegration of Iraq envisaged by the British Government. To such a state of affairs as makes the breeding of such ideas possible there is only one remedy: absolutely straight and unequivocal dealing. That the Mandatory Power is not without blame in this matter may be granted, but its policy having now been irrevocably declared, it is, it seems to us, for the Iraqis to show the graces of the situation. Bad impressions can always be removed as between men of honesty and good-intent, provided that firmness, courtesy, and understanding are shown. Stability is always more than ability.

Armenians in Syria.

It would be interesting to know the exact cause that has prompted the egress from Turkey of large masses of Armenians and their ingress into Syria, where they are, according to official information, seeking the assistance of the French Mandatary, who, as is well known, has already set up a régime for the Armenian refugees in the north-west of Syria. There has been considerable propaganda on behalf of the Armenian "Home" under the ægis of the Bolshevik Government of Russia, and there has been at the same time considerable writing-down of the attempt of the French to establish in Syria a home for this unhappy people. Whether the Armenians who have been leaving Turkey lately in such large numbers have different views from their brethren in the Diaspora on the virtues of the "Russian" Armenia; whether there has been fresh oppression of them by the Turkish authorities; whether it is merely those living near the southern border of Turkey who have emigrated; and whether they really believe that a new Armenia can best be built in Syria—on none of these conjectures is there any definite information. What is beyond doubt is the invasion of Syria by destitute Armenians, and, naturally, to the French Mandatary this is a troublesome fact. The League of Nations, which through its Commission for Refugees has done much good work in Syria, is aware of the unfortunate situation. This situation is difficult in every respect, financial, political, and human. Those Western Europeans who have not wholly forgotten their promises to the Armenian people will look with considerable anxiety on this new development in the Armenian position, more especially as the Armenians lack, what some other scattered folk possess in abundance, international standing and eloquent voices in every country to remind the Great Powers of their War-time pledges.

INDIAN NOTES.

Party Politics in Bengal.

Sir Stanley Jackson, Governor of Bengal, has made another attempt to work the reformed constitution in that Presidency. He has appointed a Ministry consisting of one Hindu, Kumar Shib Shekessur Roy, and two Muslims, Khan Bahadur Ghulam Farouqi and Mr. Nazimuddin. With the old Council the difficulty was to find Ministers who could command the support of the majority. And the object of the Governor in holding the recent general election was to ascertain if the constituencies would elect members from among whom it would be possible to choose a Ministry that would be likely to last. Presumably it has proved still to be difficult to make a selection, as some time has now elapsed since the new Council was constituted. On the face of it there ought not to be great difficulty, seeing that the professed co-operators are in a majority of about thirty. But hitherto the majority has been hopelessly divided. The Muhammadans have been the principal difficulty. Some of them are, of course, Swarajists, but the majority are co-operators. They have failed, however, to act as a party. They have been fighting among themselves over personal issues instead of uniting to support a Ministry. But the latest information is that now there is at any rate a possibility of these opposing elements combining so far as to form not more than two groups. And it may be of course that this more hopeful sign has encouraged Sir Stanley Jackson to persevere in his efforts to work the constitution. The attitude of the European group in the Legislative Council seems to have changed of late. Hitherto the Europeans have generally supported any Ministry that had a reasonably strong following in the Council. But their leader stated recently that they would "not undertake to support such a Ministry as it is rumoured will shortly be formed." This declaration would seem to complicate matters. But after all the

(Continued on page 711.)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1929.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE NEAR EAST.

For none of the countries of South-Eastern Europe has the year now drawing to a close been altogether uneventful, and most of them are able to regard it with no small measure of satisfaction. The political stability that they have enjoyed in an unwonted degree has enabled several, if not all, of them to devote attention to economic affairs, and for the first time a more or less systematic attempt has been made to cope with economic reconstruction on sound and scientific lines. The situation has been helped in some of the countries by a favourable harvest, and there must still be marked fluctuations of prosperity in lands so largely dependent on their agricultural resources; but hardly a country has failed during the last twelve months to take some steps towards increasing the general productivity of the soil. If, therefore, a single feature has to be selected to characterise the year 1929 for South-Eastern Europe as a whole, it may well be the promise of economic progress that this part of the world now holds out as a result of a real, though tardy, effort to grapple with the one problem which is of vital concern to all. The measure of success attained has inevitably depended on the available resources of the individual country, and on this point the various experiences have been interesting and instructive. Greece, having carried her political feuds to more extreme lengths than any other country, has shown the greater reaction to the political stability that M. Venizelos's régime has introduced, and finds herself in a comparatively affluent position; Roumania, in spite of a foreign loan, has had too much leeway to make up in securing financial equilibrium, to do more than take the initial steps towards economic progress, but with the help of a foreign Adviser attached to the National Bank has laid the foundations of a strong economic position. Yugoslavia has solved her political troubles for the time being by means of a Dictatorship, but is prevented by the admittedly temporary character of the present régime from obtaining the foreign loan that is essential to any comprehensive programme of reconstruction; Bulgaria alone among the States of South-Eastern Europe is too much a victim of circumstances to admit that she can record any headway during the past year; Turkey, on the other hand, is tempted to mark each succeeding year as *annus mirabilis*, but, until she obtained the help of a foreign loan, the actual progress to which she can point must needs be restricted, for all the good intentions and legislative activity that she brings to bear on economic affairs.

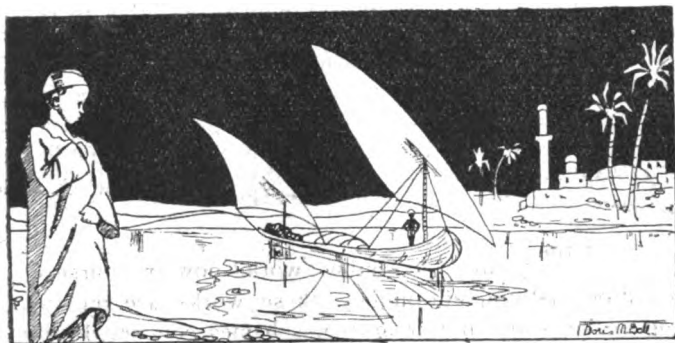
The situation in Greece deserves attention, if only in order that it may serve as an example to her neighbours. It is the more striking in view of her financial history, in which figures the establishment of an International Financial Commission to control the collection and distribution of State revenues assigned to the service of

foreign loans. To-day Greece is devoting considerably over two million pounds annually towards the liquidation of her debts, and she claims that the taxpayers have been contributing twenty-five per cent. of their income to the State Treasury as compared with twenty-two-and-a-half per cent. paid in Great Britain, twenty per cent. paid in Italy, and eighteen per cent. in France. The burden laid upon the country, however, was proving too onerous, as was shown by the crisis that had overtaken Greek commerce and industry, and it has been possible to effect a substantial reduction in certain items of taxation. A still more important factor in the reconstruction of Greece is the big programme of public works now in course of execution. Prominent among these works are the two land reclamation and irrigation schemes connected with the Vardar River and with the plans of Thessaly and Epirus. The completion of these works will entail a material addition to the cultivable area of Greece, for the development of which an ample supply of labour will be available among a population that has been subjected to the sudden and considerable increase caused by the influx of refugees from Asia Minor. Provision in this and other ways is being made for the steady expansion of the country's revenue, and no difficulty should be experienced in overcoming the economic difficulties in which Greek trade and industry find themselves involved; for the moment in common with business interests in other countries.

The lesson to be drawn from Greece's experience, as from that of Roumania, would seem to be that economic salvation is to be found by any State in a similar position only in whole-hearted co-operation with foreign capital and foreign advice. No small advantage has been derived by Greece over a troublous period by the steady influence exercised by the International Financial Commission, and it is not without significance that a recent difference of opinion between the Government and the Commission turned on the point whether the latter was entitled to refuse to extend its supervision over further sources of revenue earmarked for fresh loans. It is true that difficulties have arisen between the Government and some of the foreign contracting firms, but these would seem to have been satisfactorily settled—with the exception in regard to which the dispute is now under arbitration. In the light of her neighbour's experience it is unfortunate that Turkey has not seen her way to adopt a similar line of action to give practical and more immediate effect to the Government's aims for the economic rehabilitation of the country. Turkey's need for outside help is the greater, because she is handicapped by the narrow limits of her Budget (only two-thirds of that of Greece when both are expressed in pounds sterling), the wide extent of her territory (five times that of Greece) and the relative smallness of her population (only twice that of Greece). From the point of view of the nation's *amour propre* there may be much to be said for the development of a country by its own unaided efforts; but in these days of fierce competition it may be doubted whether any backward country that values its position in the comity of nations can afford to indulge in the luxury of a slow rate of progress. The wisest Governments to-day are those that are prepared to take a few risks on the continuance of peace in a war-satiated world and, during the few years that it seems possible to see ahead, to concentrate every effort on material development. As far as Greco-Turkish rivalry is concerned it appears as if the point of view of those who now direct the destinies of Greece is that Turkey is welcome to her naval and military superiority while there is no chance of its being put to the test, provided that, if ever the dogs of war are let slip again—fortunately a more and more remote possibility—Greece can enter the fray with financial and economic resources far exceeding any that Turkey will be able to mobilize.

'The Near and Middle East

From Our Own Correspondents.



EGYPT.

Cairo, December 12.

Banquet to the High Commissioner.

This week the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Midhat Yeghen Pasha, gave a banquet at Shepherd's Hotel in honour of the High Commissioner and Lady Loraine. Over a hundred and fifty covers were laid. The guests included the Ministers, the Palace staff, and the leading British officials and residents and their wives. Next week a similar banquet will be offered by Midhat Pasha to the Diplomatic Corps and the leading foreign residents. These banquets will be repeated next January or February when the new Cabinet is in office, for it is a tradition that each Foreign Minister offers an entertainment of this description to the High Commissioner and to the Diplomatic Corps.

"Le Journal du Caire."

The *doyen* of the foreign Press in Cairo, the *Journal du Caire*, celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation by a reception at Shepherd's Hotel, to which it invited the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, and all the principal Egyptian and foreign notables. Over three hundred guests gathered to congratulate Mr. Enkiri and offer their good wishes for the continued success of his excellent journal, and a most pleasant afternoon was spent.

The British Chamber of Commerce.

The British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt resumed its monthly luncheons this week at the Continental Hotel, when some seventy members sat down under the chairmanship of Mr. R. C. Martin. In this number were several associate members, a class of member drawn from those who, not being of British nationality, are nevertheless interested in British products and industry. On their behalf Mr. Brandt, at the close of the speeches, expressed the appreciation of his colleagues of the facility afforded them to secure the assistance of the Chamber in the conduct of the business of representation of British manufacturers which they were carrying out.

In his address Mr. Martin dwelt on the extension of the Chamber during the past year, the membership figure—540 on January 1—being to-day just short of 700. He

explained the work of the Chamber and dwelt on the part it was playing in the question of the revised Customs tariff which, according to the information at his disposal, could not be ready by February 17, as from which date the Egyptian Government has denounced its commercial conventions. He informed the members that the Chamber had formed in England, mainly thanks to the efforts of the Secretary, Mr. Trimen, a Committee which has arranged to circulate, to the trades interested for their comment, the new proposals, as soon as the Government, in accordance with its promise, communicates them to the Chamber, which will then put forward the views of British trade on the question.

It was an interesting gathering by reason of the presence not only of the category of associate members referred to, but also of members from Alexandria and Port Said. As several remarked, this is a thing that was unthinkable four years ago when Alexandria and Cairo looked somewhat askance at each other's activities and rarely, if ever, collaborated on any question. The change in relations between the two communities, strikingly emphasised by the presence of these members from Alexandria and by the recent decision that henceforward the Chairmanship of the Chamber shall be held alternately for two years by Cairo and Alexandria, instead of always by the latter, is entirely due to Lord Lloyd, who, by the active interest he displayed in the affairs of the British community of Egypt's second capital and by his own personality, drew the two communities together and, before he laid down his duties, had the satisfaction of seeing them loyally and willingly collaborating for the general good of British interests, as they had never done before.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is with sincere regret that the news has been received of the retirement of Ibrahim Waguih Pasha from the Under-Secretaryship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Everyone, however, has welcomed the advent to that post of Sherif Sabri Bey, the popular brother-in-law of King Fuad and son of the veteran Minister of Communications, Abdel Rehim Sabri Pasha. Waguih Pasha will be missed by all the members of the Diplomatic Corps, who during a long period have had ample opportunity of appreciating his sterling qualities, his tact, his knowledge of diplomatic usage and his patriotism. He has done as much as anyone to create friendly relations not only with foreign countries but also with Great Britain, and it was in acknowledgment of what he had done, while serving his country's immediate interests, to smooth over difficulties during an exceedingly delicate period, that recently the King conferred on him the K.B.E.

THE HIJAZ.

Jidda, November 30.

Najd and Kuwait.

An official *communiqué* was issued here a day or two ago giving a summary of the King's plans for the final uprooting of the rebel movement and of the troop movements which have resulted therefrom. A copy of the *communiqué* accompanies this letter and it will be seen therefrom that the coming operations will centre round the Kuwait frontier across which, more easily than across the Iraq border, the rebels will be able to escape temporarily from the chastisement awaiting them. It is interesting to know that their offer of submission on condition of pardon has been rejected by King Ibn Saoud, who pre-

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sumably knows that he can never again trust their loyalty, and insists that they shall submit to trial by the religious Courts. Those Courts can only condemn them to death, though the King's prerogative of mercy would doubtless be used to commute the sentence.

The length of time taken by the King in preparing his campaign suggests that he is leaving nothing to chance, while it is rather policy than military necessity that has led him to making the punitive force representative of practically all the elements of the Najd population. The possibility of trouble with the Kuwait authorities has on several occasions been represented by him to the British Government and, still leaving nothing to chance and no loophole for criticism after the event, he addressed on November 15 to the British Government, through the British Agent at Jidda, a formal protest against the free use allowed to the Najd rebels of the territories of Kuwait both as a refuge against pursuit and as a supply base. Up to date no reply has been received to this message, but a somewhat painful impression has been created by the news, not yet confirmed, that the Shaikh of Kuwait has informed the British Agent at his Court that he is under no treaty obligations to refuse the right of asylum and supplies to those in open rebellion against the authority of the Wahhabi King.

This attitude is regarded as being in conflict with that part of an Article of the Treaty of Jidda which says: "Each of the high contracting parties undertakes . . . to endeavour by all the means at its disposal to prevent his territories being used as a base for unlawful activities directed against peace and tranquillity in the territories of the other party." Kuwait is, of course, technically not British territory, but is clearly treated as such in the Treaty, the sixth article of which provides that King Ibn Saoud shall "maintain friendly and peaceful relations with the territories of Kuwait and Bahrain. . . ." The

maintenance of friendly relations is obviously intended to be reciprocal, and the object of the Treaty of Jidda was to secure peace between all territories under British control and the territories of King Ibn Saoud.

The attitude of the Shaikh of Kuwait is liable to precipitate complications in the near future if it is not sharply checked by the British Government; and Shaikh Ahmad ibn Jabir would do well to be warned in time by the fate that overtook the Hijaz for very similar contumacy. If directly or indirectly the result of the complications now so probable should be to put an end to the anomaly of an independent status so prejudicial to the economic interests of Kuwait itself, Faisal al Duwish should be given the credit for the good resulting from the evil of his disloyalty.

Rains in the Hijaz.

The outstanding event in the recent history of the Hijaz is the rain which broke over the whole country on November 27. Reports from Madina, Al Ula, Yanbu and Wajh speak of torrential rains which have set all the Wadis in motion. The Wadi Fatima shared in the general good fortune, with the result that the road between Mecca and Jidda was closed to motor traffic for several hours until the flood had subsided. Mecca and its neighbourhood received the full benefit of the visitation, while at Jidda 2.27 inches of rain fell between 7 and 8 a.m., and the streets were rendered impassable by the lakes which soon formed in every hollow. The cisterns, already empty of last year's rain water, are now again nearly full, and the desert is ready for the seed that will be sown upon it of melons and millet. It may be we shall see no more rain this twelvemonth, though last year gave us 5.03 inches in all, but we have enough to go on with, and that is as much as we ever look for. It would seem that Jidda was on this occasion very nearly the most southerly point reached by the storm.

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EGYPT AND PALESTINE AND VICE VERSA

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Alexandria ... dep. 1500

Cairo ... dep. 1800

Port Said ... dep. 1815

(Change at Kantara West)

Kantara East ... dep. 2345

Jaffa ... arr. 0750

Jerusalem ... arr. 0917

Haifa ... arr. 1000

To Egypt (Daily)

Haifa ... dep. 0800

Jerusalem ... dep. 0835

Jaffa ... dep. 1005

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Jaffa ... 4,070

Haifa ... 4,945

L. P. Mils.

L. P. Mils.

L. P. Mils.

3,525

3,240

4,115

4,845

4,560

5,435

Map of Palestine and surrounding regions (Egypt, Syria, Transjordan) showing the railway network. Key stations include Haifa, Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Kantara. The map also shows the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aqaba.

Headquarters: HAIFA.

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The Amir Faisal's Return.

After a stay of nearly a fortnight here the Amir Faisal returned to Mecca on November 28 with all the high officials of the Government whose presence at Jidda has helped materially in the disposal of many local problems demanding their personal attention, and that of the Amir himself. For the rest, much of the Amir's time was inevitably spent in attending the various banquets organised in his honour, while just before his departure he received the captain of the French sloop *Montmirail*, which arrived here on November 27 and left next day for Port Sudan.

General News.

The pilgrims continue to arrive steadily, and slowly the marked economic slump of the off-season is giving way to the prosperity that comes to the Hijaz with the overseas visitation. The Government here is not, however, blind to the fact that, to make prosperity perennial rather than seasonal, something must be done to develop the agricultural and other resources of the country. Great progress may yet be achieved on these lines, and the sincere wish of all and sundry is that the King may henceforth be able to devote his undivided attention to those problems, when he has finally settled accounts with those to whom the prosperity of the country counts for little in comparison with their own advantage.

It is reported, though the report still requires confirmation, that a signal victory has just been achieved by the King over the rebel force. No details are forthcoming except that the report emanates ultimately from Kuwait.

OPERATIONS IN ARABIA.

Jidda, November 27.

The following is a translation of an official *communiqué* which has been issued by the Foreign Office of the Hijaz-Najd Government:—

After the completion of his preparations for a punitive expedition against the rebels seeking to disturb the peace of Najd, His Majesty King Ibn Saoud issued orders for the advance of all his regular and tribal forces towards the frontier district, where the remnants of the rebels are encamped.

The preparations for the move having now been completed and the various forces having concentrated from every direction at the appointed rendezvous, the citizen forces have gone forward under the King's orders to take up a position at Shauki, while the Badawin and their like have been ordered to concentrate at various points; the Harb tribal contingent moved forward from Buraida on November 16, and the Ataiba force on the same day from Shaqra to Hafar al Ats, while the Qahtan have moved forward from the Nisah valley. The final concentration was to be at Shauki, whence the forces will start on the march towards the localities in which are the rebels above-mentioned.

In addition to the above disposition the Amir Abdul Aziz ibn Musaid (Governor of Hail) has taken up his position as directed at Shabiya, where he has been joined by the Shammar and Anaza contingents. The object of all these contingents is to encircle the rebels from all directions and to cut them off from all avenues of escape so that none of them may escape.

On the completion of these dispositions His Majesty marched out to the general rendezvous, where orders were issued for a move from Shauki on November 22; and during the absence of His Majesty on these operations H.R.H. the Amir Saoud remains as Viceroy at the capital.

As soon as the rebels realised the seriousness of their situation they sent messages to His Majesty offering submission; but His Majesty replied that their plea for pardon could not be entertained until they had submitted to trial according to the Sacred Law. And it is hoped that no long time will elapse before these punitive operations are brought to a successful conclusion.

GREECE.

Athens, December 8.

The Vardar Drainage Scheme.

On Monday, November 24, M. Venizelos left Athens for Salonika, in order to preside at the inauguration of the first completed stage of the great Vardar drainage scheme. The contract for this work, it will be remembered, was secured during the Pangalos régime by the Foundation Company. After a good many delays and a good deal of obstruction, the work is now progressing more quickly, and Tuesday's ceremony marked the opening of one of the three canals, which will carry off the waters of Lakes Ardzan and Amatovo into the Vardar. In view of the great importance of the work, a short summary of the programme which the Foundation Company are carrying out may be of interest.

In addition to the three canals already mentioned, of which the total length is 32 kilometres, subsidiary canals with a total length of 40 kilometres are also being dug. Several bridges have also been constructed to carry roads and the Salonika-Belgrade railway across the canals.

The second part of the programme, most of which has also been finished, consists in the rectification of the northern part of the bed of the Vardar, and this has involved the construction of a dyke on the left bank, 10 kilometres long with an average height of three metres.

By the third part of the scheme, for which the preliminary plans, surveys, etc., have been made and submitted to the Ministry of Communications, the southern part of the Vardar, i.e., in the immediate neighbourhood of the mouth, will be dealt with. Besides reclaiming the marshes, the object is to prevent the gradual silting up of the harbour of Salonika. The river brings down some 2,500 tons of silt an hour, and, according to expert calculation, the harbour entrance would be blocked in thirty years' time.

The programme further envisages the rectification of the beds of the Galliko and Haliakmon rivers, and the drainage of the Janitza lake (or rather swamp) by means of a canal from it to the sea. West of this canal, another canal will conduct the waters of numerous torrents (which now swell the waters of the lake in winter), into the river Haliakmon. This canal will be 35 kilometres long. Irrigation works in the plain of Salonika complete the programme.

It is stated that the work will be finished in 1934. This seems an optimistic estimate in view of the delays which have occurred hitherto, but, whenever the work is completed, the benefits will be incalculable; 500,000 stremmata (a stremma equals $\frac{1}{4}$ acre), will be reclaimed for agriculture, another 750,000 protected from inundation, while 850,000 stremmata will be irrigated. Above all, the tyranny of the mosquito will be ended in this region. In this connexion it is of interest that a school of malaria is being established, in connexion with the University, at Athens. Special courses will be given, and special laboratories set apart for the malaria-stricken regions. The director of the school is M. Kardamitis, well-known throughout Greece for his long and persistent efforts to combat this disease.

Urban Problems.

Like the Ulen Company, the Foundation Company has now weathered its period of greatest unpopularity, and may look forward to more peaceful times ahead. Not so the Power and Traction Company, whose popularity is now almost at its lowest ebb. The difficult transition from the old to the new current is now being effected. At the moment of writing, those places which have still the old current (now on its last legs)—and this means most of the houses and almost all the streets—are plunged in semi-darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.—the hours when the shops and offices are still open. To intensify the evils of urban life, the gas employees have been on strike, supported in rather half-hearted manner by the tram and bus employees. Less annoying for the ordinary citizen has

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been an agitation among the students of the University, which has been accompanied by a certain amount of rioting, stone-throwing and damage to University property. As a result, lectures have been suspended, and the University is guarded by the military and fire brigade.

M. Venizelos and Pericles.

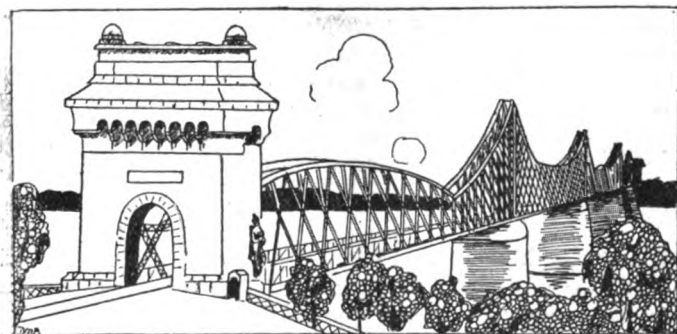
None of the strikers received much encouragement from the President of the Council, who explained quite frankly, if brutally, to the students the various ways in which they had placed themselves in the wrong, and forfeited any consideration they might have received. When one considers the saying and doings of M. Venizelos, one is, in fact, forcibly reminded of the description which Thucydides gives of another Greek statesman—the great Pericles. “He, deriving authority from his capacity and acknowledged worth, being also a man of transparent integrity, was able to control the multitude in a free spirit; he led them rather than was led by them: for, not seeking power by dishonest acts, he had no need to say pleasant things, but, on the strength of his own high character, could venture to oppose and even anger them. When he saw them unduly elated and arrogant, his words humbled and awed them: and when they were depressed by groundless fears, he sought to reanimate their confidence. Thus Athens, though still in name a democracy, was in fact ruled by her greatest citizen.”

Byzantine Studies.

The Byzantine Congress has been fixed to begin on October 30, 1930. The President of the Republic is President of the Congress. Excursions to Salonika, Mistra, and other places will form part of the programme, which is divided into three sections—historical, literary, and archæological respectively. The importance of Greece as a centre of Byzantine art and archæology is more and more being recognised, and Byzantine studies, too long neglected or overshadowed by the classical, are now coming into their own. Side by side with the awakened interest, is a growing desire to preserve Byzantine remains. Frankish and Venetian remains are, however, still inadequately protected.

Improvements at the Piræus.

On returning to Greece after an absence of several months one notices one very marked change for the better—the disappearance of the pirates of the Piræus, whose importunity and insubordination made landing such a nightmare in former times. Though the control of the porters is not yet perfect, the passage from ship, *via* the Customs, to a taxi is now comparatively smooth. Perhaps the helpful tout is rather too prominent, and might with advantage be abolished.



ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, December 11.

Parliament at Work.

Parliament continues its work and is very busy. The discussion of the Message from the Throne was concluded last Monday, when the reply was drawn up for presentation to the Regency in the course of this week. At the Wednesday sitting the Government submitted the Bill on the General Budget of the State and the

affiliated autonomous institutions (i.e., Railways and Post Office). At the same time M. Madgearu, Minister of Finance, announced his intention of submitting other Bills, namely: (a) the tax on turnover; (b) on Death Duties, which are at present too onerous and will be reduced by 25 per cent. or more; (c) on the application of direct taxation, destined to alleviate the Budget for this year pending the passing of the new Law which M. Madgearu is drawing up and which will introduce a radical reform of the system of direct taxation; (d) to prevent evasion of taxation a bill which, when passed into law, is expected to increase the State revenues by about a milliard lei.

At the end of last week M. Madgearu gave an interview to the Press for the purpose of explaining his Budget Bill. The Budget for 1930 shows a greater surplus than any of its predecessors for many years past. This surplus is obtained, in the first place, by means of important economies imposed upon all the Ministries, but principally by the effects of the new economic laws passed during the last parliamentary session. The method of collecting the taxes under the new Mining Law is also a source of considerable revenue to the State Treasury. All precautions have been taken to insure that the surplus will be maintained and, perhaps, even exceeded. Moreover, the Minister of Finance holds out reason for hoping that it will be possible to reduce the present rates of taxation.

Among the new Bills that are to come under discussion this session is one on Army Organisation and one for the modification of certain statutes of the State Railways.

In spite of pointed insinuations in a certain section of the Press, complete concord reigns among the members of the Government, all of whom support loyally both M. Maniu, President of the Council, and M. Mihalache, the leader of the Peasant Party.

Professor Yorga.

At a recent political meeting Professor Yorga made an interesting statement. After having passed a severe criticism on political parties generally, because they were apt to pursue purely political aims to the detriment of the interests of the State, he sketched the organisation of a party composed of an association of professional people standing outside political interests. The activity of this association would remain quite outside political parties and would often be directed against these. Professor Yorga announced his intention of inviting to a meeting all the persons qualified for membership of his proposed association for the purpose of explaining to them the details of his plan. This plan is already opposed in principle by almost all the existing political parties, which regard it as dangerous to them, as it would, no doubt, deprive them of some of their most thoughtful members or voters.

Teachers' Congress.

During the last few days a congress was held of the professional teachers of Roumania, at which the 70,000 members of the teaching profession, male and female, were represented. All the grievances of the profession were expressed in a memorandum to the Government. These related chiefly to the question of emoluments, which have not increased in proportion to the rise in the cost of living, and they touched also on matters relating to the social life of the teaching class. The members of the Congress were careful to point out that their meeting had no political basis, but was made with the aim of uniting the whole teaching corps. The Government admitted some of their claims and agreed to allocate a certain sum for the increase of salaries of certain categories that were suffering most under present conditions.

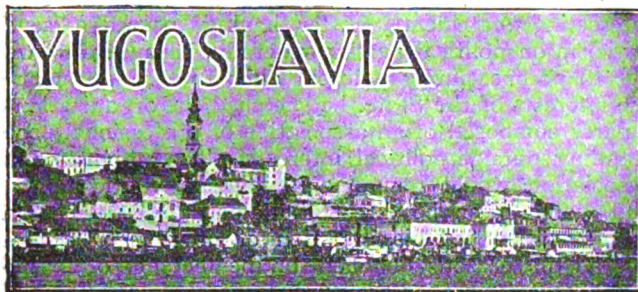
Economic Delegation of the Government.

From the economic point of view the Economic Delegation has already seen its labours crowned with some

success. In the first place, on the proposal of M. Mihalache, Minister of Agriculture, a reduction has been made of the State tax on salt fish from 100 to 12 lei. It may be explained that salt fish is the basis of the food of the peasants in Roumania, and this provision has immediately resulted in a reduction of the price of salt fish from 8 to 10 lei per kilogram. This in its turn has brought about a reduction in the price of fresh fish, which is regarded as a luxury.

There is another grave problem which the Economic Delegation has been called upon to solve, namely, that of the export policy for agricultural products and where markets for these should be sought. Although Roumanian agricultural products are of superior quality, they are little known on the markets of Europe. As a result of land expropriation and of the new economic conditions introduced by this measure, there was, perhaps, some deterioration in the quality of these products for a time, but they have now regained the first rank as in the past. It appears that M. Mihalache, Minister of Agriculture, in agreement with the aims of the Economic Delegation, has decided to seek means of reorganising the export system and at the same time will appoint agricultural Attachés abroad for the furthering of Roumania's international trade.

So far the agricultural prospects for next year are good. On December 1 the sowings had already exceeded those of 1928, and the finer weather continues, so that ploughing and sowing still proceed apace—a very unusual state of affairs at this late date. Although it is much too soon to build upon results, there is nothing to be lost by a little comforting optimism in the meantime, and perhaps the Fates will at last be good to Roumania and give her the bumper crop that her peasants richly deserve, for they certainly work hard enough—often even 18 hours a day during the busy season. There is no question of an 8 hours' day with them, especially since they have become the owners of the land.



Belgrade, December 12.

The Sofia Conference.

The tragic death of M. Shaponitch, President of the Yugoslav delegation to the joint Yugoslav-Bulgarian Commission, which met in Sofia to discuss the settlement of frontier problems, happening, as it did, just at the moment when agreement seemed probable, caused genuine sorrow in Sofia as well as in Belgrade. M. Shaponitch was attending a tea given by M. Karajoff, one of the members of the Bulgarian delegation, when he had a heart attack and the same night, despite the efforts of the best doctors of Sofia, he died. All who knew him, and especially foreign correspondents who found him, as Chief of the Press Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ever ready to help them, admired M. Shaponitch for his energy, kindness and good will. It was feared in diplomatic circles that this unfortunate incident might cause the prolonged postponement of negotiations, but I am informed that to-day, or at least to-morrow, the King will appoint a new President of the Yugoslav delegation, and that by the end of the week negotiations will be renewed. One of the most important questions to be solved, that of estates which are divided by the frontier line, has practically been decided in principle, and if the conference is continued in the spirit of good will and

conciliation which marked its earlier stages, the practical application of this principle should soon be worked out and a solution found also for the remaining frontier problem before the conference, that of the establishment of a neutral frontier zone from which all who have no legitimate business in the district, including komitajis on the one side and Bulgarian Agrarian refugees on the other, will be excluded. The Yugoslav Government was greatly impressed by the kindness shown on the occasion of the death of M. Shaponitch by the people and Government of Sofia, and this factor, together with the signs of dissent between the Italian and Bulgarian Governments, makes the possibility of agreement greater. Agreement on these two matters, while not solving the whole problem of Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations, would remove some of the greatest obstacles to the improvement of relations which have been repeatedly disturbed by frontier incidents in the past, and would be evidence of the desire for friendship, which is so much needed.

Union Day Celebrations.

December 1, the eleventh anniversary of the Day of Union of the South Slav peoples, was celebrated throughout the whole of Yugoslavia with much ceremony. King Alexander attended Mass in Belgrade Cathedral, accompanied by the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the Army and Civil Service and great masses of citizens. It was to be noted that the streets of Belgrade were decorated with the new Yugoslav flags, instead of being hung mainly with Serbian flags, as was the case in former years. In great contrast to last year, when the official celebration of the Day of Union led to serious disorders in Zagreb, this year's ceremony seems to have aroused great enthusiasm among the citizens. Several thousand students, including delegations of students from all universities of the country, met in Zagreb on November 30 and took part in a great demonstration of national solidarity of the youth of the country. Both the Belgrade and Zagreb Press insisted that this was the first real day of union, the first day of a real Yugoslavia after ten years wasted in party strife. The only incident to mar the celebrations of the Day of Union this year was the discovery by the police of a bomb placed in the bandstand of a Zagreb Square near to which the procession of students coming from the station had to pass. Fortunately it failed to explode.

The King's Birthday.

On December 17, the anniversary of the birthday of King Alexander, deputations of citizens from all towns of the country will visit Belgrade to pay homage to him. This movement was begun in Zagreb, when a meeting of the City Council decided to send such a deputation and invited all the towns of Croatia to join them. The response was not restricted to Croatia, but within a short time almost every town in the country had decided to send its deputation. Gigantic preparations are being made in Belgrade to receive these numerous guests. As the number of deputations will be too great for all to be received on one day, it has been arranged that delegations from the various *Banovine* (Banats) will be received at intervals of a few days, from December 17 to January 6, the anniversary of the *coup d'état*.

New Laws.

The spate of legislation passed by the new Government shows no sign of abating yet. Acts which, although of admitted urgency and excellently drafted, would have taken years to pass through the old Parliament, owing to the bitterness and unreasonableness of the party struggle, are prepared by experts in a few months, passed by the signature of the King and the responsible Minister, and put into force by publication in the *Official Gazette*. Among the new laws so passed within the last week are the Elementary Schools Act, the Sokols Act, the Pure Wine Act, and an Act dealing with the Suppression of Insect Pests.

New Education Act.

The Elementary Schools Act has evidently been carefully drawn up by educational experts. It makes elementary education compulsory for all children and provides severe penalties in case parents or guardians withhold children from attendance at school. It is even provided that where parents or guardians are found to be unfit for their task the child may be taken away and handed over to some other family or to a State institution. In cases where great hardship would be caused by children attending school during certain seasonal agricultural work it is provided that arrangements may be made for the courses to be completed during the winter months. The Bans are made responsible for the provision of schools wherever at least thirty children of school age live within a four kilometre radius, and travelling schools are to be provided for sparsely populated districts. A fund to provide money for new school buildings has been established in Belgrade. Children must all complete eight years of schooling, but the last years may be devoted to special training. Provisions are made in the country districts for training in agricultural science and the theory of co-operation, and in the towns for training in arts and crafts and domestic science. A most modern system of play centres, elementary schools, craft and domestic training schools, and special schools for mentally and physically defective children is arranged for; with a view to suppressing illiteracy special evening schools for adults are to be provided, and attendance at these will be compulsory for all people under 25 years of age who did not attend school when children. Private schools already existing are subject to strict State inspection, and new private schools may not be opened. In districts where sufficient numbers of the children are of non-Yugoslav nationality, special schools will be established where the children will be taught in their mother tongue. Children may attend only schools in which their mother tongue is taught; thus, for example, a Hungarian child may not attend a German minority school. But children of other nationalities may attend Yugoslav schools if they choose. These minority schools are under State inspection and supported by the State, and their teachers must have the same qualifications as teachers in other schools and be qualified in the State language. The teaching of religion, which was formerly entrusted only to priests, may now, with the parents' consent, be carried on by lay teachers who are members of the same faith as that to which the children belong.

The Sokols Act unifies the organisation of gymnastic societies, formerly in the hands of various voluntary bodies, and provides for State control. The Heir to the Throne is appointed as Commander-in-Chief of the new Yugoslav Sokols Organisation.

BRITISH OFFICIALS IN IRAQ.

(Contributed.)

The following article, one of many which have recently appeared in the Iraq Press, displays a tone somewhat in discord with recent utterances in Parliament and Press in this country. It appeared in *Al Iraq*, one of the most moderate of the Iraq papers, and one which, though perhaps inspired by, is not compelled to write to the dictates of, a particular party. It is somewhat ironical that on the day of its appearance, there was also published Lord Passfield's statement in Parliament that, with the announcement of Great Britain's policy to recommend Iraq's admission to the League of Nations in 1932, the whole atmosphere in Iraq had changed and an atmosphere of suspicion had given place to one of kindness and co-operation, and one cannot but retain an uneasy thought

that the rosy hues of this statement were anticipatory rather than actual.

The article appeared in *Al Iraq* No. 2927, on November 27, and was addressed:—

TO

SIR KINAHAN CORNWALLIS AND ALL BRITISH OFFICIALS IN THE IRAQ GOVERNMENT.

Do you know, Sir, what the fallahs are saying in the diwans of their chiefs and the labourers in their coffee-shops and the middle and upper classes in their clubs and meetings and the schoolboys in their schools? We don't think you know. You are far from them in body, in spirit, and in thought. But the low worms who go between these meetings and you are too contemptible and beastly to tell you the truth. Don't trust these base creatures who come to you in the shadows and pretend to be loyal to you and in the light of day talk loudly of their patriotism. These traitors were the people in whom Sir A. T. Wilson trusted and who showed him the horizon clear and bright while it was really heavily overcast with clouds. It was they who closed the eyes and ears to the demands of the country and the chants of independence and to the national indignation with the despotic rule of 1919. The result was the insurrection and the British Government hastened to replace the young and unbending Wilson by the old and wise Cox. Then came a truce and peace followed by treaties and agreements and the establishment of an Iraq Government with Throne, Constitution, and Parliament. But everything had two faces, the inner and the outer. The outer was national rule with British guidance and the inner British rule with a make-believe of consultation with Iraq. The policy of the Conservatives was to deceive Iraq with this outward show and then to sap its blood and strength, physical and moral, by degrees until it remained weak and helpless, and then the real policy would have been revealed and the rule of Bombay and Delhi and Singapore imposed. Do you know, Gentlemen, what the Iraqis are saying about you? They say that the British Advisers and officials do not wish to recognise the revolution which has taken place by the coming into power of the Labour Government. They say that you are all Conservatives and Imperialists and that you don't like taking your orders from MacDonald and Company instead of from Baldwin and the aristocrats. You have ruled for eight years, and it is hard for you to bear now to see given the orders and to stand by and speak only when you are spoken to. You think the present Labour Government will soon go the way of the last and that then the Conservatives will come back and everything will be as before. Is not this true, *Hadhrat al Mustasharin*? The bullet which killed Abdul Muhsin and the letter which he left—"The nation demands service but the English don't agree"—is sufficient proof of what the people are saying. They say, too, that you demanded of the Saadun either that you should remain ruling as at present or that you should be paid at once the compensation stipulated in your contracts and your services dispensed with. This compensation amounts to three million rupees. Why all this excitement? Why can't you stay quietly advising when you are asked, being technical experts, and content not to interfere in the Government of the country? Why all this anger and haughtiness? Why did you entertain M. Martin, and why did you ask that high official to meet him, and what did they say to each other?

Who is the spy who went to you on the night of the tragedy and told you that the most faithful of the Ministers had altered the letter and you demanded an inquiry? Why should you interfere between the Iraq nation and the discharge of their duty to that sacred memory? All those in whom secretly you place your trust and confidence are either not Iraqis or those who do not really think of Iraq as their country, or else they are Iraqis utterly without honourable record.

You especially, Excellency Mr. Young, do you know what people say of you? They say that you stand for the principles of the late Sir Gilbert Clayton and are a true friend of the Arabs and their King, but that the British officials criticise your views and your policy which is on the side of Iraq and the Iraqis. The removal of Sir Gilbert Clayton from the political arena suited their book because they saw that he favoured to a great extent the desires of Iraq. They were afraid of him, too, because of his influence in London. But you, no doubt they have determined among themselves not to give you any chance to follow in his footsteps, and to obstruct everything which you may propose to further the Iraq national cause. No doubt they are determined in the same manner to intervene between you and Sir Francis Humphrys to prevent his being influenced by your ideas. Is not this all true? Who knows?

But what is true without doubt is that the British officials are not of the Labour Party. How could they be in sympathy with the principles of the Labour Party which will lead to their being deprived of the position, the power, and the dignity which they enjoy now?

Don't be alarmed, O British officials; we are prepared to find the price of liberty, to find the money for your compensation and your rewards and to add our thanks on top. We will do this, even if we have to sell up the old home. Everyone would give all he could find to see you going off back to your little island.

An infernal machine placed in a train running from Pirot to Belgrade exploded on December 17 when the train was near Chiflik. Three passengers were severely injured and three others less seriously. The line was not damaged, and the train was able to proceed, though it was three hours late. The Orient Express was one hour and forty minutes late owing to the incident.

Differences of opinion on such a measure are inevitable; criticism there must be, but nevertheless there is at the present time a strong and general desire for Church reunion; and it may not therefore be unreasonable to anticipate that the proposals will be well received. Undoubtedly the conditions in South India are such as are calculated to cause the wish for reunion to be very strong. The mission field is so vast that the various Churches have never been able to cover it completely. The prevention of anything in the way of over-lapping has consequently always been essential. The result is that an Indian convert in South India becomes, for example, a Wesleyan for the simple reason that he chances to live in a Wesleyan area, or a Presbyterian because he lives in a Presbyterian area and so on.

The continuance and perpetration of a system such as is above indicated is manifestly undesirable. For it means that Indian Christians who move from one part of the country to another find that there is a difference, which they cannot be expected to comprehend, in the worship and teaching of the Church. They have not sufficient knowledge of the history of the various denominations; and they are consequently discouraged by divisions which seem to them too closely to resemble the innumerable other divisions from which India suffers. A united Church, agreed on fundamentals, would overcome this difficulty, and it would also take from the antagonistic non-Christian his favourite argument against Christianity and Christians.

THOUGHTS ON INDIAN DISCONTENTS.*

This book is marked by Mr. Bevan's usual fairness and polished writing. It will appear, to the British realist, and even more to the impatient Indian politician, to be also marked by too great a degree of armchair philosophy. The author points out with perfect correctness that the grant of Dominion status in the same sense as it is enjoyed by Canada or Australia is equivalent to the entire withdrawal of India from the Empire, since the sentimental bonds which continue to unite the other Dominions will be absent. He doubts, again with much correctness, the ability of India to stand alone, if only on the ground of climatic conditions: and he advises the Young Indians to build up a new India by medical work, changes of the diets of the people, and, as it would appear, even by the institution of a new religion, which would appeal not merely to the peoples of India, but to the outside world.

All the foregoing, he observes, could be done while India was still under foreign domination: but he admits that the advice would be regarded as a mere design for diverting Indians from political agitation. There is also an unpractical touch in many of his opinions: such as his advice that all the children in India should be taught Sanskrit, and his somewhat touching belief in the efficacy of Royal Commissions. Incidentally, he is incorrect in ascribing the creation of the Commission on Agriculture, the practical results of which have yet to be seen, to the efforts of a Bengali Professor.

The weakest points in the book are, perhaps, the failure to envisage the problem of the Indian States, the only reference to which is an inadequate analogy with Northern Ireland: and the constant reference to India as a national entity. There is doubtless a growing national feeling, but it is so weak in comparison with disjunctive elements that a Federation of States is at least as probable as a single nation. The book is a pleasant one to read, but will hardly take us very far towards the solution of the Indian dilemma.

*"Thoughts on Indian Discontents." By Edwyn Bevan. (London: George Allen and Unwin. Price 6s.)

The King has approved the appointment, with effect from January 3, 1930, of Mr. Archibald Young Gipps Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., Indian Civil Service, to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras in succession to Sir Norman Edward Marjoribanks, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Indian Civil Service.

AFTER MOTHER INDIA.*

There can be little doubt that Miss Mayo's "Mother India" has been as epoch-making as Mrs. Beecher-Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." The storm raised by Miss Mayo's book has scarcely abated: its repercussions are likely to continue, it may almost be said, through the centuries. It is well, thereafter, that the numerous attacks upon and applied to that book should be summarised and examined by one so well able to do so as Captain Field. He is admittedly a partisan of Miss Mayo, but his arguments and statements are well supported, and he may be said to establish his proposition that Miss Mayo's book emerges with its main fabric practically unimpaired from the storm of abuse and refutation that greeted its appearance. It is admitted by perhaps the most skilful of the book's antagonists that the resentment provoked by the book was not due to the truth or otherwise of its statements, but to the inferences reflecting on the Indian and particularly the Hindu race and religion. In other words, the supersensitiveness of the Hindus as a whole was deeply wounded.

Many European friends of India, accustomed to deal tenderly with this sensitiveness, were inclined to regret the severity of Miss Mayo's strictures, and her omission to mention the lighter, while stressing the darker, sides of Indian life and character. Maturer reflexion, however, must show that this was no part of Miss Mayo's task, any more than it would be of any other investigator of moral abuses. It was her object to prove that the abuses existed: not that in some places, and in many individual cases, there were alleviating circumstances. The best proof of the main truth of her strictures has been the resulting action in India. The most bitter of her opponents have admitted the necessity of reform: in spite of the opposition of such Hindu die-hards as some Bar Associations and the Marwaris, the age of consent has been raised by legal enactment, and a remarkably outspoken report on child marriage has been issued by the Joshi Committee.

It is safe to say that these results would have been impossible but for Miss Mayo's book. It is no longer seriously suggested that Miss Mayo was a propagandist hired to malign India by a satanic Government. Perhaps the sorriest figure in the controversy has been cut, not by the Indian, wounded in their most sensitive regions by an attack which they knew to be too well founded, but by that section of the Christian Missionaries who, though they were at least as well aware of the truth of the book, joined, from various motives, in the attack upon it. The best course would now be to allow the book, its useful object largely attained, to sink into the background and for all parties to join in the reform of the evils, such as temple prostitution and untouchability, which are yet unaffected even by Miss Mayo's attack upon them.

*"After Mother India." By H. H. Field. (London: Jonathan Cape. 7s. 6d.)

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN 1929.

During the quarter ended September 30, 1929, there were thirty-eight particular disputes in India, of which seven were in progress at the beginning of the quarter. Four of these disputes were successful, seven were partially successful, and twenty-two were unsuccessful, while five were in progress at the end of the period. One of the successful disputes was that over wages in the jute mills of Bengal, involving 272,000 men and a loss of 2,896,000 days.

Other important disputes included twenty in the cotton mill industry, involving 133,350 men and a loss of 3,075,197 days. Of these twenty cotton mill disputes all but two were settled before the end of the quarter, fourteen were unsuccessful, three were partially successful, and one was unsuccessful. The disputes in other areas and districts were negligible, as the total figures for the whole of India were only 417,790 men and a loss of 6,202,810 days.

It is understood, according to Reuter's Bombay correspondent, that a contract has been signed between the Government of India and Eastern Airways, Ltd., for the extension of the England-India air mail service from Karachi to Bombay. In the absence of a properly equipped aerodrome at Bombay, seaplanes will for the present be used on the service, which is expected to begin at the end of January. The report so far lacks official confirmation.

INDIAN NOTES.

(Continued from page 702.)

Europeans are anxious to have the constitution working. And we therefore find it difficult to believe that they will withhold support from the new ministry, if it has the confidence of a considerable body of the Indian members, and if it sets about its work in a business-like way. In any case it seems to us that Sir Stanley Jackson is right in his determination to try to work the constitution and not to propose its suspension. A new Council has been elected, and it ought certainly to have an opportunity of exercising its constitutional rights. If the new ministry fails, then of course there may be no alternative but to retransfer the transferred departments and to administer the province without the aid of ministers.

The Indian Coastal Trade.

It is satisfactory to learn that the question of the Indian coastal trade is to be discussed under the auspices of the Viceroy in a friendly and informal manner. Such discussion will not, we fear, be assisted by the pamphlet recently issued by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, nominally as a counterblast to a circular letter issued by the European Associated Chambers. The Coastal Traffic Reservation Bill is justified in this pamphlet, which was summarised in a recent issue, on two grounds, the example of other countries in dealing with coastal trade, and the report of the Indian Mercantile Committee. As regards the first, the circumstances of India are entirely different from those of other countries. The interport traffic has been built up by the British companies established in India, and the *swadeshi* companies have signally failed to show that they can meet the requirements of the trade, both for goods and passengers. Without an efficient carrying trade, the coastal regions in India must be cut off to a far greater extent than in other countries, where rail and road communication is more feasible. As regards the Mercantile Committee's Report, the only member of it with any inside knowledge dissented from the findings on the question of coastal trade. Even these findings, however, recognised that the ideal of Indian management, crews, and capital were for the present incapable of practical realisation. Their much milder recommendation was that "after a time" the ownership and control of the coastal shipping should be predominantly Indian. As is usual in the case of Indian reforms all that is stated to be ultimately and conditionally desirable is demanded immediately, without any condition whatever. Even the pamphlet, moreover, finds it somewhat difficult to reconcile the proposals of the Bill with the passage in the Nehru Report, "it is inconceivable that there can be any discriminating legislation again any community doing business lawfully in India." The pamphlet makes the not unusual but none the less vague reference to the past of India before the advent of the English. There is, however, exact historical knowledge regarding the coastal trade. It is well known that it was harried by pirates from Chittagong to the Persian Gulf till these were extirpated by the English, and that the trade was entirely in the hands of the Mussalman Arabs till these were ousted by the ships of European nations. An indigenous Indian coastal trade never existed, and can only be reared by the most careful of measures. The pamphlet is signed by the President of the Federation, Mr. G. D. Birla, the head of the Birla Cotton Mills of Delhi. This is the gentleman who, at the recent Maharashtra Commercial Conference, warned the Indian commercial interests of Bombay against any form of Imperial Preference. Like other Indian politicians he is anxious for all the advantages of Dominion Status, without any idea of the obligations therein involved. If these be the leaders of India, there is small hope of the Indo-British Federation of Provinces and States, for which the most thoughtful, in India no less than in England, hope.

THE INDIAN STATES AND THE COMING CONFERENCE.

The great importance of the part which the Indian States are destined to play in the future of the British connexion with India was again emphasised in an address delivered by Professor L. F. Rushbrook Williams to the members of the Constitutional Club on December 18.

In the course of his paper the lecturer said that India was the land of tradition, and that of many of the Indian native States dated back to far beyond the claims of history. Seven out of every ten inhabitants of British India recognised with pride their hereditary allegiance to one or other of the States, from which also were recruited an overwhelming proportion of the native fighting forces in India. The general success of the policy which had been pursued in regard to the States, while open to criticism in some minor points, was, he claimed, well exemplified by the attachment which the Princes had displayed towards British rule in every crisis which had confronted the Empire. Even in the dark days of the Mutiny the States had loyally honoured the treaty bond that joined them to the King Emperor.

The influence of the States was always exerted in the direction of stability and ordered progress. The value of their contribution to the forthcoming Round Table Conference, in his view, lay largely in that fact and the knowledge that we could rely upon them to throw all their weight on the side of right and justice. After pointing out that the States were slowly but surely liberalising their institutions in deference to Western ideas of efficiency and good administration, Professor Rushbrook Williams said that their government was stable and prosperous. They were one and all devotedly attached to the Empire and at any time could therefore constitute a valuable bridge in the relations between British India and the Home Government. The undeveloped wealth in the 600,000 square miles of territory under their control was another valuable asset. And above all, he concluded, the Indian Princes had always played the game.

THE SOUTH INDIAN CHURCHES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The South Indian Church movement, to which much attention is being attracted, is a scheme the object of which is the union of the Anglican Church of South India, the United Church of South India and the Wesleyan Church. Union has been under discussion in South India for many years, the first practical step towards it having been taken as far back as 1908 when the United Church was formed by the amalgamation of the churches connected with five British and American missionary societies, both Congregationalists and Presbyterian.

Approximately three quarters of a million Indian Christians will be affected by the present proposals. For the Anglican Church in South India has nearly 396,000 members, the South Indian United Church has upwards of 231,000 members, and the Wesleyan Church has nearly 112,000. The suggested basis of union is the common acceptance by the three contracting Churches of (a) the Bible; (b) the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds; (c) the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; and (d) the Episcopate. The proposals, which have been framed by a Joint Committee after discussions and consultations extending over more than ten years, have been embodied in a report which is being submitted separately to the three Churches. The General Assembly of the United Church considered this report at a recent meeting at Bangalore, when it accepted the proposals subject to certain modifications in detail. The Anglican Church and the Wesleyan Church have still to give their judgment; and thereafter the scheme will be reviewed by the Lambeth Conference which will meet in July next.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Friday Morning.

"Nunc Gaudet Ecclesia."

Now make we merry, all and some,
For Christmas now is come

That hath no peer.

Sing we all in fere.

Now joy and bliss

They shall not miss

That make good cheer.

Even the most pagan of us, though he have to write in the week before Christmas, must feel the anticipatory warmth of the embers of Yuletide. Possibly, indeed, the most pagan in North-Western Europe experience most keenly the jollity and good cheer of this generous time: there is something in the comradeship and celebration which stretches back over dim centuries, to the time when Christianity was unknown in these islands. In Scandinavia, I believe, the pagan element in Christmas, though not outstripping the consecrated Christian element, is even more vital than in England.

But it is, of course, still the day of glory and rejoicing in the Christian sense. *Salvator mundi natus est.* And everywhere, in town and village, children will be accompanying their fathers and mothers to Church on Christmas morning, with the sparkle of joy in their faces and something of the *mirabile misterium* in their hearts. It is, indeed, a "blessed time."

To all my readers, therefore, and to all my non-readers (except knaves and the miserly), for the matter of that, I wish a very merry Christmas, and that in the New Year "all things shall prosper well."

Christmas Crowds.

As one elbows one's way through the massed crowd in, say, Oxford Street, Regent Street, or Cheapside, the noise made by the crashes, actual or impending or threatened, of great financiers in the City, seems very remote. No lack of prosperity here, would be the unfailing observation of the stranger watching the vast number of all sorts of people going in and out of the shops in their search for Christmas presents. Perhaps one is wrong, but there do seem to be in the streets of London at this time an even greater number of people than usual, whether it is young ladies gasping out "But how exquisite!" at Debenhams

and Freebody's, or schoolboys chortling with delight at the topping toys at Gamage's, or puzzled men wondering what the deuce to give to their "in-laws" or remoter relations.

In any case, everybody is very hearty and conciliatory about all the jostling: the only person I have seen really to lose her temper was a sweet young shop assistant who failed after minutes of the most correct form of suasion to convince a middle-aged woman of uncertain resolve that she wanted anything at all.

One of the minor attractions in London—it is a unique occasion—is the row of pedlars who are allowed at this period of the year to stand on the kerb in High Holborn selling all kinds of mechanical devices (made mostly in Germany, I fear) which are anything from two shillings to twopence. They appear to do a roaring trade—which is just as well, for they will not pass that way again until next Christmas-tide.

Political Discontents.

Political matters seem ridiculously unimportant at such a festive time as this, but to at least one section of the community—the Conservatives—it is to be hoped that Christmas will bring a more cheerful spirit. An old and acute observer of Parliamentary debates—he is also a Conservative—told me the other day that he had never known an Opposition so depressing and so resigned as the present Opposition appears to be. The Conservatives, of course, know this, and their mood at the moment is one of "insipidated gloom."

Of ideas they show no trace, of keenness no trace, even of a conception of their Parliamentary obligations no trace. There have been at least two recent divisions when the Government might have been outvoted, but it was saved by the absenteeism of the Conservatives. What is wrong with the Party? Everyone is asking the question.

The other day the organisation of Tory canvassers met in solemn conclave in Caxton Hall to discuss the problem. One of their main difficulties was discovered to be—snobbery. Of course this is a difficulty, but it is one which exists in every party. Investigation will have to go deeper than this. As it is, the situation is too lamentable for words. A hostile but not unkindly critic has just said, concerning the snobbery with which the Party is said to be infected from top to bottom:—"Almost anything seems true to the Conservatives in their present introspective mood. Something will have to be done soon, if only on grounds of humanity, in the general cause of cheering them up."

The Cecil.

"We knew it was coming, but we didn't think it was going to be so soon," as a defeated American President certainly never remarked. Similarly of the Hotel Cecil: we knew its fate was sealed, but did not dream that definite news of its passing would be heard before the end of the year.

The other day, however, the Shell Mex Company bought the Hotel for a million and a half pounds, and though a restaurant is to continue in the building, the main part will become, what many other hotels not in the West End—such as De Keyser's or the Holborn Viaduct—have become: business offices.

The Strand has perhaps changed more than any other street since the War. Not in the literal sense, of course. Nash's Regent Street, I suppose, is the most transformed in the material sense of all London streets. But at the time when the Cecil was built it was in the centre of West London's pleasures. And even a short time before the War it was possible to sing with a certain convincingness, "Let's all go down the Strand." Nowadays one goes down to Strand only to get the tube at Trafalgar Square or up it to Fleet Street. Soon there will be scarcely an hotel or tavern left in the Strand, for hostleries in the City are, quite simply, unable to stand the onslaught of banks, business houses, and tea-shops.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

December 26, 1929 (New Style).

December 13, 1929 (Old Style).

Rajab 24, 1348 A.H., of the Muslim Calendar.

Kislev 24, 5690, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord Rathdonnel sailed in the P. and O. s.s. Ranchi from Tilbury for Port Said on December 20.

Viscount Erleigh arrived in London on December 24 from Palestine.

The Earl of Inchcape left London on December 12 for the Continent, to join the Countess of Inchcape.

Sir George and the Hon. Lady Barstow have left London for Persia on a visit of about six weeks' duration.

Lord and Lady Hawke left Belgrave Square on December 20 for Marseilles, joining the Maloja, for Calcutta, and will be away until April.

The Right Hon. Sir George Clerk (his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Turkey) had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on December 18.

M. Buroff, Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Moloff, Bulgarian Minister of Finance, arrived in London on December 17. They were met at Victoria Station by Mr. J. B. Monck, of the Foreign Office, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The Ministers visited Mr. Henderson at the Foreign Office on December 18, and later had an interview with Mr. Snowden at the Treasury. On December 20 they met the Prime Minister at the House of Commons, and left later in the day for Paris and The Hague.

The following are among the appointments to the Colonial Services which have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Iraq.—Major W. C. Stubbs, D.S.O., M.C., to be Inspector of Medical Services, Iraq Army; Major E. G. Turner, D.S.O., to be Inspector, Veterinary Services, Iraq Army; Mr. E. Holmes, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., to be Medical Officer.

Cyprus.—Mr. H. L. D. Gee, to be Chief Warden; Miss J. E. Crowe, to be Nursing Sister.

Palestine.—Mr. T. J. Roberts, to be Telegraph Superintendent, Posts and Telegraphs Department.

To celebrate the birthday of King Alexander of Yugoslavia, a service was held at the Russian (St. Philip's) Church, 188, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., at noon on December 17.

In the afternoon the Yugoslav Minister held a reception at the Legation. Those present included the Czechoslovak Minister and Mme. Masaryk, the Countess of Leitrim, Annie Viscountess Cowdray, Lady Abinger, Sir John Sandeman Allen, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir Martin Conway, Sir Charles Des Graz, Sir Arthur Evans, Lady Gooch, Sir Bernard Pares, Sir Hilton and Lady Young, Colonel A. T. Atherton, Colonel and Mrs. Crossfield, Canon J. A. Douglas, Canon Jackman, Colonel and Mrs. Luxmore, Dame Louise McIlroy, Mr. Wickham Steed, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, Mr. A. Taylor, and the Bishop of Guildford, and Mrs. Carrington Wilde.

After having formally resigned, the Greek Government was sworn in on December 16 in the presence of M. Zaimis, the newly-elected President. The only change in the Cabinet, resulting from the resignation of M. Gonatas and his appointment as Governor-General of Macedonia, is that M. Karapanagiotis, formerly Under-Secretary of Communications, becomes Minister of Communications. M. Avraam has been appointed Under-Secretary in place of M. Karapanagiotis.

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY IN IRAQ.

The Appeal Fund of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) has now reached approximately £8,200—apart from Gertrude Bell's legacy of £6,000. Among recent donors are Dr. H. S. Wellcome (£1,000 payable by ten yearly instalments), Mr. James H. Hyde (£100), the Eastern Bank (£50), Mrs. J. Yates Thompson (£50), Mr. Walter H. L. Shadwell (£50), and the Archbishop of Canterbury (£10).

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Mr. C. M. Palaret, the new British Minister to Roumania, presented his credentials to the Regent on December 17.

Mr. Alban Musgrave Thomas (Puisne Judge, Trinidad) has been appointed a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Cyprus.

Sentences amounting in the aggregate to 331 years have been imposed at Sofia on fifty-two Bulgarian Communists on charges of seeking to form a Communist party.

A draft law was lodged in the Greek Chamber on December 18, whereby Admiral Konduriotis, the former President, is granted an annual pension of 500,000 drachmæ (£1,335).

Masked bandits concealed themselves on board an express train as it was leaving Bucharest station on December 18. They emerged as the train was passing Ploeshiti. The guard at once pulled the communication cord, but the bandits managed to escape.

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Book Reviews

THE INFLUENCE OF THE DANUBE ON WESTERN CIVILISATION.

"THE DANUBE IN PREHISTORY." By V. Gordon Childe. Illustrations and Maps. (The Clarendon Press. £2 2s. net.)

It cannot be said that much has yet been done in the way of scientific field-work to investigate the prehistory of the Danubian basin. So far palaeological examination has been restricted to a very limited number of sites, and large areas are still untouched. Still, much information has already been acquired and is to be found stored in museums all over the area and in articles in numerous technical journals in various tongues. There has, however, been no thorough guide to show us the way through this mass of miscellaneous material, and no real attempt has yet been made to summarise the facts available or to indicate what conclusions may, provisionally, be drawn from them, as also the lines on which further investigation should proceed in the hope of filling in gaps and finding firmer ground.

This is the task which Professor Childe has set himself. It has evidently involved a prodigious amount of reading and of careful examination of the contents of very many museums. As his subject ranges from palaeolithic times to the Scythian invasion, we may well admire the skill with which he has managed to bring all his matter into the comparatively small space of some 400 of his fine big pages and has, at the same time, made these pages interesting even to the ordinary cultured layman. His task has been made easier by his fine selection of illustrative matter from museums and by the liberality of the Clarendon Press in allowing a wholly praiseworthy profusion in the way of pictures. The text well deserves this liberal treatment, for we now have a firm foothold from which to advance further with our eyes open, and it is altogether a matter of congratulation that this necessary work should have been done in so thorough, authoritative and satisfactory manner. Indeed, the only point that we have been able to discover is the occasional occurrence of wrong references to the illustrations.

The main theme of the book is the advance of an Eastern Mediterranean or Ægean civilisation in early Neolithic times up the Danube Valley, gradually finding its way down other valleys adjacent to the Danube and finally penetrating westward into Holland, Belgium and even Britain and southward to Thessaly, Switzerland and Italy. This advance took place at a time when the climatic conditions of Central Europe had caused the disappearance of all but a few human survivals from epipalaeolithic times. These remained in the shape of some scattered families of hunters who, however, with their more numerous brethren in the North, exercised an important influence in gradually modifying the culture of the intruders. We are shown how these invaders were able to make their way along the large areas of loess which constituted the only possible road through the vast area of impenetrable forest which then covered the area. We follow their progress as the climate gradually changed, thinning the forest and opening new ways. We appreciate the local resources of the districts chiefly occupied and understand why it was that, with local supplies of tin, antimony and copper, the use of bronze, too, came to us from the Danube. We have glimpses of trade relations between this people and Troy as well as with the Baltic. We get faint glimpses, for we shall not see clearly till much more fieldwork has been done, of the passage of peoples who may be Achæan, Dorian, Latin, and other tribes on their way to the Southern Peninsulas. Finally we come to the great flood of invasion into our area from the North and from Southern Russia till, with Scythians in the East and constant raids on their part on the lands of Hungary, we reach the Iron Age and near the dawn of historical times.

These are but paltry indications of the wealth of matter

contained in his book, and of its richly detailed discussions on the shape and decoration of stone tools, pottery, bronze vessels, pins, knives, daggers, swords, and so forth, it is unfortunately impossible to give any idea in the space at our disposal. But we trust that we have at least been able to give some hint of its importance and interest even to the average reader. As for students of the subject, they owe Professor Childe a debt which they are not likely to underestimate.

C. S-W.

THE "DREIKAISERBUND."

"THE SABUROV MEMOIRS." Translated and edited by J. Y. Simpson. (Cambridge University Press. 15s. net.)

Peter Alexandrovitch Saburov was the ambassador selected by the Tsar Alexander II. to pursue at Berlin his new policy of close understanding with Prussia, a policy which the ambassador himself had very much at heart. His exertions led to the successful accomplishment in 1881 of the famous secret League between the Emperors of Russia, Germany and Austria which remained in force till 1887. As he took a leading part in the negotiations, his careful and detailed account of them, which he compiled for private circulation just before the Great War broke out, is of the greatest interest for the study of the relations between the three countries and their neighbours at the time.

It reads now curiously like very ancient history. These discussions between Ministers representing not their "august masters," kept so rigidly secret and conducted with the greatest and apparent frankness combined with entire distrust of the others' motives, a distrust entirely justified, make queer reading nowadays, and help one to realise how far Europe has travelled in the last fifty years. Saburov served his Emperor well, but he had no easy task in trying to keep level with Bismarck. The reader of the present day has no difficulty in seeing how cleverly and surely "ce tigre de Bismarck" not only got his own way but, when it suited him, also made the initiative come from the Russian side. Without the help of Saburov, it may be doubted whether the very unwilling Austrians would ever have been induced to enter into the League. Without Bismarck's lead it is quite certain that the League would never have come into existence.

To readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA it will be specially interesting to note the cynical want of any pretence that the welfare of the Balkan States would have been of interest to Russia, if their existence and the Pan-Slav feeling among the nations had not made them of the greatest use in keeping open the way of Russia to Constantinople and the Straits.

How difficult it is for the most astute statesmen to prophesy is shown by a remark of Bismarck's that "Italy is of no account as a Great Power. There are countries extinct like certain heavenly bodies, which do not return to life a second time." Bismarck had clearly no premonition of Signor Mussolini. Saburov did better when he said to Bismarck: "It is a very possible situation that England ranges herself on the side of France, if, for example, on strategic grounds you violate the neutrality of Belgium. Italy, also, can become the ally of France." And that was thirty-four years before these actual events took place.

WOMEN IN MODERN INDIA.

"WOMEN IN MODERN INDIA." Edited by Evelyn Gedge and Mithan Chokol. (Bombay: Taraporevala. Rs. 4, or 7s. 6d. net.)

This little book has an interest and value far exceeding its modest size. It is made up of fifteen papers by Indian ladies, which cover almost every aspect of modern education, and many branches of social service and domestic science. At first reading, one may feel some pleasurable surprise that Indian women have already advanced so far as to be able to produce a book which

indicates such solid progress. A more considered opinion will realize how few are the women who have yet been reached, and how vast are the difficulties. There is a rather frothy initial chapter on the status of women in India, which seeks to suggest that all was lovely in the condition of women in Vedic and even in mediæval times: that, owing to foreign invasion, there has been a rapid decline in India in the last hundred years, and consequently a deterioration in the position of women. The other writers, however, write more sensibly and recognise that the most serious restrictions on the women of India are those imposed by tradition and custom, and, in the case of the Hindus, by ancient law. It is recognised that by Hindu Law women were mere dependents, "absolutely without independent rights"; a much less favourable position than that accorded by Muhammadan law. We observe that the disastrous purdah system is as usual ascribed to the Muhammadans, though it is no part of Islamic Law, and seems to have been observed in the Rajput families before the first Muhammadan invasion. Interesting as the chapters on education are, the most solid papers, perhaps, are those contributed by Dr. Hilda Lazarus on women's Medical work, and by Mrs. Hamid Ali on Maternity and Welfare work, the latter especially being founded on practical experience in the districts. As one writer truly observes, the interest of Indian women in rather violent politics is a passing phase. Their real duty, as well as their opportunity, is to lead in social reform, and especially in domestic amelioration. The book, apart from its intrinsic merits, has a most praiseworthy object: that of assisting the excellent University Settlement for Women in Bombay, which fully deserves all the help that can be given it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

PERSIAN AND AFGHAN CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE EAST.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Your sympathetic leader on the "New Régime" in Afghanistan, in your issue of October 31, encourages me to make an observation or two, for which I hope you will make room in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA. We see from the telegrams that Afghanistan is setting its house in order. Whether the latent coolness between Amir Nadir Khan and Amanullah Khan will eventually result in mutual reconciliation, is a question the solution of which needs no outside influence. Our (Indian) interest centres on peace in Afghanistan. Our solicitude is for a strong, independent and self-developing neighbour.

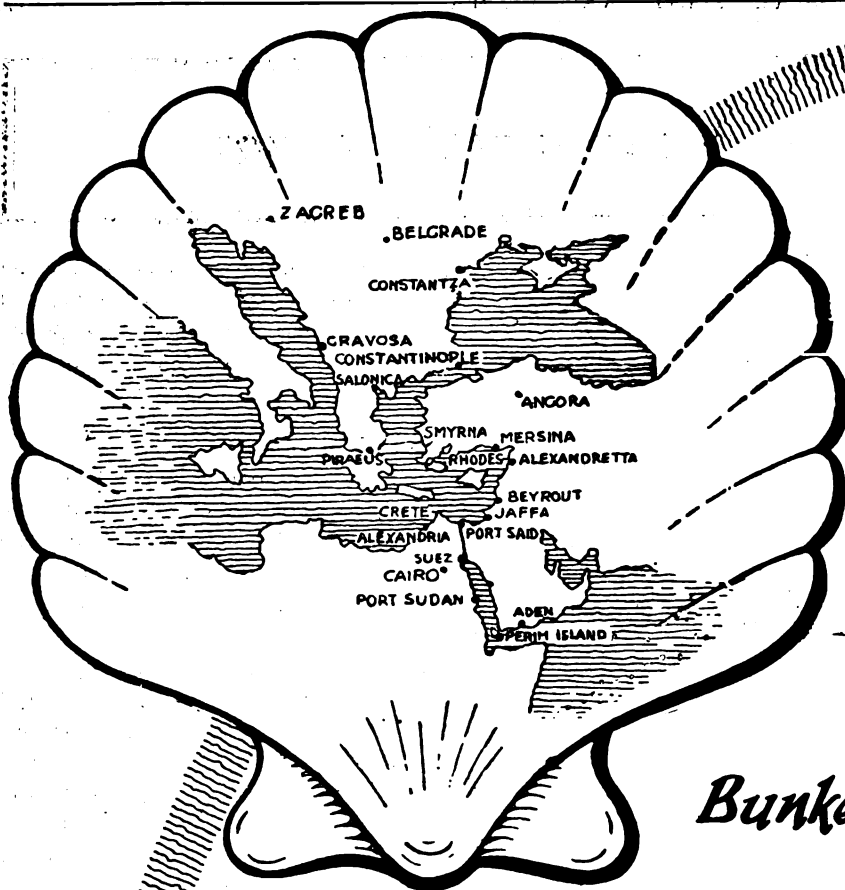
There is, apparently, I do not say evidently, no love lost between the British and the Afghan authorities. The five years that the new Amir has stayed in Paris have naturally gone to strengthening what leaning he had towards the French, whose language he speaks with fluency and whose institutions he admires. Education used to be partly in the hands of the French in Kabul in the previous régime and the archæological survey is still left exclusively to French experts. Such a number of Afghans have returned from Paris that I should not be surprised, if French officers now entirely supplant the Germans, who used to be, if anything, in the ascendant under King Amanullah. It has been an open secret that Afghanistan needs financial help; none of Amir Nadir Khan's projects will come to fruition without money. We know that some merchants like those from Tashkent and elsewhere have made personal offerings to the new Amir. They do not surprise us and we have no reason to attribute them wholly to the very sound propaganda in which Nadir Khan has placed his trust. Would it be too much,

therefore, to ask, and ask through you, since the Afghans are now quite satisfied about the inexorable neutrality of the British and Indian Governments, whether it is in the interests of the country to continue salaried Consulates? For money saved is money got. I have the figures, but do not feel fully justified in placing them before the public, to show the cost of what patriotic Afghans must call white elephants. I emphasise the point for another and more important reason. The case of Persia is exactly parallel with Afghanistan in this respect. Persia is comparatively much richer, but her trade with India does not far exceed our trade with Afghanistan. Is there any reason why Riza Shah, who is above unsubstantial demonstrations and the vanity of pomp, should spend large sums of money for maintaining three Consulates in India? How much the stipendiary Consul-General in Delhi or Simla, the one in Bombay, and the assistant one in Karachi, cost in aggregate is not quite a secret, though not generally known. At the very least, the Persian and the Afghan Governments, especially the former, could yearly save Rs.40,000, if they reverted to the former arrangement by which Honorary Consuls conducted all the business that the highly paid functionaries are now expected to discharge. I should be sorry if my observations are taken as a personal reflexion on anybody. But they are never meant to do so. The present incumbents are not at all known to me. But I have heard from reliable sources sufficiently about them to believe that their capabilities could be more usefully employed elsewhere. It is patent that it is impossible for functionaries freshly coming from Teheran or Kabul to get acquainted with the local "ropes" at once. None of them knows well the English language, or even one of the principal vernaculars of India. Few come equipped with that knowledge of international and local laws which is so essential, and fewer come with an acquaintance with the principal Persian and Afghan subjects resident in India. They are fish out of water in Simla, Calcutta, Bombay or Karachi. I hope to speak in detail on the disabilities under which these officers new to India labour on a future occasion. To-day I want to solicit attention of the Governments concerned to the financial gain which both Persia and Afghanistan stand to make, if they did away with the costly stipendiary Consulates, finding more congenial occupations for them nearer home, and reverted to the old procedure of the Honorary Representatives. Although I am sure that there will be always public spirited Persians, one of whom was the most successful Consul at Karachi, to come forward and manage a Consulate out of patriotic motives, in view of the prestige which the Oriental States desire to keep up. The latter may give a monthly allowance to cultured Persians and Afghan gentlemen who represent their countries out here for out-of-pocket expenses. From very minute experience I would make bold to urge that both Persia and Afghanistan would do well to abolish paid Consulates throughout the East, including Syria, Palestine, Iraq, China and Japan, for in all these countries qualified persons to be Honorary Consuls are always available. The cities which have no such men are not worth a Consulate. It would be to their own advantage, if a beginning is made with India. If our Eastern neighbours need a precedent, they have more than one in some of the advanced Sovereign States of Europe and America, which have only Honorary Consuls in British India. We have only to think of Bombay when Mr. Mirza Ali Mahomed Khan (now the honourable Justice Mirza) was Honorary Persian Consul, to be satisfied that both Afghanistan and Persia can be efficiently represented at least in India with considerable saving in State Revenue. —I am, etc.,

ARDESHIR EDATJE BENGALI.

Bombay, November 22.

Mirza Habibullah Khan Hoveyda, Amin-ul-Mulk, who was sent to the Hijaz on a special mission in the early part of 1928, has been appointed Persian diplomatic representative at Mecca.



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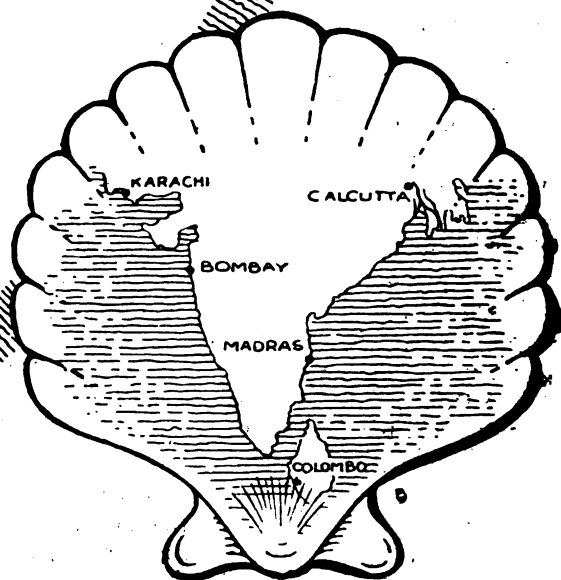
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SHELL



Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

[Owing to the Christmas Holidays this issue of the
NEAR EAST AND INDIA has had to be printed on
December 21.]

The New Egyptian Tariff.

The Egyptian Government undertook to give details of the new tariff in time to enable the Chambers of Commerce in Egypt to examine the changes and make comments on them, and the particulars of the tariff have accordingly now been published. The alterations, broadly speaking, follow the lines expected. There have been two main objects in framing the new tariff—the stimulation of native industries and the provision of an additional source of revenue. Home industries are to be assisted by the reduction of duties on raw materials, machinery, and coal, and by the abolition of export duties, except on cotton, cotton seed, eggs, and skins. The Government has the right under the new law to impose retaliating duties in the case of Egyptian exports which are penalised by other countries and as regards imported commodities which are subsidised. Where *ad valorem* duties are imposed the maximum level is 15 per cent. as compared with the previous 8 per cent. If there are any points in the tariff to which particular exception is taken by the foreign community there will now be ample opportunity to make adequate representations on the subject, and the evidence that the Government has provided of its willingness to meet the wishes of the trading community makes it clear that they will be given the most careful consideration.

Land Reclamation in Greece.

Rather over a year ago the Greek Government awarded to Messrs. Henry Boot and Sons, Ltd., of Sheffield and London, an important contract for reclamation and irrigation works in Thessaly and Epirus. The actual ratification of contracts is a process which takes time, and it was only last week that the signature of the agreement took place. In view of the urgent need for this scheme it is to be regretted that the Greek authorities could not see their way to expedite matters, for the survey, which, it is understood, will be begun next month under the supervision of Sir Murdoch Macdonald, cannot be completed in much under two years, so that much valuable time has been lost unnecessarily. The reclamation and irrigation works form part of the Government's scheme for the settlement of the repatriated Greeks from Asia Minor, and their vast nature may be gathered from the fact that large areas in Thessaly and Epirus are to be drained, and that the necessary operations will include the construction of a seven mile tunnel. The completion of the works will mean the addition to Greek agriculture of extensive areas of the most fertile land on which it will be possible to grow grain crops, tobacco and cotton. Greece's primary need is a very substantial increase in

the production of wheat to save her from being compelled to import large amounts of this commodity each year, and it would probably be to her lasting interest if a policy were pursued of concentrating on grain crops in the new lands for the present.

The Building Trade in Palestine.

Some trades respond far more readily than others to the economic conditions of a region, and are thus indicative to some extent of the position during a given period. The building industry comes under this heading, as it is particularly susceptible to good times or the reverse. The figures of building operations in Palestine in 1928 have recently been issued, and, as might be expected, they show a considerable falling off in activity as compared with previous years, thus reflecting the long-drawn-out depression from which Palestine has been suffering. Actually the amount invested in buildings in 1928 was £P702,462 as against £P770,064 for 1927, £P1,140,965 for 1926 and £P2,058,705 for 1925. It will be seen from these figures that there was a rapid decline in the industry over the four years, but it would be a mistake to draw too unfavourable deductions from that fact. In the period of development after the War there was an outburst of building activity, and it was inevitable that the extent of the building operations undertaken should be followed in the most favourable circumstances by a tendency to slow down. The extent of the decline has been due, of course, to the depression. It is possible that the present year will mark a new upward movement, for up to the time of the disturbances conditions generally were undoubtedly improving in the country, and while the troubles had an effect for about a month, it is notable that there was a speedy resumption of activity in the building trade—a most healthy indication of returning confidence.

Oil Deposits in Turkey.

According to a contemporary, the question of petroleum production in Turkey is now receiving the most serious attention. Adjacent as it is to important oil areas, it

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would be strange if no deposits existed in Turkey, and, as pointed out in the article in question, a number of deposits are known to exist. The view apparently held in Turkey, however, that there may be a possible production of 1,000,000 tons a year, leaving 900,000 tons available for export after providing for home requirements seems to be rather fantastical. It may be stated that careful prospecting for oil in Turkey since the War has satisfied more than one investigator that the commercial exploitation of such oil areas as may exist would not at present be a remunerative undertaking. That is not to say that in the course of time Turkey may not develop an oil industry for local purposes, but it would seem clear that at this present juncture it must be sounder policy to concentrate on the improvement of her known economic resources rather than court disappointment and loss in an uncertain undertaking.

Barclays (Overseas) Results.

A very satisfactory statement is forthcoming from Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) for the year ended September 30 last. The accounts published are the third to be issued covering a normal year, and as was the case last year there is again an increase in the net profits. A year ago the net profits amounted to £494,823, and the total for the past year is £516,594, the available balance being £647,303 as against £617,301. The allocation for income tax, etc., is £130,000 as against £120,000, and the reserve fund is again to receive £150,000, while it is proposed to pay a final dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the "A" and "B" shares, making $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year as against 4 per cent. last year, leaving £137,981 to be carried forward as against £130,709.

COMMENTATOR.

ARTIFICIAL COTTON AND FLAX PRODUCTION.

Latest Developments.

(From a Correspondent.)

A year ago the discovery of "English Artificial Cotton" was announced, and specimens of the fibre, yarn, and fabrics were shown to experts. Material was available to selected spinners in many countries for the purposes of tests on their own machinery. Microphotographs were taken by textile chemists and others. Every possible investigation was conducted, and the reports received from the several sources bore out the earliest claims for "Artificial Cotton."

Certain constructive criticisms were appreciated. Other would-be critics who had not even seen the fibre or yarn expressed scepticism. Generally they appeared to be

irritated because the new fibre challenged the supremacy of cotton, and they ignored the clear lesson confronting Lancashire that unless fabrics can be made more cheaply the lost export trade could not be recaptured.

Since the first announcement, the research staff of the English Artificial Cotton Production and Marketing Corporation, Ltd., has been closely engaged in devising improvements and extending the botanical resources. Cotton spinners in this country and abroad have applied for the treated fibre in large quantities, many thousands of quota forms have been completed, and it is hoped in the near future to be able to distribute among the trade a proportionate amount of raw material.

The urgency of this demand caused the Corporation to renew its research in respect of the fibre of "Asclepias," or Milkweed. It was found that the special process which had proved so successful in the perfection of "Artificial Cotton" could be applied, with certain adjustments, to "Asclepias" fibre. This result has opened an immensely valuable prospect.

In addition the Corporation has arranged for the growing of "Artificial Cotton," "Artificial Flax," and other fibres on a very extensive scale in Spain, where the soil and climate promise prolific crops. A substitute for flax has recently been perfected, and a prominent group of Irish linen manufacturers who have kept in close touch with developments in this connexion announced some time ago by the English Artificial Cotton Production and Marketing Corporation, Ltd., made a practical gesture last month in inviting Mr. C. J. Hedley-Thornton to meet in Belfast representatives of the Ulster Ministry of Agriculture, the Ulster farmers, and leaders of flax spinning in the North of Ireland. At the Conference which took place at the Grand Central Hotel, Belfast, on November 4, samples of "Artificial Flax" fibre and the fabrics made from it in Belfast mills were submitted to inspection. These made a deep impression on the experts, and consideration was afterwards given to the possibility of an experimental cultivation of the fibre on North of Ireland soil.

The group responsible for the Conference entered into an arrangement with the English Artificial Cotton Production and Marketing Corporation, Ltd., under which plants will be supplied by the latter organisation and the growing supervised. Since then the raw material has been tested in Belfast by practical flax spinning concerns, and the fabrics produced have a strength and beauty which have astonished even those who were optimistic, so much so that one order alone amounted to no less than 10,000,000 lb. per annum. The Ulster flax spinning industry, which has experienced lean times, is, therefore, enabled to take a buoyant view of its prospects.

The Greek Government, after an examination of the demands of the striking students of Athens University, on December 16 accepted those which tend to the scientific advancement of the University.

Brig.-Gen. the Hon. A. V. F. V. Russell has been elected a member of the Boards of the Sun Insurance Office and of the Sun Life Assurance Society.

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THE ROUMANIAN MONOPOLIES INSTITUTE.

The Kingdom of Roumania Monopolies Institute was created at the beginning of this year at the time of the arrangement of the Stabilisation and Development Loan. The functions of the Institute are the exploitation of the monopolies, and the undertaking of all commercial and financial operations in the interests of the monetary stabilisation and economic development of the State. In order to inform the Roumanian and foreign public of the activities of the Institute, the Board of Directors is publishing a quarterly bulletin in Roumanian, French, and English. The first issue of the bulletin, which is now forthcoming, covering the period from the creation of the Institute until July 31, gives a comprehensive survey of the organisation of the undertaking in addition to details of the financial results of the exploitation of the monopolies for the first half of 1929, the execution of the loan contract, and the Budget of the Institute.

The old Regie of the Monopolies transferred to the Institute the establishments and exploitation services of the monopolies, which include six tobacco factories, three match factories, thirteen salt mines, extensive services for the cultivation and fermentation of tobacco, and its commercial organisation. As regards production, the Institute has three branches of activity. There is first the agricultural section, which deals with tobacco cultivation. In 1928 27,702 hectares were under tobacco, while in the present year the area planted amounted to 32,075 hectares. Last year's crop totalled 15,562,477 kgs., and this year's harvest is expected to be considerably in advance of these figures. It is stated that the depôts for fermentation and warehousing were found not only to be unsuitable but also inadequate, and the Institute therefore decided to finish or construct ten new establishments with modern installations for manipulation and ventilation. It was planned to complete this work in time for this year's harvest. The industrial section of the Institute includes the tobacco factories and the match factories, but the latter have been taken over since July for exploitation by companies created by the State in agreement with the Svenska Tandticksaktiebolaget. For three reasons the production of the tobacco factories is stated to be unsatisfactory. Cigarettes are made which are not suitable to present-day requirements; they are mostly made by hand, while the total production of cigarettes is insufficient. It was decided first to reorganise the Belvedere factory in Bucharest, and two foreign engineers were entrusted with the elaboration of the necessary plans. Large orders for modern machinery have been given for the various factories, including 19 cigarette making machines, 25 cigarette packing machines, and 40 machines for cutting tobacco. The third

branch is the mining section, in regard to which the criticism is forthcoming that the present state of exploitation does not give entire satisfaction, the methods of work being primitive and the organisation of the work defective. A foreign expert has been entrusted with the task of drawing up a plan for the exploitation of the salt mines, and the hope is expressed that within a short time there will be a considerable reduction in the cost of salt production rendering possible competition with foreign markets.

Commercial Organisation.

As regards what may be termed the selling organisation, tobacco is sold by the depots and the post offices, by whom the retailers are supplied. In some parts of the country the methods of supply are inadequate, and a reorganisation of the system is envisaged. One of the chief difficulties is in regard to the control of contraband, which is reported to have grown to disquieting proportions of late. The law governing contraband has recently been revised and modified to bring it into line with the existing conditions. The organisation for the sale of salt is very inadequate, and in some parts of the country it is necessary to go 50 to 60 kilometres to obtain this commodity. The Institute has introduced a new system for the sale of salt, based on the principle that everyone has the right to keep a salt depot, but the salt must be sold at official prices. To facilitate supplies the Institute has organised offices at the salt mines to deal with orders. It is confidently believed that the new system will result in a great increase in the number of places at which salt can be obtained.

For the first six months of the year the total collection by the Institute amounted to 3,264,477,737 lei. The charges of the Institute for the whole year are as follows: (1) Stabilisation Loan 1,491,000,000 lei; (2) working expenses 2,821,749,815 lei; (3) organisation and Régie of the Institute (new services) 20,000,000 lei; (4) Royalty to the State 3,756,000,000 lei; total 8,088,749,815 lei. There remains therefore to be collected during the remainder of this year 4,824,272,078 lei. In July the collections amounted to 648,000,000 lei, and as this month marks the beginning of the important period of the year as regards consumption, it is anticipated that at the worst the collections will not be more than 400,000,000 lei below the estimates of 4,534,000,000 lei for the six months. In subsequent years the benefits of the reorganisation introduced will have an important influence on the returns.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Amsterdam ...	Florins to £	12.107	12.10½—
Athens	Drachmas to £	375	375
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	27½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.38
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.09½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 15/16—31/32
Brussels	Belga to £.....	35	34.86
Bucharest	Lei to £	813 6	817
Budapest	Pen to £	27 82	27.85
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	18d.	17 15/16—31/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	1.030
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.88 3/16—½
Paris	Francs to £.....	124.21	123 91
Prague	Kronen to £.....	164.25	164½ —.½
Rome	Lire to £	92.46	93.24
Sofia	Leva to £	673.659	674½
Teheran	Krans to £	48½	58½
Vienna	Sch to £	34.55½	34.67½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	43.38	43 7/16—9/16

The report of the Sudan Construction and Equipment Company to October 31 states that the whole of the harbour works at Port Sudan undertaken in accordance with the contract dated December 1, 1924, between the Sudan Government Railways and the company have now been completed, and no further expenditure is contemplated. The obligations of the Sudan Government in respect of the payment of the interest on the Debenture stock and other expenses have been fulfilled.

The Empire Marketing Board's correspondent at Jaffa reported, under date December 5, that oranges then being shipped were of a better colour, and that with the resumption of shipments on December 15 the quality of the fruit should be good. Total direct shipments to the United Kingdom up to December 15 amounted to approximately 282,000 boxes, as compared with 212,000 boxes to the corresponding date last year. Transhipments to the United Kingdom via Port Said up to December 7 totalled some 30,000, about the same as the quantity shipped to the corresponding date last season.

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SPORTS AND GAMES DISPLAY AT THE B.I.F.

(From a Correspondent.)

Next year is to be a boom year for indoor games, according to trade authorities, and manufacturers are expecting many orders from buyers at the B. I. Fair. There are aeroplane games, in which troops have to be landed on the "enemy's" aerodrome, battleship games, indoor tennis, played with a captive ball, and a new table-cricket game which makes provision for the full number of fielders and enables the bowler to bowl fast or slow, with leg-breaks and off-breaks.

The process of manufacturing tennis and badminton rackets and hockey sticks for every climate will be an interesting feature of the Sports Goods Section of the Fair and the special machines which bend the steamed wood are to be exhibited. One machine planes and smoothes a hundred tennis racket sticks an hour, regardless of the degree of curve or the grain of the wood. Another device will be an electric "stimulator," which exercises the muscles and tissues of the body and also administers massage.

There will, of course, be a varied selection of golf balls, footballs—balls and other equipment, in fact, for every game under the sun—as well as rubber dog biscuits, golf frames, and rustless tennis net posts. There will be a cricket bat which has been designed by Mr. L. Constantine, the West Indies cricketer.

The sporting gunmakers will again have a display to show that no one can beat the British gunsmith when it comes to making a gun to suit individual requirements and tastes. There will be in all nearly 200 exhibitors of sports goods, toys, and games—one-fifth of the total number in the London Fair. The stands will cover 46,000 square feet and the galleries of the main hall, Olympia, are being bridged to accommodate them.

The Turkish Penal Court is reported to have sentenced a Greek woman of Turkish nationality to two years' imprisonment for insulting the Turkish flag.

Mr. R. W. Williams, B.A., who is engaged on archaeological work in Palestine, has been re-elected to a senior demyship at Oxford for two years.

It is announced that owing to a reorganisation of the Board of Chemical and Wood Industries, due to a change of control, the Rt. Hon. Viscount Elibank, Sir James Calder, Major C. F. Entwistle and M. René Paul Duchemin have resigned. Lord Bledisloe, who was chairman, recently resigned on his appointment as Governor-General of New Zealand.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)

EGYPT.

Asphalt.—The Director-General, Tanzim Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 6,800 tons of asphalt required for the year 1930-1931. February 3.

Overhead Transmission Lines.—In fixing the date for completion of the adjudication due on February 27, 1930, for the high tension overhead transmission lines in Northern Delta, under the provision of Article 45 of the specification and conditions of tender, tenderers are notified that the Government, while leaving tenderers to fix the time within which they will undertake to complete the works, is desirous that the work should, if possible, be completed within two years from the date of passing the order.

Clothing, etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, sheets, woollen blankets, napkins, and textiles required for the year 1930-1931. January 30.

Paper, etc.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, inks, adhesives, stationery, and materials for Photo-Copying Office, required for the year 1930-1931. February 17.

Drugs, etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs required for the year 1930-1931. February 16.

Cocunut Oil.—The Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cocunut-oil to the Egyptian Army during the year 1930-1931. March 6.

Clothing, Sheets, Blankets, etc.—The Egyptian Department of Public Health invites tenders for the supply of clothes, bedding, and sundry piece-goods. January 30. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

C.I. Pipes, Bends, and Valves.—Tenders are invited by the Administration Générale des Chemins de fer et des Ports d'Etat for vertical cast-iron pipes, bends, and valves required for the installation of a water supply at Karafikili Station on the Angora-Caesarea Railway. (D.O.T.)

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Birkenhead, January 3); s.s. Britannia for Bombay (Glasgow, December 30; Manchester, January 4; Birkenhead, January 10). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah for Calcutta (Glasgow, December 28; Birkenhead, January 9).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Staffordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 8).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 30); s.s. Warfield for Bombay (London, January 4).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Bosnia for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, also at Volo if sufficient inducement (Glasgow, January 16; Liverpool and Swansea, January 18); s.s. Bantia for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Fiume, also at Algiers, Oran, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Gruz, and Ancona if sufficient inducement (Liverpool, January 18; Swansea, January 21).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 25).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Novara for Calcutta (London, January 3); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, January 3).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, Cyprus ports, Tripoli, Alexandretta, and Mersin (London, January 4); s.s. Sicilian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, January 8).

Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.—S.s. Roumelian for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa*, and Haifa* (Liverpool, December 28); s.s. Oporto for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Patras, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, December 28; Swansea*, December 28); s.s. Algerian for Gibraltar*, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Bari, Gruz*, Ancona*, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Shushak (Liverpool, December 28; Swansea, January 2); s.s. Mardinian for Gibraltar*, Algiers*, Oran*, Piræus, Syra*, Volo*, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, January 11; Swansea*, January 11). *Subject to sufficient inducement. Cargo taken on through Bill of Lading to:—Algerian ports via Algiers, Moroccan ports via Gibraltar; Tripoli (Barbary) via Malta; Syria and Cyprus via Alexandria; Greek outports via Piræus or other convenient port.

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THE WEEK'S FINANCE.

(By Our Financial Expert.)

London, December 20.

In accordance with anticipations the new account saw no increase in the volume of business passing on the Stock Exchange. In the absence of demand, values tended lower, and under the influence of the Inveresk revelations, and the passing of the Elder Dempster dividends, the tone was definitely gloomy towards the close. With regard to these and other groups it is to be hoped that the investigations proceeding will be completed as soon as possible, for in present circumstances the sooner the worst is known the better.

Gilt-edged were dull in spite of the inflow of gold, prices tending to sag. Home Rails failed to attract much interest, but their tone is rather firmer, with the approach of the dividends, to whose prospects we refer below. The unsatisfactory developments referred to above further checked animation in industrials, which obtained little assistance from New York. No increase in dealings can be looked for until the present account is over, and many members have already left the City, with the intention of not returning until after the usual January 1 holiday.

Railway Dividend Prospects.

Although the traffic receipts have not been so encouraging recently, the totals announced this week—for the first fifty weeks of 1929—show considerable increases over those of 1928 in the case of two out of the four companies. The aggregate for the Great Western is £29,694,000, compared with £29,104,000 a year ago, and that for the L.N.E.R. £52,810,000, compared with £51,496,000. On the other hand, the receipts of the largest concern of all, the L.M.S.R., continue depressing, the aggregate of £69,805,000 being £585,000 less than for the corresponding period last year. Those of the Southern also seem unlikely to reach the 1928 total, there being at present a deficiency of £106,000 at £21,687,000. The half-yearly reports revealed substantial savings in expenses in the

case of all four concerns. These have probably been added to in the latter part of the year, except in so far as they resulted from the 2½ per cent. wage cut of 1928. In view of the higher interim distributions the market is inclined to look for a total dividend of 7 per cent. in the case of the Great Western, against 5 per cent. last time, on which basis the yield would be about £7 9s. per cent., and 4½ per cent. on L.M.S.R. ordinary, compared with 3½ per cent. If this hope is borne out, L.M.S.R. ordinary will return nearly £8 10s. per cent.

And Now Inveresk.

About a couple of months ago many investors realised that the once highly-prized newspaper shares had rather quickly reached a low level. This was in part accounted for by the difficulties of the newspaper industry, which was faced with higher costs for its raw material—paper. What was more serious, it was in many cases engaged in financing a newspaper "war" in the provinces. Despite reassuring statements, and Lord Rothermere's famous advertisement, values continued to fall. The first substantiation of the many adverse rumours came when Mr. Horne, interested in the strange mixture of cement and newspapers, filed a petition in bankruptcy. Hot upon that comes the announcement that the Inveresk Paper Company cannot pay its dividends, and that Mr. Harrison has resigned his chairmanship of this and the subsidiary companies. It is understood that there have been extensive bank loans which seem to be out of harmony with an assurance to first preference shareholders that no such borrowings would be made. Several important investment trusts, holders of preference shares, have appointed a defence committee, under the chairmanship of Lord St. Davids. The Inveresk group may be in difficulties now, but it comprises a number of valuable concerns, including United Newspapers (controlling the *Daily Chronicle*), Provincial Newspapers, and Illustrated Newspapers, besides the numerous paper mills making up the parent company. When the present difficulty has cleared, a recovery may be hoped for.

The Rand Half-yearly Dividends.

On the present occasion very little interest has been manifested in the declaration of the Witwatersrand gold mining companies for the six months ending December 31. Two surprises can be recorded—one on the agreeable, the other on the adverse side. For some time past, from several causes, the profits on the Sub Nigel have been on the down grade; moreover, the company is faced with expenditure in connexion with the extension of its treatment plant. Consequently a cut in the rate had been generally expected. Actually the company repeats its June announcement of 20 per cent., which compared with 30 per cent. twice previously. The inference is that the outlay above referred to is being, at any rate temporarily, financed. So far from decreasing, recent monthly profits on the New State Areas have shown expansion. Hence the declaration of 5 per cent. against 7½ per cent. for the first half of 1929 aroused some disappointment, although the total for the two years is the same—12½ per cent. Differences in the rates for the two years are usually of small extent, save in the case of the Crown Mines, whose 1929 total will be 65 per cent., or 10 per cent. more than for 1928. This company's 10s. shares are quoted on the London Stock Exchange at about 63s.

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M. Karakhan, the Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, left Ankara on December 17 after renewing the Turkish-Soviet Treaty of Neutrality and Friendship signed in Paris in 1925. Mustapha Kemal Pasha accorded M. Karakhan a long audience, and various entertainments were given in the visitor's honour.

On the occasion of the birthday of King Alexander of Yugoslavia, M. Liapcheff, Bulgarian Prime Minister, called at the Yugoslav Legation for the first time since he took office, and conveyed to M. Neshitch, Yugoslav Minister in Bulgaria, his wishes and those of the Bulgarian Government for the prosperity of Yugoslavia and the happiness of her King. King Boris sent his wishes to M. Neshitch through his Aide-de-camp.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

[The following notes are taken from the bulletin of the British Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce of Sofia, dated November 30.]

General Situation.

There is hardly any change for the better to be recorded with regard to the general trade position in November, with the sole exception, perhaps, of a slight improvement in foreign trade. For the first time since January last, there is a small monthly balance.

Business continues to be exceedingly slack, new credits are almost unobtainable and existing engagements are being cut down in a drastic manner. There are good reasons to believe that this credit policy will certainly speed up the process of clearing the market from unsound commercial and credit undertakings. However, the position cannot possibly be liquidated without a temporary crisis in the solvency of almost every kind of trade and without substantial losses to the parties interested.

The existence of important quantities of good quality tobacco and maize ready for export is generally regarded as promising an improvement in the present state of things, especially so far as present consumption is concerned. Undue optimism appears, however, to be out of place, as the general trend of prices for these commodities remains rather unfavourable. The Bulgarian peasant can hardly be induced to part with his produce at the prices now prevailing, unless credit pressure compels him to sell some of his reserves.

The failure to reach a settlement of the Reparations issue is aggravating further the general uneasiness pervading almost the whole economic and business life of the country. It may be true that this is a factor of psychological rather than material importance at this stage, but the crisis now prevailing is in more than one respect a complex of psychological causes set up by the unusually weak prices of agricultural produce, which have put a considerable strain on the already overstocked and heavily indebted position of almost the whole market.

Agriculture.

The following table gives the area planted with industrial plants and production during the year 1928 as compared with 1929:—

CEREALS.	1928.		1929.	
	Area planted Hectares.	Produc- tion Quintals.	Area planted Hectares.	Produc- tion Quintals.
Rape seed ...	45,579	420,669	749	5,046
Sunflower ...	51,358	422,796	70,195	660,641
Sesame ...	5,466	13,398	6,822	27,550
Aniseed ...	878	6,812	1,065	5,202
Réséné ...	75	161	210	790
Peanuts ...	32	176	117	602
Tobacco ...	21,466	104,516	34,410	249,717
Poppy ...	681	2,499	216	700
Cotton (fibre) ...	4,869	9,416	5,362	9,383
Flax (seed) ...	246	875	291	1,029
Hemp (fibre) ...	3,941	14,747	3,422	15,991
Total ...	134,591	996,065	122,879	976,651

The Chemical Industry in Bulgaria.

According to results obtained by the National Bank of

Bulgaria for 27 large chemical undertakings which were the object of examination in 1927, the capital invested on December 31, 1927, amounted to 5,028,546 gold leva, and was distributed as follows:—real estate, 246,351 gold leva (4.90 per cent.); buildings, 1,960,165 gold leva (38.98 per cent.); and machinery, 2,822,026 gold leva (56.12 per cent.). The capital invested in 30 large chemical undertakings on December 31, 1926, amounted to 4,927,526 gold leva.

The power-producing plants of the large chemical undertakings in 1927 numbered 35 with an effective h.p. of 769, of which 22 were steam boilers, locomobiles and turbines with an effective h.p. of 636; 1 Diesel engine with an effective h.p. of 18; 4 internal combustion engines with an effective h.p. of 50; and 8 benzine engines with an effective h.p. of 65. The electrical motors employed numbered 48 with an effective h.p. of 272.

The raw materials used in these 27 undertakings on December 31, 1927, were valued at 5,324,231 gold leva, of which 2,530,148 gold leva (47.52 per cent.) were paid for materials of local origin, and 2,794,083 gold leva (52.48 per cent.) for imported materials. The auxiliary materials used are valued at 972,672 gold leva, of which 535,073 gold leva (55.01 per cent.) were used for the supply of materials of local origin, and 437,599 gold leva (44.99 per cent.) for imported materials. The fuel used is estimated at 194,337 gold leva, of which 177,722 gold leva worth (91.45 per cent.) were of local origin, and fuel worth 16,615 gold leva (8.55 per cent.) were imported. The total value of the materials used by the chemical industry during the year under review aggregated 6,491,250 gold leva, of which 3,242,943 gold leva (49.96 per cent.) were for the supply of materials of local origin, and 3,248,297 gold leva (50.04 per cent.) for imported materials.

Miscellaneous.

Receipts of the State Treasury for October show a considerable increase as compared with the figures for September, due mainly to increased receipts from direct taxes, to payment of municipal contributions towards teachers' emoluments, and to sundry receipts. In October the ordinary receipts amounted to 642,433,799 leva, and in September to 497,003,426 leva, while in August they were 549,730,774 leva.

The trade balance during October, due to increased exports, has shown for the first time this year a surplus of 21,098,530 leva, while during September it was down by 219,954,431 leva, and in August by 310,864,985 leva. Imports during October totalled 48,116 tons for 648,571,833 leva, and exports amounted to 42,912 tons for 669,670,353 leva, while in September imports amounted to 50,204 tons for 685,116,399 leva, and exports totalled 29,001 tons for 465,161,968 leva.

The quantity of notes in circulation from October 23 to November 15 again show a steady level. On October 23 the notes in circulation amounted to 4,370,533,000 leva, on October 31 to 4,254,602,000 leva, on November 7 to 4,205,058,000 leva, and on November 15 to 4,072,661,000 leva.

The foreign exchange reserves of the National Bank show almost a steady level during the period under review. Thus, on October 31 foreign exchange amounted to 1,279,579,000 leva, on October 31 to 1,307,949,000 leva, on November 7 to 1,282,487,000 leva, and on November 15 to 1,211,703,000 leva.

According to official data furnished by the Labour Section of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Labour, the number of employees in industrial undertakings during November was 76,096, against 85,731 in October and 69,090 in November, 1928.

The wholesale commodity index number (on the basis of 1914 = 100) for October, was 3,174, as compared with 3,111 for September and 3,141 for August and 3,129 for October, 1928. The general level of wholesale prices has thus increased by 2 per cent. as against September, 1929, while an increase of 1.4 per cent. is shown as compared with October, 1928.

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THE GRAPE AND WINE INDUSTRY OF CYPRUS.

[A recent *Agricultural Supplement to the "Cyprus Gazette"* contains an interesting review of the grape and wine industry of the Island by Mr. M. T. Dawe, the Director of Agriculture, from which we take the following extracts.]

Last winter, with its heavy fall of snow and rain, provided the soil with abundant moisture, and the vines, with a more or less sudden rise of temperature in the spring, started into vigorous growth. The florescence, although equal to that of a normal year, was less satisfactory than in 1928, which was a very exceptional year. The fruit, however, owing mainly to the exuberance of the vegetative growth, did not set or form altogether satisfactorily in many localities; but the moisture content of the soil being high, the berries which formed grew to a larger size than they would have ordinarily done, and so the loss in crop from a poor florescence was, to some extent, minimised. Subsequent drought and intense heat caused sunburn in the grapes which was responsible for some damage to the crop.

The weather during the vintage was favourable, except for the last few days of the season in the localities of higher altitude, where the grapes ripen late. The heavy rains which fell towards the end of the season militated against the gathering of the grapes and had a bad effect on their quality. The maturation of the grapes has been generally good, the sweetness varying between 14 degrees to 17 degrees Baumé. The fermentation was normal and satisfactory and a good quality of wine is anticipated, rich in colour and of good body. It is expected that there will be a fair quantity of slightly sweet wines. The increased use of metabisulphate will undoubtedly have a good effect upon the quality and preservation of the wines. It is estimated that the output of wine this season will be from 75,000 to 78,000 loads.

In October last year the Department of Agriculture issued a special Bulletin on the Grape and Wine Industry of Cyprus, in which were given such figures as were then available in regard to the area under vineyards and the production of vine products. Since then a viticultural survey of the Island has been completed, and it is hoped it will be possible to publish, at an early date, more complete data than were available when the Bulletin referred to was compiled. The area at present under cultivation is estimated to be about 320,000 donums, or, say roughly, 105,785 acres. The production of vine products for the whole Island is estimated approximately as follows:—Grapes, 38,000,000 okes; raisins, 3,500,000 okes; wine, 4,100,000 gallons; spirit, 500,000 gallons; vinegar, 1,000,000 gallons.

The cultivation of the vine has not received in the past the careful attention which should be given to it in this Island, and the Department of Agriculture is constantly urging the better cultivation of the vines, and manuring, of the vineyards, in order that the villager may produce larger and better crops. The Department has recently started an Experimental Vineyard at Saitta, which it is hoped will prove a valuable centre of research in connexion with this important industry, as well as a model vineyard of great value as a demonstration to the villagers of the most up-to-date methods of cultivation and vineyard management. With the judicious choice of varieties, good cultivation, and the proper management of vineyards, the villager should be able to increase very considerably the average production of grapes, as well as improve the quality of the fruit, raisins, and wine produced therefrom.

Trade in Vine Products.

The actual exports of grapes and other vine products for the last year will probably convey the most accurate idea of the export value of the trade this industry represents in the Island at the present time. They are as follows:—

	Quantities.	Value.
	cwt.	£
Grapes	42,118	14,225
Raisins	47,377	79,351
Wines:		
Commandaria	6,198 gallons	808
Ordinary	1,259,793 gallons	52,237
Spirit	12,063 gallons	2,439
Vinegar	206,157 gallons	5,198

Total value of exports £154,258

The consumption of vine products in the Island, it is estimated, are, taken on the whole and on a very conservative basis, considerably more than double that of the exports, so that it may be estimated that the total annual production of grapes and its derivatives are worth to the Colony a sum exceeding half a million pounds sterling.

The exports of grapes have risen from 5,636 cwt. in 1900 to 42,118 cwt. in 1928, and the respective values from £723 in 1900 to £14,225 in 1928. The trade is almost exclusively with Egypt, and there is little doubt that there is still considerable room for its expansion if better care was taken in the selection, grading, and packing of the fruit for the market. If selected grapes were put up in attractive containers increased sales would doubtless take place in the Egyptian ports.

Last year's export of raisins was a record one in quantity, though it showed a reduction in value as compared with the previous year. The principal purchaser was Italy, taking 46,475 cwt.; France took 33,679 cwt., and Roumania 9,752 cwt. The United Kingdom only took 3,309 cwt., less than a third of the quantity taken in 1927. The Cyprus raisin is in demand mainly for manufacturing rather than for confectionery purposes. It is hoped, how-

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A general banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£4,000,000	Paid-up Capital	£2,000,000
Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£3,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden	Calcutta	Colembo	Lahore	Rangoon	Eldoret	Kenya Colony	Entebbe	Uganda
Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Kisumu	Brit. E. Africa	Jinja	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Mombasa		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nairobi, Nakuru			

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases grants, advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms. The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application. Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

Head Office — SOFIA — Founded in 1865

CAPITAL & RESERVE FUND, 522,000,000 leva

97 BRANCHES AND 64 AGENCIES

The Bank gives credits and supplies agricultural machinery and implements, sulphate of copper, seeds, etc., to the agricultural population. It has its own warehouse for cocoons and cocoon-drying sheds in the principal cocoon-producing districts. The manufacture of *Asar* of Roses is made under the control of the Bank in all rose-

growing co-operative centres. The Bank gives credits to, and super-vises all agricultural co-operative societies in the country to the number of 1,400, inclusive of credit societies, sales and purchases co-operatives, production and tobacco co-operatives.

The Bank transacts every description of banking operations.

ever, by the cultivation of suitable seedless varieties, and by improved methods of preparation, that this Island will be able to place on the market varieties suitable for the confectionery trade. There have been difficulties amongst the growers in disposing of their raisins last season at satisfactory prices, and inquiries have been made with a view to ascertain whether increasing quantities could not be marketed in the United Kingdom. One merchant reported that buyers will not contract ahead or take any responsibility in regard to booking contracts for shipment, as they are able to buy all they require for spot delivery. This merchant was, therefore, of opinion that if Cyprus suppliers would ship their raisins to London, consigning them through the regular channels, so that they can be offered for spot delivery, an increasing trade would ensue. Although the local raisins have the disadvantage of containing seed, they possess a nice sweet and soft flesh and are delicious in taste and improved methods of preparation should result in being able to market at better prices. There are already in cultivation a large number of sultana vines, but their production has not yet assumed commercial quantities.

There are two main types of wine produced in the Island, that known as Commandaria, and ordinary table wines of various kinds. The former is prepared from half-dried grapes and the latter from fresh grapes. The exports of Commandaria have been decreasing from 1924 until 1928, when an increase was shown. In 1900 the quantity of Commandaria exported amounted to 57,126 gallons, valued at £2,735; last year the quantity exported amounted to only 6,798 gallons, valued at £808. The quantity of ordinary wines exported in 1900 amounted to 1,471,043 gallons, valued at £27,143; in 1928 the quantity exported was 1,259,793 gallons, valued at £52,237. These figures indicate that Commandaria exports have declined considerably and that although the quantity of ordinary wines exported has not increased, the value has more than doubled, indicating that considerable improvement has taken place in the market price of wine and in the quality produced. The principal purchasers last year for Commandaria were Egypt, the United Kingdom, and Dodekanese. Our principal customer for ordinary wine is Egypt, who took last year 810,295 gallons, as compared with 1,230,130 gallons the previous year; France took 353,262 gallons, and Syria came next and took 21,577 gallons, and the United Kingdom 21,509 gallons only.

Wine-making.

The production of wine is the most important phase of the grape-growing industry, as it is mainly on the quality of the wine produced that the future of this industry lies. Notwithstanding the fact that the first winery was established in Cyprus at Perapedhi in 1891, the production of wine suitable for export to the British market has only engaged the serious attention of wine merchants during the last few years. Prior to 1891, wine was produced locally solely by domestic and primitive methods, as indeed it still continues to be, though on a smaller scale, throughout the wine-growing areas to-day. In 1926 the Cyprus Wine and Spirit Company erected their modern winery at Perapedhi on the ruins of previous efforts, and last year another at Mallia, and this year a further one at Limassol. More wineries of this nature are needed in other parts of the grape-growing areas, so that the growers can bring their grapes to be made into wine under more hygienic and scientific methods.

It is obvious that the old and primitive method of making wine must, sooner or later give way to the modern winery, for the primitive methods of pressing, the crude nature of the receptacles employed (large earthenware pots), the methods of handling, and the unsatisfactory nature of the storage accommodation and domestic associations of same, are not conducive to the production of clean, sound, and wholesome wine. Moreover, the small scale on which each grower makes his wine renders it difficult to obtain supplies of uniform quality and character in any large quantities, and mixing has, therefore, to be resorted to by the purchaser or exporter.

The marketing of any product is a question which should be taken hand in hand with production, and this is especially so with a commodity so difficult to market successfully as wine. Excepting the wineries and co-operative wine societies, the marketing of wine under present-day conditions is no concern of the producer; he leaves that part of the business to the wine merchant, and the quality of the wine marketed, apart from the defects of manufacture as set forth in the paragraph on wine-making, is largely what the merchant makes it. Excepting the production of the wineries and certain co-operative wine societies, the common wine of Cyprus must be regarded as a low-grade wine, and, therefore, has restricted markets where the competition of other wine-producing countries is being increasingly felt. In the competing countries wine is produced by big wineries on a large scale and offered at a lower price than Cyprus wine produced by the small grower. It is, therefore, becoming increasingly difficult to market Cyprus wines in the Egyptian market, owing to the keen competition of other countries and particularly Greece and Italy, as is shown by the big drop in the exports to Egypt of 1928 already referred to.

It is, therefore, essential for Cyprus to turn its attention to other markets, and in order to do so it must give serious attention to the improvement of the quality of its wine and to study and cater for the requirements of those markets. This is beyond the local domestic producer and it has so far proved beyond the capacity of the ordinary non-producing wine exporter; for has not the United Kingdom market been for ages open to receive Cyprus wines, and has any serious effort ever been made by our merchants to capture that market? The answer is in the negative, and it was, therefore, that the Government stepped in last year and brought into force, on May 4, the Law which has for its object the capture of the British market for Cyprus wines. The first duty of the Government in connexion with this measure was to prevent, by every means within its power, the chance export of inferior or unsound wine to that market which might smirch the name of Cyprus as a wine supplier and render the chances of subsequently marketing in that country good and sound wines exceedingly difficult, if not impossible. It is essential, therefore, that the wines exported are of a quality with which a regular and permanent trade can be built up, and from investigations already made it would appear that the type for which there are the best prospects is the Port type.

For eighteen months, during which the Law has been in operation, the Government has carefully examined all wines intended for export to the United Kingdom market and has excluded all those which, in the opinion of the Statutory Wine Committee, do not come up to the standards required for sale and competition in the United Kingdom market. The Government has been blamed for creating a monopoly, since the only licence so far issued under the law has been to the British Cyprus Company. It is an essential part of the Government scheme that Cyprus wines should be marketed in the United Kingdom only through responsible channels, in order to secure for them the interest and sympathy of the wholesale distributors throughout the Kingdom and to protect quality and price at which sold. It is further an essential factor that the wines imported from Cyprus should, as soon as the quality justifies, reach the consumer as the Wines of Cyprus. Were the indiscriminate export of wine to the United Kingdom, and its unrestricted sale there permitted, it is obvious it would be quite impossible to build up a good name for Cyprus wines, or a demand for wine of good quality, such as would create a market that would lay the foundation-stone of the future prosperity and further development of the local wine industry. It is regretted that individual interests must be sacrificed, but the duty of the Government is to consider the general interests of the industry, and to prevent by all means in its power the marketing in Great Britain of any wine from this country which might prejudice the future prospects of our wine trade in that important market.

Engineering Topics

(By An Engineering Correspondent)

Important New Power Station in England.

The latest scientific principles of steam generation and power station practice are represented by the first section of 60,000 K.W. of the new Hams Hall Power Station, Birmingham, officially opened on November 6 last, the foundations, buildings and other arrangements allowing also of the addition of a further 30,000 k.w. In July, 1927, the complete contract for the whole of the station, foundations, buildings, and plant, was given to Messrs. International Combustion, Ltd., of London, the price being £1,336,400 for the 60,000 k.w. section, the estimated cost of the final station being £3,500,000.

The present main buildings are the boiler house, 374 ft. long by 85 ft. wide by 8 ft. high, the turbine house 309 ft. long by 62 ft. wide by 67 ft. high, the switch house 327 ft. long by 268 ft. wide by 58 ft. high, and the control room and offices 327 ft. long by 28 ft. wide by 42 ft. high, while extensive coal storage space is provided.

As regards the main generating plant this consists of two 30,000 k.w. turbo-generators, supplied by the General Electric Co., Ltd. (Fraser-Chalmers, Ltd., Branch, Erith), while the surface condensing and de-aerating plant is made by Hicks-Hargreaves and Co., Ltd., all the various firms mentioned being sub-contractors to International Combustion, Ltd.

The boiler plant comprises five Babcock and Wilcox boilers of the sectional header type with superheaters, each of 190,000 lb. evaporation per hour normal duty, and 228,000 lb. overload operating at 375 lb. pressure and 710 degrees F. steam temperature. These boilers are equipped with the latest design of "Lupulco" pulverised fuel combustion chambers including "Murray" fin tube water-cooled steel walls and water screen, along with 5 of the new "R" type "Lopulco" turbulent burners having the combustion completed in a flame of only 10 feet in length, fitted in front of the setting, operating horizontally.

Also each boiler is equipped with "Usco" multiple plate air heaters, and the pulverised fuel is one of the "direct" system, using "Atritor" pulverisers supplied by Messrs. Alfred Herbert Ltd., of Coventry. One pulveriser is to operate each burner, grinding four tons of low grade coal per hour with 25 per cent. moisture and 20 per cent. ash, that is five pulverisers per boiler, or 20 tons of coal total per hour for the boilers and 100 tons per hour for the complete plant. Further, water sluice ash conveyors are supplied by the Underfeed Stoker Co., Ltd., fans by Messrs. Davidson and Co., Ltd., and coal handling plant by the Mitchell Conveyor and Transporter Co., Ltd. The installation also includes two enormous reinforced concrete cooling towers 215 ft. high and 175 diameter at the base, circular in plan view, each capable of reducing 4,000,000 gallons of water per hour from 93 degrees F. to 76 degrees F. operating in conjunction with a cooling water reservoir of 5,850,000 gallons being one month's capacity.

The overall thermal efficiency from the raw coal to the switchboard is calculated as 23 per cent., while presumably the steam generation efficiency can be taken as from 87.5 per cent. to 90 per cent. on continuous running. Further, it may be stated that the erection of the present plant of 60,000 k.w. constitutes a record in Great Britain for rapidity of construction, and there have been used alto-

gether 2,000,000 bricks, 2,450 tons of steelwork, 8,000 cubic yards of concrete, and 53,000 square feet of glazing, while the total excavation is 165,000 cubic yards including roads and a railway siding.

THE ROUMANIAN MARKET.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows from Galatz for the week ended December 14:—

Grain.—The position has gone from bad to worse and the heavy slump in grain prices abroad has brought about a complete stagnation in business. The reports that have got about lately in regard to the unsatisfactory condition in which part of the maize shipments from the Danube have arrived at discharging ports had the effect of rendering shippers still more disinclined to deal in this commodity, in spite of the very low price at which same was obtainable. In the circumstances, shippers, who originally intended despatching their stocks to Sulina for wintering purposes, are hastening to do so for fear that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs might last throughout the winter. Chartering has, in consequence of the above situation, been extremely limited, and steamers have thereby suffered no little delay. Rates were nominal at about 16s. to 16s. 6d. For English ports a few parcels, representing old sales, were booked at rates varying between 17s. 6d. and 19s. There was no change in the situation at Constantza, from which port a few shipments took place for the Continent at about 9s. 6d. and 10s. Steamers, however, have had to wait for turn for a berth at the silos.

Timber.—No fresh engagements have been closed this week, as activity in the Danube is gradually falling off owing to the saw mills diverting their transports to Constantza in view of the uncertainty of navigation prospects in the river. On the other hand, as the weather actually remains fine and mild, Mediterranean-owned vessels do not hesitate to come up the river to compete for the little business offering, and the result is a lowering of freight rates for such parcels as are still in the market.

Weather and Crops.—The weather continued to be overcast, mild and somewhat misty till Thursday when the sky cleared. During the night, however, fog set in which became thick here on Friday morning impeding navigation till mid-day, after which it cleared again considerably though it has since been rather misty at times. There has been a little light rain in different parts, some snow in the highlands, and plenty of dew in the rest of the country. Though the total amount of precipitations has been small, the damp atmosphere and the absence of drying winds have enabled the ground to maintain its moisture, and conditions for the development of the autumn sowings remain excellent. The temperature which was relatively high at the beginning of this week, fell subsequently, but though there has been frost in the Northern districts there has been no sign of it at the ports, and it looks as if the Danube navigation will be safe for some time yet. Official statistics have now been published showing the following areas sown this autumn up to December 1, compared with sowings last season:—

	1929.	1928.
	Hectares.	Hectares.
Wheat	2,409,300	2,781,700
Rye	304,300	272,800
Barley	115,800	110,800
Rapeseed	17,000	16,700
	2,846,400	3,191,000

Sulina.—Notwithstanding bad weather which has prevented dredging and soundings, the Bar depth remains at 24 feet. River.—Maximum depth 24 feet.

Constantza. This week about 10,500 tons of grain arrived from the interior, and about 11,700 tons were shipped to Weser and Antwerp. Eleven vessels loaded about 54,600 tons petroleum products, and five took fuel oil for bunkers.

MICA AND ALL ELECTRICAL INSULATING MATERIALS

Contractors to the British, American, French and Italian Admiralty and War Office.

ATTWATER & SONS, PRESTON, England

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 18:—

Egyptian Futures.

Sakel Contract.—Events throughout the past week indicate that this market is working down to a more interesting position, and, rather contrary to general anticipations, quite a revival in speculative business has taken place, especially during the more recent sessions. A brief survey of events lends belief to the opinion that the bulk of the old long account has now been liquidated, as considerable stop-loss and forced selling were particularly noticeable during the earlier days of the week. This cotton has been absorbed in part by short covering and by fresh speculative buying on the theory that, local values standing as they do, at a heavy discount below the Egyptian Government's buying basis, risks of further declines for some time are minimised, and that some factors may develop in the meantime to turn the position to their advantage. This reasoning appears logical, especially so should the Government, as appears probable, be called upon to accept an important weight of cotton during January. In this case, to protect their own interests, they would probably exercise their influence to restrict the acreage of next season's crop, and whatever stock they might be forced to carry would cease to operate as a market factor at ruling levels. Reading a report from a prominent shipping house in Alexandria, we notice available supplies are estimated at about 2,35,000 kantars, whilst exports from December, 1928, to the end of August, 1929, were about 14 million kantars, with the world's trading conditions more satisfactory than at present. Basing ourselves on the above figures and also taking into account a prospective large Sudan crop, abundant supplies of fine cotton are assured for some time; but it must be borne in mind that current values are about 5½d. per lb. below the level obtaining at this time last year, and it has yet to be determined to what extent this discounts the statistical position.

Upper Contract.—We have experienced a series of quiet markets in this contract during the past week, and values have been mainly influenced by the downward tendency in the American departments. With December Alexandria held at 19 dollars, local prices have narrowed well below a shipping parity, and on this account locally-hedged cotton is offering at a cheap basis and should later attract the bulk of the demand. Trade reports indicate the usual seasonal dullness, but with the Upper varieties comparing favourably in price with outside staples we anticipate a much improved offtake after the turn of the year.

Egyptian Spot.

We have experienced another quiet week in this department. The constant sagging of futures (except to-day when a slight recovery took place) has offered no encouragement to spinners, and reports from up-country have shown no indication of trade improvement—rather the reverse, in fact. Unless the unexpected happens, we cannot see any change in the present conditions likely before the end of the year, or early in January.

Sakels have been in moderate request at from 25 off to 50 on January contracts, and some inquiry has cropped up here and there for low cotton at about 9d. The better grades have been neglected.

Uppers have been in fair request at from 25 off to 25 on, with interest shown also in better cotton at from 50 to 70 on. The lower grades have been rather neglected this week.

Pilion.—The demand for this cotton has been quieter, and interest has been shown chiefly in cotton at from 50 to 100 on January Upper. Maarad, Nahda, White, etc.—These growths have all suffered from neglect.

Sudan Sakel.—A certain amount of inquiry has been present, but sales have been disappointing.

Tokar Sakel.—There has been very little business reported in this growth.

C.i.f. business.—The offtake has been of a very patchy description. Alexandria quotations are not attractive at present, and, of course, if the Liverpool market continues to drop, they will become less so.

Forwardings.—Last week these were returned at 7,050 bales Egyptian and 2,019 bales Sudan.

Spot Sales.—These have been estimated at 1,100 bales Egyptian and 60 bales Sudan Sakel. Quotations of Sakel show a reduction of 25 points (Extra Fine exceptionally 70 points). Uppers are 22, and Pilion 25 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day, 14.10d. F.G.F. Upper to-day, 10.28d. F.G.F. Pilion to-day, 11.20d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended December 20, state:—Since our last report the futures market has remained inactive and the tone has been rather heavy. The week's summary of price movements is as follows:—Sakellaris: January, 27.27 dollars, 0.40 dollars down; March, 27.82 dollars, 0.28 dollars down; May, 28.22 dollars, 0.22 dollars down; July, 28.66 dollars, 0.24 dollars down; November N.C., 29.21 dollars, 0.25 dollars down. Ashmouni: December, 19.04 dollars, 0.10 dollars down; February, 19.31 dollars, 0.23 dollars down; April, 19.70 dollars,

0.27 dollars down; June, 20.02 dollars, 0.28 dollars down; August, 20.32 dollars, 0.28 dollars down; October N.C., 20.44 dollars, 0.41 dollars down.

Sakel.—Conditions ruling in the Sakel market have continued very much on the same lines as described in our report of last Thursday; a state of more or less complete stagnation has prevailed and fluctuations from session to session have been limited to a few points. A few fixings of cotton bought up-country earlier in the season were put through, and these sufficed to cause a further decline of a few points, bringing January down to 27½ dollars, as against the limit of 27 dollars fixed by the Government, at which it will become a buyer. There has been no sign of change in the attitude of the trade, and their continued abstention is only natural in view of the continued demand from shippers. On the 9th inst. the American Bureau published its report, the last to appear before its final estimate, the figure announced being 14,919,000 bales, against 15,009,000 bales a month ago and last year's final production of 14,478,000 bales; the estimate was slightly higher than that anticipated by our market. Reports from consuming centres are far from optimistic, and general conditions, both industrial and financial, are not such as to afford much hope for improvement in the more or less immediate future. We therefore expect that the market will continue to remain at round about the level of the prices fixed by the Government. The Sakel/Uppers straddle (January/February) this week stands at 796 points, against 813 points last week and 1,505 points at this time last year.

Uppers.—This market is in much the same condition of inactivity as that prevailing for Sakellaris. Against the second December tender, dockets for 11,500 kantars were issued; up to the moment of writing, the cotton tendered has not been definitely placed, but there is no doubt that it will eventually find its way into the hands of the Government. The demand from the trade has been only moderate, the Continent being the principal buyer. As in the case of Sakel, the only prospect visible for the moment is for values to settle down to about the levels fixed by the Government. Against the second December tender, dockets for 11,500 kantars were issued, bringing the total so far this month up to 69,750 kantars. The Ashmouni/

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE FOR "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

ALBANIA.

Tirana: Librairie Lumo Skendo.

AMERICA.

New York: Brentano's, Fifth Avenue and 27th Street.
Boston (Mass): Smith and McCance, Ashburton Place.

BULGARIA.

Sofia: Librairie Française et Etrangère, 6, Bvd, Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia: Dick Soukhanian, P.O. Box 6.

EGYPT.

Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.
Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: John Horne.

FRANCE.

Paris: Librairie Hachette, and at Kiosks.

GREECE.

Athens: Messageries de Journaux et Publications Etrangères, 24, Rue du Stade.

IRAQ AND PERSIAN GULF.

Baghdad: The Book Shop, New Street.
Basrah: Jashanmal, Bridge Street, Ashar.
Bahrein: Kamalieh Bookshop.

PALESTINE.

Haifa: Newspapers Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Street.
Jerusalem: R. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.
Newspaper Agency Steimatzky, Jaffa Road.
Tel Aviv: Oriental Newspaper and Book Shop, (E.S.), Box 120.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest: Mrs. L. Hamilton, 21, Strada Regala.

SUDAN.

Port Sudan: The Egyptian Library, Post Office Box No. 44.

SYRIA.

Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.
Librairie Steimatzky, Avenue Français.

TURKEY.

Istanbul: The Anglo-American Book and Newsagency, 18, Rue des Petits Champs, Beyoglu.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Belgrade: Librairie Française, 19 and 22, Rue Prince Michel.

American straddle (February/January) this week stands at 218 points, against 214 points last week and 326 points at this time last year.

The week's receipts amount to 327,169 kantars, against exports 263,135 kantars; the stock in Alexandria stands at 3,174,984 kantars.

Spot.—There has been little or no change on which to comment. We have had a week of moderate markets, and the totals are about the same as last week. We estimate the turnover at about 17,000 bales, of which 4,500 bales Sakellaridis, 11,500 bales Ashmouni and Zagora, 350 bales Pilon, and 650 bales other varieties.

Sakellaridis.—The poor demand for Sakel still continues, and the only inquiry is for medium grade cotton.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—There still continues to be a very good demand for any cotton grading above Fully Good Fair, and fairly good premiums have been paid.

Pilon.—Here the demand has fallen off somewhat, and premiums have eased a little.

Other Varieties.—With the exception of White, there has been a very poor market and some quite cheap cotton has been on offer.

Up-country.—There has been a recurrence of the inclement weather which has, to a certain extent, hindered work in the interior; moreover, other ruling conditions are not conducive to active business. Buyers are scarce, and holders, with the minimum prices fixed by the Government practically reached, are naturally not showing any eagerness to dispose of their cotton.

It is reported that M. Charles Rist, the technical adviser of the National Bank of Roumania, will retire at the end of February to take up similar duties elsewhere, and that he will be succeeded by M. Auboin, who was his chief assistant.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal Company from December 7 to 13 amounted to 22,310,000 francs.

The South Indian Railway have given a contract for copper rods and tubes to Allen Everitt and Sons, Smethwick.

The Egyptian State Railways has placed an order for steelwork for bridges with Shelton and Co., Birmingham.

The annual general meeting of the Credit Foncier Egyptien will be held at the company's offices in Cairo on January 15.

The Directors of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate announce that the payment of the dividend of 15 per cent. declared on November 16 will be made on January 16 to holders registered on December 31.

The India Stores Department, London, has given a contract to Callenders Cable and Construction Company, Ltd., for the supply, delivery, and erection of high-tension overhead transmission lines in connexion with the Uhl River hydro-electric scheme of the Punjab Government.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway has given a contract to the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company for seven 300 ft. steel spans. The railway has also placed an order for eighteen 60 ft. steel spans for the strengthening programme of their Katni branch with the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, Wednesbury.

Stock and Share Markets.

LONDON EXCHANGE		Prices on Dec. 19	INDIAN EXCHANGES.		Prices on Nov. 27
Government Stocks.			Government Loans.		Rs.
Egyptian 4 p.c. Unified Debt	...	79½	3½ Government Paper	...	68½
Do. Pref. 3½ p.c. 1890	...	70	Banks	...	1,370
Do. Turk 4 p.c. 1891	...	70	Imperial Bank of India	...	97½
Do. 3½ p.c. Eg. Trib. Bonds '94	...	79½	Bank of India	...	16½
Bulgaria 4½ p.c. Gold, 1907	...	28½	Central Bank of India	...	6 as
Do. 7 p.c.	...	78½	Baraboni	...	515½
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	...	70½	Bengal	...	16½
Do. 5 p.c. 1884	...	70½	Burrakur	...	28
Do. 4 p.c. Rentes, 1889	...	56	East Indian	...	29½
Do. 5 p.c. 1890	...	69½xd	Equitable	...	41½
Do. 5 p.c. Funding Loan, 1893	...	57½	Pench Valley	...	42½
Do. 4 p.c. Rails, Loan, 1902	...	57½	Raneesunge	...	65
Do. 4 p.c. Loan, 1910	...	57½	Standard	...	34½
Do. 5 p.c. Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	...	74½	Bengal Nagpur	...	712½
Do. 7 p.c. 1924	...	100½	Bombay Dyeing, etc.	...	365
Do. 6 p.c. St. Bds.	...	89½	Bowrah	...	175
Palestine 5 p.c.	...	100	Buckingham and Carnatic	...	2
Persia 5 p.c. 1911	...	81½	Cawnpore Textiles	...	295
Roumania 4 p.c. Ext	...	45	Century	...	453½
Do. 4 p.c. Consolidation	...	82½	Central India	...	91
Do. 7 p.c.	...	105½	Elgin	...	86½
Sudan 3½ p.c. Guar. Bds.	...	62	Khatau Makanji	...	337
India 3½ p.c.	...	53½	Muir	...	164
Do. 3 p.c.	...	98½xd	New Ring	...	323½
Do. 3½ p.c.	...	83	Phoenix	...	387½
Do. 4½ p.c.	...	12½	Svadeshi	...	463½
Turkish 4 p.c. Unified	...	7½	Alliance	...	249
Banks.		4	Barnagore	...	492
Agri. Bank of Egypt	...	80½	Budge Budge	...	35
Bank of British West Africa	...	26½	Clive	...	465
Bank of Roumania	...	18½	Dalhousie	...	508
Barclays Dom. Col. Pf.	...	512½	Delta	...	800
Chartered Bank of India	...	8½½	Fort Gloster	...	395
Eastern	...	611½	Gourepore	...	5
Hambros	...	92	Howrah	...	603
Imperial Bank of Persia	...	144½xd	Kamarhatti	...	493
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	...	59½	Kankannah	...	653½
Lloyds	...	30½	Kinnison	...	940
Mercantile Bank of India A	...	33	National	...	388
Do. B	...	31½	Standard	...	605
National Bank of Egypt	...	46½	Union	...	211½
National Bank of India	...	11½	British India Corporation	...	40
Ottoman Bank	...	77½	Bengal Paper Mills	...	212
P. and O. Bank Corporation	...	75½	Bengal Timber Trading	...	342
Westminster	...	75½	Burn and Co.	...	164
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